



Community Health Center and Dental School Partnerships

National Oral Health Conference
May 2, 2005

Caswell A. Evans, DDS, MPH

**Associate Dean for Prevention and
Public Health Sciences**

**University of Illinois College of
Dentistry**



Issues:

- Service Learning
- Underserved Communities
- “Private” Practitioners
- Societal Benefit
- Societal Relevance
- University as Community Partner



Health Centers

- Section 330 (FQHC's)
 - 890 grantees with 3600 clinic sites
 - 572 (61%) have oral health services
 - Medically underserved areas



Health Centers

- Section 330 (FQHC's)
 - 12 million people served annually
 - 1.9 million receive dental care
 - 66% of patients below poverty level

- 1400 dentists
- 480 dental hygienists



Health Centers

- Non-FQHC's
 - FQHC "look-alikes"
 - Health Departments
 - Special needs
 - "Free clinics"
 - Infant Welfare Societies
 - Boys and Girls Clubs
 - Civic groups
 - Local philanthropies
 - Others

- 2,000-3,000 nationally (estimate)



The ratio of dentists per 100,000 population is declining

- 59.1/100,000 in 1990
- 57.2 projected for 2005
- 53.7 projected for 2020



For publicly-supported schools

- What is the value that the public receives from its investment in dental education?
 - Medicaid?
 - Special needs?
 - Elderly?
 - Low-income?



Declining public financial support for dental education

- UIC College of Dentistry
 - The State of Illinois reduced their allocation by 20% in the last 5 years
 - And, tuition has increased by 49% in this period
- Nationally, tuition and fees increased by almost 300% between 1980 and 2000



Partnership: CHC's and Dental Schools

- Added value (public support)
- Societal relevance
- Service learning
- Care to underserved communities
- Cultural competency
- Revenue implications
- More well-rounded educational experience for students, faculty, and community