

Project Goals

Twenty-four percent of the population in Pitt County live in poverty including children who lack access to oral health care. In Fall 2017, East Carolina University and Pitt County Public Schools collaborated to open the East Carolina University Community School (ECUCS), housed within South Greenville Elementary. The entire student body of ECUCS is deemed to have "critical needs" due to socio-economic and other challenges.

Our Goals:

- Integrate oral health education into their school curriculum.
- Establish an on-site toothbrushing program.
- Streamline a referral process to the ECU School of Dental Medicine for continued dental care.

Service Provided

- Weekly oral health classroom lessons including tooth shapes & function, decay process, nutrition, brushing technique, flossing, fluoride, and dental sealants.
- Provided K-5th graders with a dental cart including a toothbrush, toothpaste, flossers, and a timer for each student (\$800 donation).
- Supervised toothbrushing and flossing in each class room.
- Quarterly family night oral health education.
- Connected students and their families who do not have a dental home to the ECU SoDM.

Results

	%	n
Students who brushed independently for 2 minutes	100%	86
Kindergarten: Decrease in sugary foods & soda	13%	12
1st Grade: Decrease in sugary foods & soda	27%	4
2 nd Grade: Increase in sugary foods & soda	50%	2
3 rd Grade: Decrease in sugary foods & soda	40%	3
4 th grade: Decrease in sugary foods & soda	14%	3
Referral to ECU SoDM	14%	36

Table 1. Results from pre and post student surveys.



Figure 1. In effort to implement an affordable and practical brushing system, 3D printing was utilized to make the toothbrush holder.



Figure 2. Bryan Yang (left) and Caitlin Melvin (right) incorporated a hands-on dental sealant activity including a curing light, sealant material, and plastic teeth to the Kindergarten class.

Sustainability

- ChOHP will be sustained at the ECU Community School by integrating oral health lessons with their classroom lesson plans.
- On-site toothbrushing will continue weekly and supervised by the school nurse.
- ChOHP is available for dental students to volunteer.
- Referral system establish a dental home at ECU SoDM for continuity of care.



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