

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DENTAL DESERTS

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS

WHAT IS A DENTAL DESERT?

An area that has limited access to dental care along with high population density and low average household income.

An area is considered to be a Dental Desert if it meets the following criteria:

- High population density: more than 10,000 people per square mile
- Low average household income: less than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (Medi-Cal eligible)
- Fewer than 2.5 dentists per 10,000 people

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE



Add dental clinics to 15 target health centers that do not currently provide dental care



Increase the number of dental providers at 6 target dental clinics



Focus on the South Central region of LA County since it has the most dental deserts

For more information please visit:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohp/datareport.htm>

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DENTAL DESERTS

- Increase the number of dental providers at existing dental clinics
- Add dental services to community clinics that provide medical care only

TYPES OF CLINICS INCLUDED IN MAP

- Federally-funded health centers that provide medical and dental care
- Publicly funded and non-profit dental clinics
- Dental schools

