



9-2024

Fact Sheet: Promoting Dental Careers: R-Cool Health Scrubs Camps and Academies

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Recommended Citation

Shawnda Schroeder. "Fact Sheet: Promoting Dental Careers: R-Cool Health Scrubs Camps and Academies" (2024). *Indigenous Health Faculty Publications*. 26.

<https://commons.und.edu/ih-fac/26>

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PROMOTING DENTAL CAREERS: R-COOL HEALTH SCRUBS CAMPS AND ACADEMIES

The R-COOL-Health Scrubs Camps and Academies are part of an exciting program supported by the Center for Rural Health (CRH) at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. The overall purpose of the program is to increase awareness, interest, and understanding of health careers among North Dakota students in grades 5-12.

SCRUBS CAMPS

Local schools or health units host a day camp to promote health careers in their rural communities. The 1-3 day camps include health professionals who provide presentations, activities, and health career demonstrations.

SCRUBS ACADEMIES

Scrubs Academies are weeklong overnight summer camps hosting junior high students on college campuses in North Dakota. They serve as a mini-preparation program and expose students both to the campus experience, as well as health careers.

PROMOTING DENTAL PROFESSIONS

Historically, this program has not had high representation of dental professional careers. To address this, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services, Oral Health Program partnered with the CRH to make it easier for dental professionals to engage.

Prior to the 2023-2024 Scrubs Camp cycle, the Oral Health Program:

- Completed three slide decks and curriculum plans: one for dental assistants, one for dental hygienists, and one for dentists. Each curriculum included activities as well as information around the cost of schooling, where to go to school close to North Dakota, average North Dakota salary, a day in the life of this professional, and loan repayment programs.
- Purchased hands-on educational resources such as dental models that work well among students in grades 5-12. These resources have been available through the CRH for loan.
- Worked with provider groups in North Dakota to develop a list of potential dental team volunteers interested in presenting at local camps and academies.



11 of the 15
Scrubs Camps
and Academies
had a dental health
professional present

More than 950
North Dakota students
in grades 5-12 exposed
to dental health careers
through Scrubs Camps
and Academies



759
water bottles
promoting oral health
provided to students

“The dental kits were GREAT! . . . and the bottle kits were a hit at both camps . . . We received very positive feedback from both camps, and there is hope that a couple of students might sign up for the Dental Assistant Program as a result.”

– Director of College, Career & Life Readiness

