



Why Does Oral Health Matter?

10:15-11:05

- Sue Yoon, DMD, Community Health Center of Snohomish County
- Glenn Puckett, MPA, Arcora, The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington

The Oral Health Connection

Why Dental Care Matters

Sue Yoon, DMD

Director of Dental Services

Community Health Center of Snohomish County

March 12, 2018

Why are teeth important?

- Chewing our food
- Smiling
- Talking



Beyond the basics

- Oral health is directly related to systemic health
 - Significant link between **periodontitis** (gum disease) and **diabetes**
 - Significant link between **periodontitis** and **adverse pregnancy outcomes**



Diabetes

- Less controlled blood sugar levels result in more severe periodontitis
- AND vice versa
- Patients with less controlled diabetes often have slower healing rates after dental treatment, such as an extraction



Pregnancy

- Periodontitis can lead to pre-term, low birth weight babies
- Hormonal changes can contribute to onset of periodontitis



Early Childhood Caries (ECC)

- Research shows that a child's primary caregiver can transmit cavity-causing bacteria via saliva
- Treating cavities in pregnant patients → reduces bacteria load → minimizes risk of exposure to child → lowers rate of decay



Medical – Dental Integration

- Focused patient populations
- More referrals from medical providers to dental providers, and vice versa



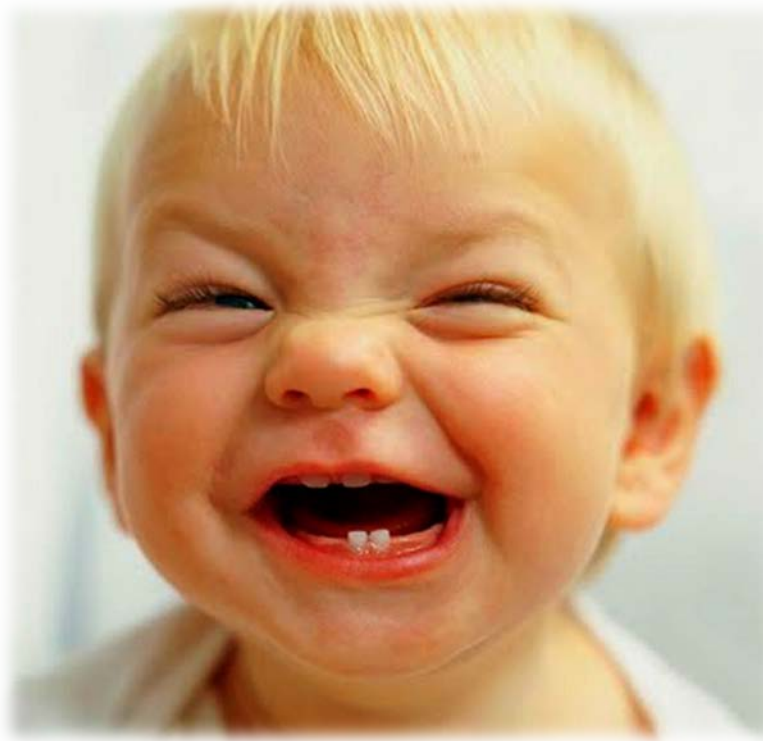
Examples of integration

- V.I.P.P Program –
 - *Very Important Pregnant Patient*
- Group visits with nutritionists for patients with diabetes



Back to the basics

- Teeth are important for: chewing food, smiling, and talking



Patient stories

- “Amy”
- 36 year old Caucasian female
- Health history:
 - Former drug abuser (heroin and methamphetamine) but now clean
- No current dental pain, but multiple non-restorable decayed and fractured teeth
- Most notable: significant sense of shame and low self-worth
- Supported by her adult mother



Patient stories

- “Amy” has since come in for over 20 dental appointments in the past year, completed her treatment plan, and now has no active dental disease
- She wears partial dentures, and now smiles confidently
- She has an entry level job in food services
- She comes to her check-up appointments independently now, and reports pride in being able to help payback her mom

