



Media Contact: Mia Matthews
303-513-8646
mia.matthews@dhha.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Health’s Medical-Dental Integration Program Recognized for Advancing HPV Vaccination Efforts

A study by Denver Health, Bridging Medicine and Dentistry to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates and Prevent Cancer

DENVER (March 5, 2025) — A new collaboration between dental practices and pediatrics at [Denver Health](#) is showing promise at improving rates of immunization against the human papillomavirus (HPV). Research published today in *Pediatrics* highlights the groundbreaking work of Jessica Jack, MD, and Scott Hamilton, DDS and the emerging field of Medical-Dental Integration (MDI). Their study, “Improving Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Administration Using Medical-Dental Integration” found significantly improved HPV vaccination rates among children and showcased how integrating medical and dental services can advance public health outcomes.

The study, led by Jack and Hamilton, implemented an MDI program aimed at increasing HPV vaccination rates among children ages 9 to 17 during routine dental visits. Given that children more often visit their dentist than their primary care provider, this initiative leveraged dental visits as an opportunity for early cancer prevention. The program resulted in an 8.6% increase in HPV vaccinations, with children seen at dental clinics being four times more likely to receive the vaccine during the intervention period.

Jack, a pediatrician and lead investigator on the project, emphasized the program's impact.

“By integrating medical and dental care, we are closing critical gaps in preventive health services.” said Jack. “This model demonstrates that dentists and medical providers can work together to protect children from HPV-related cancers, ensuring they receive vaccinations in a setting they already trust.”

Hamilton, who played a key role in conceptualizing and implementing the program, highlighted the significance of this collaboration.

“This initiative reinforces that dental providers have an essential role in preventive health care,” said Hamilton. “Our ability to educate families about HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer and offer vaccinations during dental visits ensures that more children have access to lifesaving preventive care.”

The success of this initiative aligns with Denver Health’s commitment to reducing health disparities in underserved communities. With over 77% of participating children covered by Medicaid and 21% uninsured, the program demonstrates the power of integrated care in reaching vulnerable populations.

[Denver Health Dental Clinic](#) provides high-quality, affordable dental care as part of Denver Health's integrated healthcare system. With multiple locations, including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and [school-based clinics](#), the dental team offers comprehensive services ranging from routine cleanings to advanced oral health treatments. By integrating dental care with medical services, Denver Health Dental Clinic is at the forefront of innovative, patient-centered care, ensuring that oral health is recognized as a critical component of overall well-being.

###

About Denver Health

Denver Health is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care and proudly serves as the city's safety net hospital. For more than 160 years, Denver Health has been guided by its mission to serve the people of Denver, to educate the next generation of health care professionals and to engage in research and community partnerships to better deliver the health care needs of our patients while strengthening our community.