

ECHO IDAHO: Oral Health in Primary Care Series Report



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SERIES OVERVIEW

ECHO Idaho's Oral Health in Primary Care series was designed to equip healthcare providers with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess, identify, and provide preventive care for common oral health conditions. Through case-based learning, participants gained practical strategies for integrating oral health into routine clinical practice and develop greater confidence in addressing oral health concerns across diverse patient populations.

The interprofessional series fostered collaboration among medical, dental, and public health professionals, supporting a team-based approach to improving patient outcomes. Eight virtual sessions were held from September 2025 to April 2026, providing a convenient and engaging learning environment that promoted immediate application in clinical practice. This report provides a summary of the series.

72

Unique Participants

205

Contact Hours

22

Organizations

7 of 7

Idaho Public
Health Districts

17

Professions

18

Idaho Counties

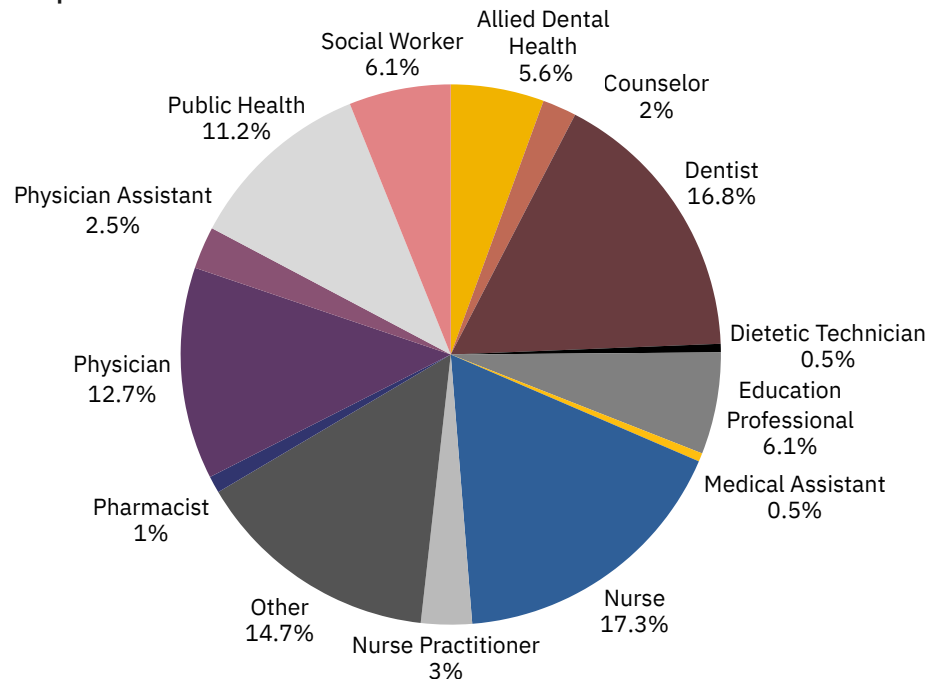
SERIES ATTENDANCE

A total of 205 individuals participated in the ECHO Idaho Oral Health in Primary Care series. Series sessions averaged 25 participants (range = 20 - 30 participants) per session.

Title of Session	Number of Attendees
Integrating Oral Health into Medical Decision Making	26
Recognizing and Responding to Common Oral Conditions	25
Oral and Facial Trauma Management	20
Linking Care and Systemic Health Across the Lifespan	26
Supporting Oral Health in Pregnancy and Childhood	26
Supporting Oral Health for Patients with Disabilities and Substance Use Disorders	26
Understanding Medication Impacts on Oral Health	26
Promoting Prevention and Early Intervention in Oral Health	30

ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

A total of **205** individuals, representing **17** different professions, participated in the series. Most respondents were **Nurses** (n=34, 17.3%), followed by **Dentists** (n=33, 16.8%), and **Physicians** (n=25, 12.7%). A breakdown of professions is presented below.



Participants were from **all 7 public health districts** (PHD) and included **18 different counties** and **23 cities**. A breakdown of PHDs are presented below.

Public Health District	N	Percent (%)
Central	114	59.7%
Southwest	20	10.5%
Eastern	7	3.7%
Panhandle	16	8.4%
South Central	7	3.7%
North Central	19	9.9%
Southeastern	8	4.2%

CONTINUING EDUCATION SURVEY

A total of 85 individuals completed the evaluation survey, claiming 85 continuing education credits. Participants were asked to reflect on the impact of the sessions by responding to questions about their knowledge and professional/clinical skills following attendance. Overall, **100%** believed the session **increased their knowledge**, **98%** believed the session would **improve their professional/clinical skills**, and **98%** believed the sessions would **enhance their collaboration with interprofessional teams**.

To what extent do you believe this CE activity increased your overall knowledge?	N	Percentage
Significantly increased	48	56.5%
Moderately increased	32	37.7%
Slightly increased	5	5.9%
Did not increase	0	0.0%
To what extent do you believe this ECHO session will improve your professional/clinical skills?		
Significantly improve	37	50.7%
Moderately improve	28	38.4%
Slightly improve	7	9.6%
No improvement	1	1.4%
To what extent do you believe this ECHO session will enhance your collaboration with interprofessional teams?		
Significantly enhance	34	47.9%
Moderately enhance	20	28.2%
Slightly enhance	16	22.5%
No enhancement	1	1.4%

CONTINUING EDUCATION SURVEY

Participants were asked to report on impact of the session to their clinical practice. Overall, **98% expressed intent or interest in changing their clinical practice** after attending sessions.