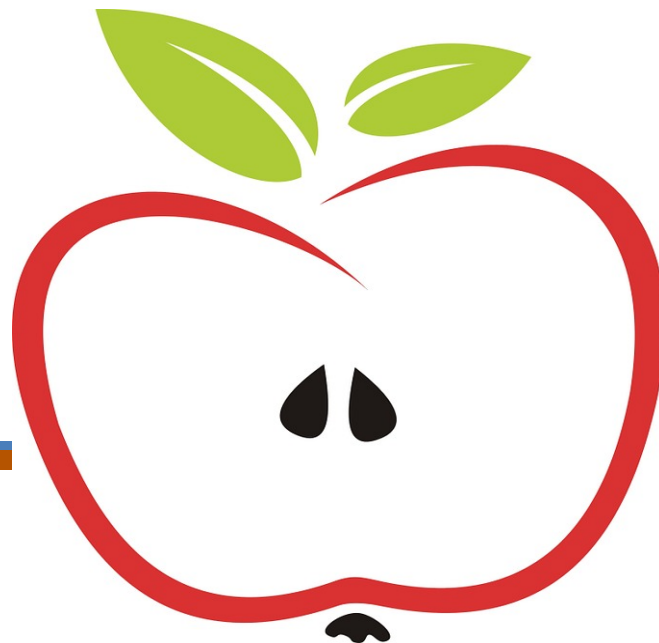
Patient stories

- “Devon”
- 6 year old Hispanic male
- Recently moved to WA state
- Has been living with multiple different family members in the past few years
- His school is concerned with his attendance and multiple unexcused absences



Patient stories

- Dental screening done at his school
- Rampant decay noted with multiple abscesses
- “Devon’s” family was contacted to sign up for Apple Health insurance



Patient stories

- “Devon’s” dental treatment was completed
- He is now thriving at school, and has a much improved attendance record



phillipmartin.info

Today's takeaways

- Oral health is much more than just teeth and gums
- Oral health significantly impacts systemic, overall health
- Oral health significantly impacts a person's self-worth, ability to contribute to society, and ability to function for daily responsibilities

Thank you!

Sue Yoon, DMD

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Putting the Mouth Back in the Body

Glenn Puckett
Director, Health Systems Integration

Our Mission

Bending the arc of oral
health toward equity

Our Vision

All people enjoy good
oral and overall health
with no one left behind



Agenda

- > Smile Survey Data for Snohomish County
- > Oral Health Integration
- > Oral Health Connections Pilot
- > DentistLink
- > Call to Action!

Snohomish County Smile Survey Results

Untreated Decay Increased Among Young Children



Head Start Preschoolers

↑ 11%

Kindergarteners

↑ 36%

Caries Experience among
children 6-9 years old in
Snohomish County is **HIGHER**
than that in Washington State

