

## The Role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in Preventing Non-Traumatic Oral Health Emergency Department Visits

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Visits to the Emergency Department (ED) for non-traumatic dental problems have increased in recent years, contributing to significant costs to the US healthcare system. Lack of access, dental insurance, and dental care funding have led patients to rely on the ED for oral healthcare. Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) have been shown to decrease barriers in access to oral care, providing quality oral care outside the ED. This study is a literature review that provides education to medical practitioners about oral health services available in EDs and FQHCs, to identify barriers to care, and to recommend interventions that can decrease non-traumatic ED dental visits. Keywords frequently used were “dental care”, “emergency department”, and “federally qualified health centers”. Recommendations from this study include increasing dental coverage for Medicaid/Medicare patients, utilizing a variety of oral healthcare professionals to integrate oral health into overall health care, and promoting FQHC awareness.