Elder Dental Program
Multiple locations throughout Massachusetts

Program Overview
The Elder Dental Program is a community-based nonprofit program dedicated to helping low-income older adults access quality dental care at reduced costs. To qualify for this program, adults must be over the age of 60, lack dental insurance, live in the program’s service area, and have an annual income of up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Program History and Development
The Elder Dental Program was established in 2002 by two dentists to address a gap in oral health care available to low-income older adults. Individuals who are financially eligible are matched by the Elder Dental Program’s manager to a participating dentist located in their geographic location. All appointments occur in the dentist’s own dental office during regular office hours. Basic services are provided at the participating dentists’ offices, and those who require more complex dental work will be referred to dental schools and oral health centers for restorative work. Eighteen communities in southern Massachusetts are now included in the program’s area.

Free dental screening clinics are also held at senior centers for older adults, regardless of their financial status. The screenings include a dental examination and oral cancer screening. Dental hygienists and nutritionists are also available to discuss any concerns.

Program Sustainability
- In 2015, the Elder Dental Program was supported by: HarborOne, Bank of Canton, Walpole Cooperative Bank, and the Rotary Club of Attleboro and Taunton. Bristol Elder Services and the Norwood Council on Aging supported the Elder Dental Program for both 2015 and 2016. The Elder Dental Program is supported 100% by grant funding.
- Initial funders include DentaQuest, elder service agencies, and the Massachusetts Dental Society. The program provides services on a sliding fee scale.
- The annual budget of the Elder Dental Program for 2016 is $31,801.

Program Impact
- The Elder Dental Program collects data on demographics, services provided, medical history, and client satisfaction.
- At each dental screening clinic, the program registers up to 57 older adults, ages 60 and over. To date, the Elder Dental Program has provided screenings to over 1,000 older adults since 2002.
- In 2015, the Elder Dental Program’s participating dentists provided 329 procedures to 315 individuals. The monetary value of these services is $234,000 in donated dental care.
- The Elder Dental Program’s founding dentist was awarded the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation Difference Maker Award. The Elder Dental Program has also received the Home Care Alliance Innovative Showcase Award.

“More than three-quarters of older adults in Massachusetts don’t have dental insurance...at the screening clinic we take time to talk with them and answer their questions.”
- Dr. Donald Pierce, North Attleboro Dentist and Planning Committee Co-chair

Program Contact Information
Program Phone Number: 781-769-3710
Program Website: http://www.communityvna.com/Services/ElderDentalProgram.aspx
# Elder Dental Program

Multiple locations throughout Massachusetts

## Program Features

### Age
- □ 0-17 (Children and Youth)
- □ 18-60 (Adult)
- ☒ 60+ (Older Adult)

### Specific Populations
- □ Homeless individuals
- □ Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- □ Individuals with physical disabilities
- □ Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions
- ☒ Individuals with low income
- ☒ Individuals with no dental insurance
- □ Individuals with Medicaid
- □ Veterans
- □ Refugees/immigrants

### Geography
- ☒ Rural
- □ Urban

### Service Delivery Setting
- □ Hospital
- □ Dental school
- □ Community/safety net clinic
- ☒ Private dental office
- □ Long-term care facility
- ☒ Senior center/community center
- □ Private residence
- □ Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot
- □ Church
- □ School
- □ Homeless shelter
- □ Public housing

### Dental and Oral Health Services
- ☒ Emergency services
- □ Basic services
- □ Screenings
- □ Cleanings
- □ Fluoride varnish
- □ Sealants
- □ X-rays
- ☒ Comprehensive services
- □ Fillings
- □ Scaling/root planing
- □ Extractions
- □ Oral surgery
- □ Root canals
- □ Dentures, partials, relines, repairs
- □ Crowns
- □ Bridges
- □ Orthodontics

### Staffing
- □ Dentist
- □ Dental hygienist
- □ Dental therapist
- □ Dental assistant
- □ Dental/dental hygiene students
- □ Nursing staff
- □ Community health workers
- □ Non-dental clinical staff
- ☒ Non-clinical staff

### Payment for Care
- □ Medicaid
- □ No charge to client
- ☒ Sliding fee scale
- □ Out of pocket
- □ Commercial dental insurance

### Program Funding
- ☒ Foundation/organization grant
- □ Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal)
- □ Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)

### Integration with Services
- □ Medical services
- □ Behavioral health services
- □ Vision services
- □ Pharmacy services
- □ Transportation services
- □ Translation services
- □ Nutrition services

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This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016