Washington

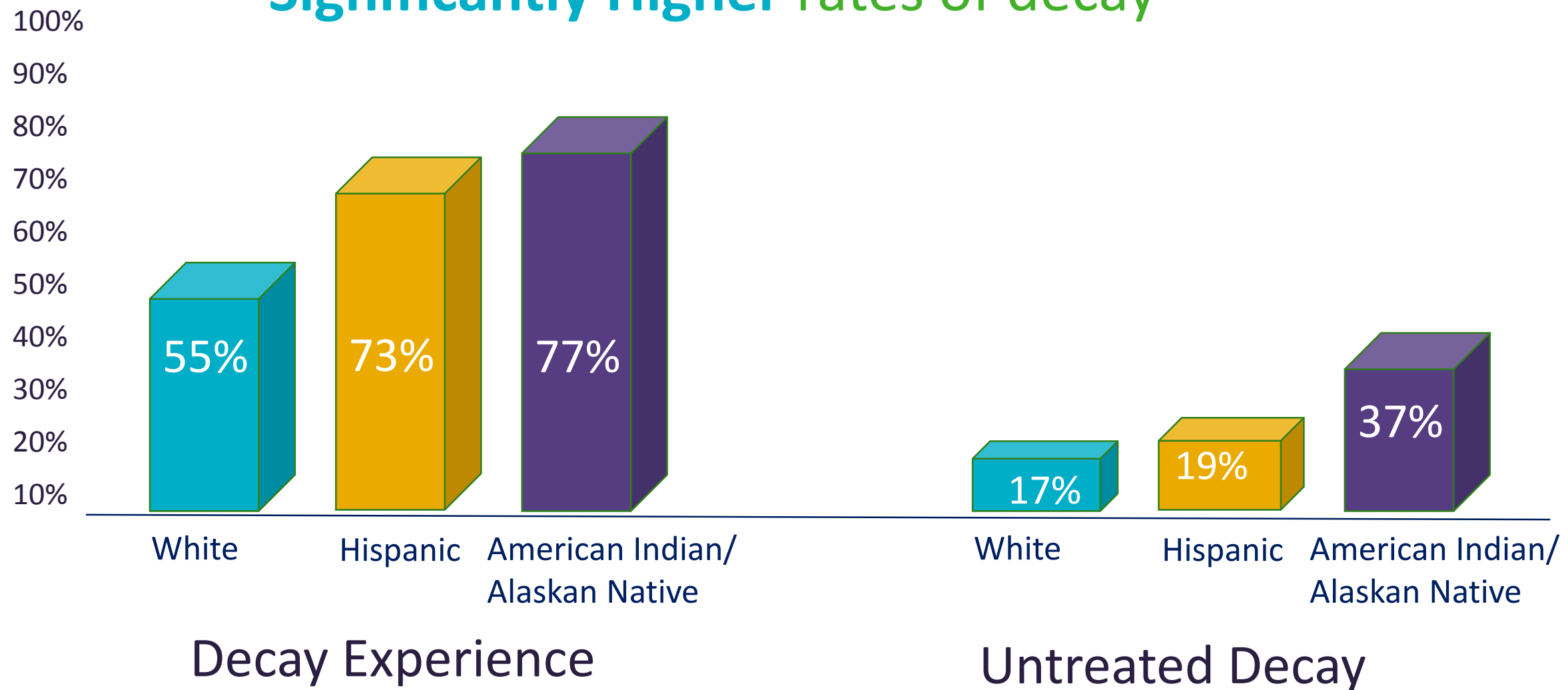
49%

Snohomish

58%

Snohomish County Smile Survey Results

Children of color in Snohomish County have
Significantly Higher rates of decay



What is the problem we are trying to solve?

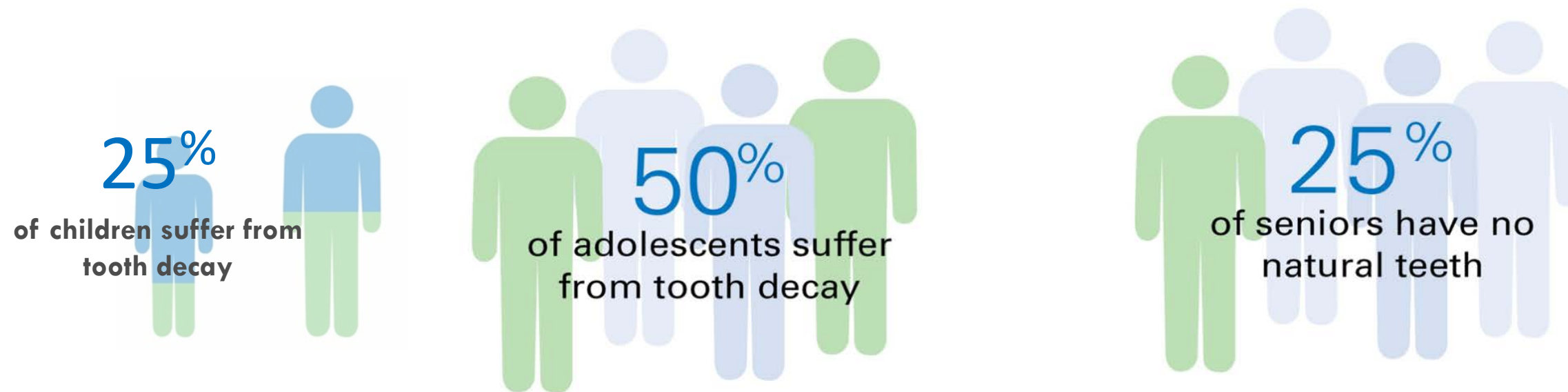
A Prevention C



- Caries and periodontal disease are preventable, chronic, infectious diseases
- Dental care is the most common unmet health need
- Our current healthcare system is failing to reach the populations with the highest burden of disease, resulting in pervasive health disparities

We need an *upstream* solution...

a way to intervene *earlier* in the course of disease



The proposal?

Expand the oral disease prevention workforce by engaging primary care teams in the fight against oral disease

Why enlist primary care teams?