Based on the information in the ECHO session...	N	Percentage
I will start making changes to my clinical/professional practice.	40	47.1%
I am interested in making changes to my clinical/professional practice but am unable to do so at this time.	14	16.5%
I do not intend to make any changes to my clinical/professional practice.	1	1.2%
I will continue my current clinical/professional practice, which is already aligned.	7	8.2%
Not applicable/not relevant to my current professional or clinical role.	23	27.1%

Respondents were asked to describe the changes they intend to implement in their clinical/professional practice. A selection of responses is presented below and a full list included on Pgs 7-9.

“This ECHO session really helped me understand when to refer to the dentist and when emergent care is necessary.”

“I feel more empowered when I talk to parents and students about oral health. Also, [the session] increased my assessment skills.”

“As a school nurse, I plan to be more aware of oral health issues and how it can impact the overall health of my students. For example, if they are having chronic headaches, maybe it's directly linked to a dental condition.”

Please describe the changes you intend to implement in your clinical/professional practice.

Educate pregnant patients about oral health issues, consider xylitol and provide them resources to prepare for their baby's oral health.

checking more thoroughly at dental concerns

I am in the dental field looking for ways to collaborate with medical professionals and would love to see more interaction and knowledge shared. Thank you for this session.

I will try to do a better job of examining patient's teeth in the visit and I will definitely be able to give parents more ideas for how to accomplish oral hygiene.

Take more care in oral health physical exam

Providing more patient education regarding oral health, encourage them to allow us to apply fluoride varnish if they are not regularly receiving dental care or overdue

The increased knowledge about the impact of substances on the health of individuals teeth (and overall health) is something I'll be sharing in meetings/sessions when applicable

Be more proactive with discussing medical history with patients

Be more vigilant in oral health exams, especially for patients on medications.

I so enjoyed this presentation. The medication interactions related to oral health is very helpful.

I work in public health. The understanding bases between the drug interactions and the mouth are complex and Ann presented beautifully. Thank you for your thoughtful presentation.

I can pass the information on to my coworkers and clients/patients if needed.

I will be better able to support my clients' needs by using the knowledge I gained to work with other professionals who are part of their care team.

As a school nurse, I plan to pay attention to oral health issues of students who are on medications that can impact their mouth and teeth.

Review oral health with patients during CCM calls

Please describe the changes you intend to implement in your clinical/professional practice.

To do an increased amount of incorporating oral health providers with medical providers

Definitely more emphasis on oral health in elders and encouraging dental hygiene more frequently.

As a Social Worker, I conduct bio-psychosocial assessments all the time. I have access to information and a fair understanding of the pt's medical concerns; however, I never stop to ask about the pt's oral health conditions. I also work in rural areas, where access to dental health professionals is limited.

Excellent information! I feel more empowered when I talk to parents and students about oral health. Also, increased my assessment skills. I loved the examples (i.e. a cavity is an infection in the tooth, what happens after we eat with the bacteria on our teeth). So glad I listened. Thank you.

I will be more prescriptive about the need to see a dentist for the children and family I see. I will do a better job of looking at my patients' teeth.

Talk with people about health food and pH of mouth

I will start calling cavities infections. This was a great learning experience, I see kids frequently in my office that have never even seen a dentist. Often times I have to find additional resources for them, many of our dentists do not accept Medicaid. It was also great to learn about new resources available.

I have a better understanding of when to refer to dentist vs. pcp. It was also good to see what is emergent and non emergent.

Know when to treat outpatient vs. refer

I do agree -- it makes it easier to work clinically when there are relationships built between professions -- medical/clinical and dental. I will work to build these partnerships on my end

consider oral reasons for illness

Awareness of when to refer emergently vs. urgently (~1 week).

Please describe the changes you intend to implement in your clinical/professional practice.

Emphasize oral health in Teaching practices

More attention to getting patients into oral health providers.

Not be intimidated by "I have tooth pain," and feel comfortable in assessment and treatment until patient able to obtain dental evaluation and care.

This ECHO session really helped me understand when to refer to the dentist and understand when emergent care is necessary.

Better communication with other providers

As a school nurse, if a student has dental issues, I will consider the overall impact tooth pain/swelling/redness may be having on their overall health and use critical thinking skills to think about correlations between dental issues and other health problems.

This ECHO session helped me understand what is emergent vs. not. It also will help me prioritize based on the mechanism of injury.

It won't impact my daily practice, but when/if I do have a facial emergency, I now understand what resources are available to me and can manage my patient care appropriately

awareness of possibilities in care.

I am a dental professional and will reach out to medical professionals to enhance training opportunities.

Physical exams will focus more on oral health

Communicate with the medical providers of my patients regarding their oral health and total body health

As a school nurse, I plan to be more aware of oral health issues and how it can impact the overall health of my students. For example, if they are having chronic headaches, maybe it's directly linked to a dental condition

CONCLUSION

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

The ECHO Idaho Oral Health in Primary Care Series was well attended by healthcare professionals across Idaho, with representation from 18 counties and all 7 Public Health Districts. The series was successful in improving knowledge and clinical/professional skills, and enhanced providers collaboration with interprofessional teams. Additionally, providers felt the session information learned in the series will positively impact their clinical or professional practice.

The series successfully met goals and objectives in helping healthcare professional gain knowledge about, and confidence in clinical skills to manage patients with oral health concerns.

100.0%

of providers believed the session improved their overall knowledge

98.7%

of providers believed the session will improve their professional/clinical skills

98.6%

of providers who believed the session will enhance collaboration with interprofessional teams

The majority of providers expressed intent or interest in changing their clinical practice based on the session

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