

**Medical College of Wisconsin Master of Public Health Program
PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT WRITING TUTORIAL**

SAMPLE ABSTRACT #1

Background

A lack of access to dental health care for rural and underserved populations throughout the country and State of Wisconsin is a critical health care problem. Studies at the state and national levels have failed to reach a consensus on solutions to this problem, and many states are falling below the goals of Healthy People 2010 to ensure adequate access to dental care.

Methods

A literature review of both population and dental provider demographics evaluated the extent of unmet dental needs. The Surgeon General's *2000 Report - Oral Health in America*, the American Dental Association *2005 - Report on Current and Projected Dental Workforce*, and the Wisconsin Dental Association/Delta Dental Report 2010 - *Supply and Demand for Dental Services Wisconsin* provide the basis for this study.

Results

Data indicate there is no shortage of dental providers nationwide or statewide in Wisconsin, but the problem is one of distribution. Contributing to the lack of access in the rural areas is the Federal Medicaid (MA) program that provides low re-imbusement rates resulting in low provider participation and utilization of services. The establishment of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), expanding auxiliary dental provider positions, and the development of market based partnerships have been proposed to eliminate the disparity of dental care delivery.

Conclusion

Efforts in states to increase the reimbursement rates paid to dental providers have been shown to increase utilization. Initiatives to target rural pre-dental students for admission to dental schools and admission of in-state students will increase the retention of dental graduates in the state in all practice locations. The introduction of innovative dental personnel, such as the dental therapist and community dental health coordinator, may also increase access and utilization of services. The development of market-based initiatives that partner dentists and auxiliaries with local state and national programs has been shown to significantly improve the access to dental services for the underserved populations and may provide the solution to the disparity of care existing on the state levels.

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SAMPLE ABSTRACT #2

Objective. To use data collected through Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) maternal interviews to enhance our understanding of infant and fetal deaths. *Methods.* As part of the City of Milwaukee FIMR program, maternal interviews were conducted during the years 2005-2007. We analyzed selected questions from these interviews for this study. Frequencies were calculated on demographics and questions that were dichotomous or multiple choice in response. A qualitative analysis was conducted for open-ended questions to identify important themes. *Results.* We identified the following five major themes: 1) unintended pregnancy and inconsistent or lack of birth control use, 2) poor or limited quality of care from prenatal care providers and while at the delivery hospital, 3) communication problems between the patient and medical care providers, 4) increased stress, and 5) unsafe infant sleep practices. *Conclusion.* These themes indicate that there is an ongoing need for women to be well informed and involved in their reproductive health decision making, before, during and after pregnancy. It is also clear that stress is still a significant factor in the lives of women and ultimately birth outcomes. Furthermore, programming efforts need to be continued in the area of safe sleep for infants. These results can be used to shape programs and policies in the area of improving birth outcomes.