Access:

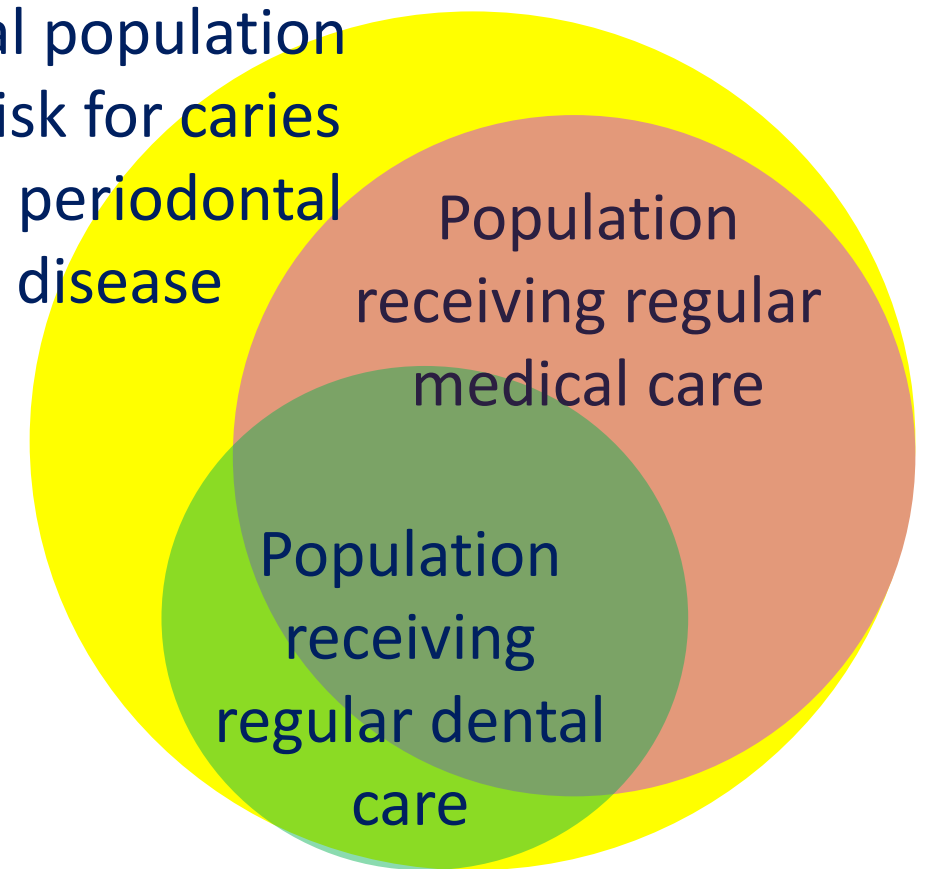
Frequent contact with high-risk groups:

Children, pregnant women, adults with diabetes

Skills:

- > Disease prevention
- > Risk assessment, screening, case-finding
- > Help patients navigate the healthcare system
- > Engage patients in behavior change

Total population
at risk for caries
and periodontal
disease



Snohomish County: Leading the Way

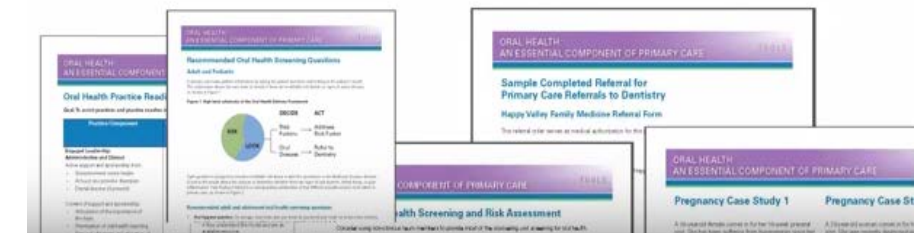
“We chose to start small (with two clinicians) in case the need and volume was significant, **but now that we’ve seen that it’s very manageable,** we’re ready to spread to other clinicians”



Deborah Nalty, MD
Providence Medical Group
Monroe WA



The Guide includes:
22 easy-to-use tools



<http://www.safetynetmedicalhome.org/resources-tools/white-papers>

Did You Know?

Apple Health includes a Dental Benefit
for Children AND Adults?



