

Community Voices Team's Article Published in Journal of Dental Hygiene



The Community Voices team's article "[Implications for Improving Oral Health Care Among Female Prisoners in Georgia's Correctional System.](#)" was published in the December Issue of the Journal of Dental Hygiene. The article was co-authored by **Starla Hairston Blanks, MBA, MPH, CPHP**, and [Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD](#), with former MSM staff and MPH program graduates Carlos Mahaffey, Pharm D., MPH (University of Kentucky), and Whitney Graves, MPH (Virginia Commonwealth University).

The data collected from this study will be utilized to inform future project efforts to both reduce costs and increase access to oral health care for Georgia's uninsured and underinsured, and especially the incarcerated and reentry populations.

Georgia has the eighth-highest state rate of incarceration and fourth-highest number of prisoners in the country. Aside from receiving a dental examination at intake to assess oral health needs, there are no efforts to determine the barriers and determinants that contribute to the present oral health status of Georgia's state prisoners. This study assessed the barriers that impact N=98 female inmates' access to oral health care, prior to incarceration, within Georgia's prison system using a 21-item survey developed by a division of an academic institution and administered by the staff of a state department.