

*Title: Analyzing Dental Patient Attendance Patterns to Improve Scheduling Efficiency at Sea Mar Community Health Center.*

Missed Dental care appointments present a significant problem at Sea Mar Community Healthcare Dental Clinic because every missed visit is a lost opportunity to prevent pain, address critical oral health issues, and support the well-being of the community we serve. Addressing systems awareness by targeting the immediate problem of missed appointments has potential to reveal the broader systemic influences on healthcare access and equity and contribute to understanding how economic and social structures shape individual and community experiences. My project explored factors that impact the percentages of no-shows, same-day cancellations, and actual visits at Seamar Community Healthcare Dental Clinic over seven months. To determine whether any trends indicated room to improve scheduling and outreach strategies in a community healthcare setting to improve healthcare outcomes, I performed a statistical analysis to determine the average appointments missed each day of the week. The analysis allowed me to observe various trends suggesting that the day of the week affected the percentage of appointments missed. However, there was no significant difference in the number of appointments missed across the seven months. Furthermore, there was a high percentage of appointments missed overall throughout the time. I hypothesized that scheduling conflicts, transportation issues, financial concerns, illness, and communication issues may contribute to the observed trends.