

Oral Health in Boston Public Housing

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The goal of this project is to gain a better understanding of how residents of public housing, particularly women of childbearing age, think about their oral health behaviors according to the cultural, social and environmental influences found in public housing development. Through the use of 7 focus groups conducted at 2 housing sites, this project specifically aims to 1) establish an understanding of the culture specific oral health knowledge, attitudes, and practices of women of childbearing age, pregnant women, and women of children 0-7 residing in public housing, 2) identify the modality specific to the differing race/ethnicities that is most trusted when accessing or receiving health information or services, 3) establish an in depth understanding of the housing environment as it pertains to culturally and socially constructed ECC risk factors, and 4) identify appropriate mechanisms for delivery of preventive services to public housing residents. This information, along with a shout assessment of health literacy among the participating women, will lay the groundwork for future development of an oral health intervention in Boston Public Housing.