

A METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF DENTAL THERAPISTS AND ADVANCED DENTAL THERAPISTS IN MINNESOTA

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MDH Oral Health Program



Contact Information

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2009 Legislature Authorized Two Types

- Dental therapist (licensed)
- Advanced dental therapist (dual licensure as a dental therapist and dental hygienist with a certificate in advanced dental therapy)





Services and Supervision

Dental therapist •Some services under general supervision •Some services under indirect supervision •Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA) required

Advanced dental therapist •Services under general supervision •CMA required



Evaluation

Session Law in 2009 requires the Board of Dentistry (BOD) in consultation with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to study the impact of dental therapists:

- Patient safety
- Cost effectiveness
- Access to dental services



Objective

To describe an evaluation methodology for measuring the impact of dental therapists (DT) and advanced dental therapists (ADT) on access to dental services



Photo: Thedailystar.net



Five Required Outcome Measures and Methodology

Measure 1 Number of new patients served by DT/ADT and by dental clinic

Data sources:

Clinic data

Department of Human Services Medicaid data



Reduction in wait time for appointment for needed services

Data source:

Minnesota Department of Health patient survey questions



Decreased travel time for patients

Data source:

Minnesota Department of Health patient survey questions



Impact on emergency room utilization for dental reasons

Data sources:

Minnesota Department of Health patient survey questionnaire

Department of Human Services

Hospital emergency room data



Costs to the public health care system

Data source:

Department of Human Services data



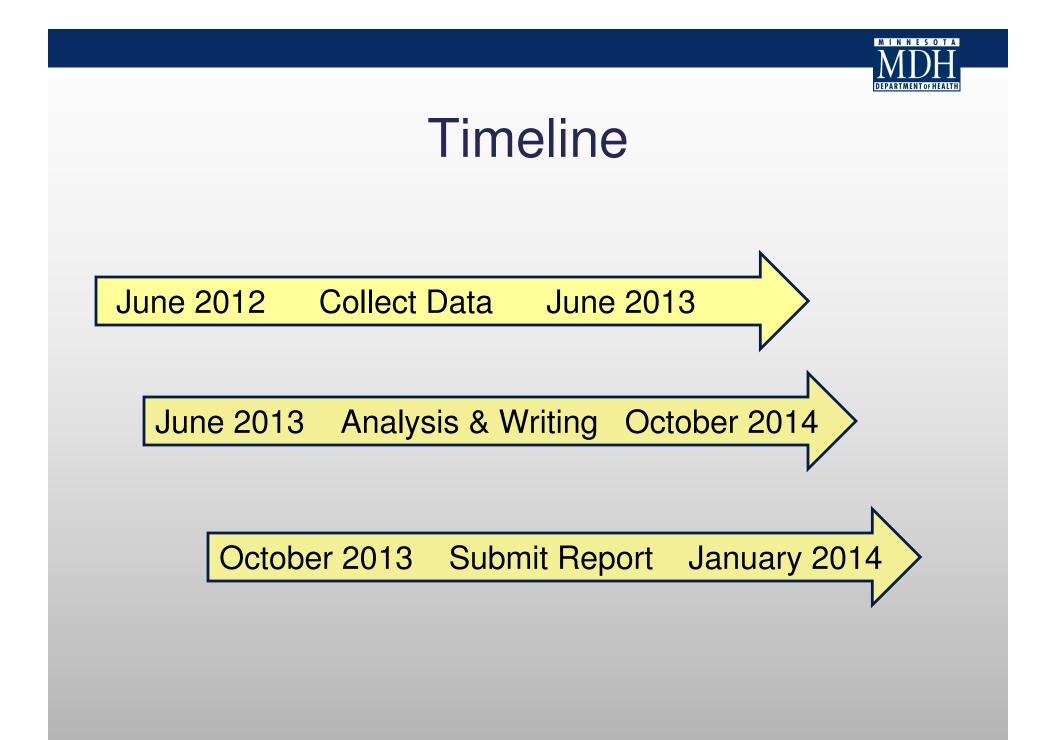
Additional data collected:

- Number and distribution of DTs/ADTs BOD
- Settings where DTs and ADTs are practicing -BOD
- Number of complaints or disciplinary actions filed
 BOD
- The number and type of dental services provided
 DHS



Data Collected – Not Required

- Public transportation for the patient? MDH survey
- Did patient attempt to get a dental appointment at another clinic? MDH survey



First Cohort of DT/ADT





Metropolitan State University Advanced Dental Therapists University of Minnesota Dental Therapists



Questions?



Photo: pregnancy-blog.parentingweekly.com



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