Oral Health Connections

- > Legislative Directive to WA Health Care Authority
- > Pilot Projects in Spokane, Thurston, Cowlitz
- > Focus on two populations: pregnant women, patients with diabetes
- > Use new referral tools (e.g. DentistLink)

DentistLink

A technology platform that facilitates connections (with a limited set of patient data sharing for referrals) among:

- > Dentists
- > Physicians/Health Systems
- > Community Care workers
- > Patients

DentistLink.org



A free non-profit service brought to you by Arcora Foundation

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Do you have Apple Health?
It's Never Been Easier to Get a
Dental Appointment.

[Get Started Now](#)

Call or text us to get connected with a dental appointment.

844-888-5465



Step 1

Tell us about your dental needs: Preferred location, reason for the visit and insurance type



Step 2

Our Referral Specialists will match you with a local dentist based on your specific needs



Step 3

Get a DentistLink notification about local dentists and their available appointment times

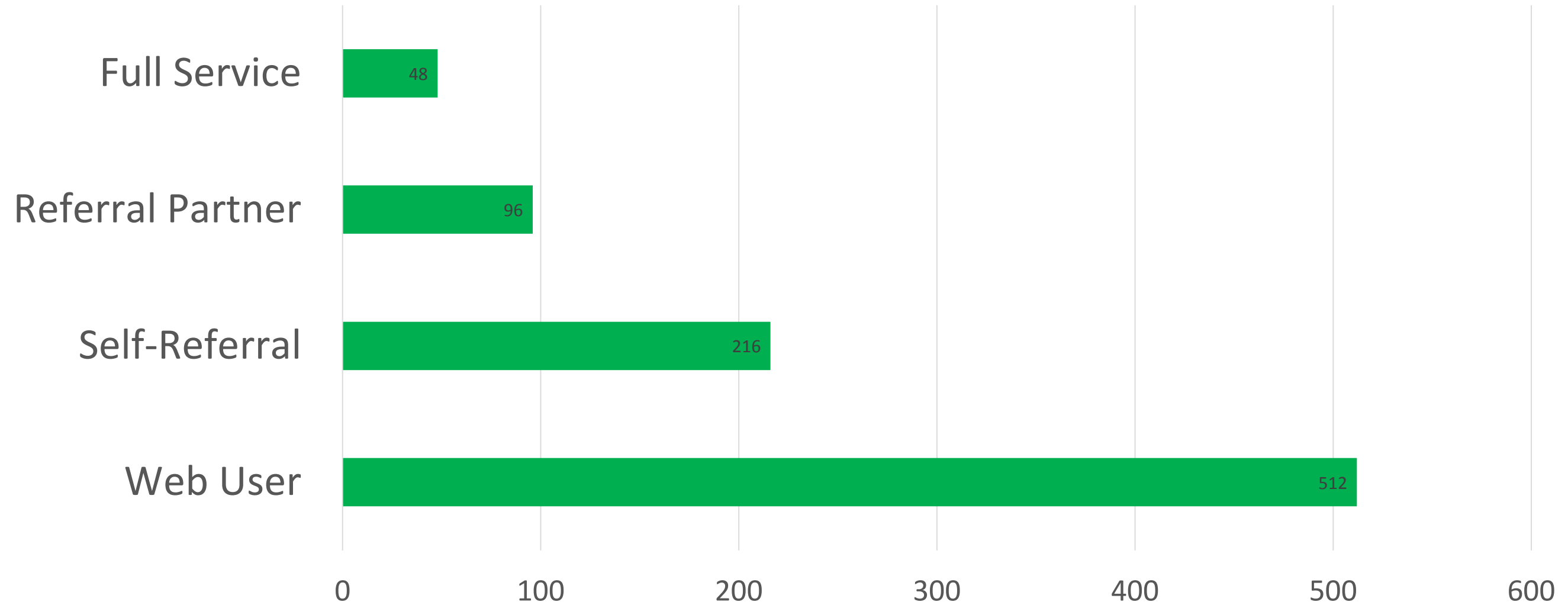


Step 4

Choose an appointment that best suits you and remember it with the help of our personalized reminder service.

2018 Patient Metrics

Patients, Jan 1 - Feb 15, 2018



Call to Action!

- > Address Oral Health with Patients/Clients/Neighbors:
 - > Integrate oral health preventive services into medical care
 - > Promote brushing/flossing & tooth healthy snacking – it works!
- > Contact Arcora Foundation for Resources and Support Integrating Oral Health in Medical Care
- > Take & Share DentistLink Cards

Thank you!

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Questions & Answers