

## **Prevalence of Undiagnosed Diabetes Among Patients in Community-Based Dental Practices (Phase II)**

**Purpose:** Examine the potential for dental practices to offer undiagnosed diabetes patients a unique portal into medical care beyond physician-centered settings.

**Hypotheses:** Dental offices provide a unique point of care for testing and disease identification; and Patients presenting to dental offices have a limited awareness of their diabetic condition and susceptibility.

**Pilot Data:** Pilot data showed that 36% (N=66) of patients were at high risk for Type 2 diabetes, but only 14% (N=26) had been diagnosed. Of the high-risk patients, 64% (N=42) were women and 49% (N=32) were Hispanic. 84% (N=53) of these patients were accessing health care services regularly; hence, the prevalence of undiagnosed patients at high risk of Type 2 diabetes is 31.1% despite regular medical care.

**Next Steps:** This study has been chosen by the Network as an entry point project for new members. The objective of this study is to extend the initial survey to include a broader population within the San Antonio area and to focus more precisely on the potential for dental offices to serve as an alternate medical access point for previously undiagnosed diabetes patients. An IRB-approved survey, revised from the pilot study and available in English and Spanish, will be used to assess levels of undiagnosed diabetes. STOHN plans to enroll 17 new practitioners across a geographic and socioeconomic distribution over the next year to participate in the study.