



Rural Health Education in Upper Cumberland, TN

Samuel C LeFave, Janet G. Coonce
Tennessee Technological University, Department of Chemistry, Cookeville, Tennessee



Introduction

The Remote Area Medical Clinic – RAM®[®], held at Cookeville High School is a FREE two-day, medical, dental, and vision clinic. The clinic is coordinated by a group of student leaders at Tennessee Technological University. The Upper Cumberland Community Host Group has shown the need for rural health innovation through gathering data from these Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics. Seeing the needs in dental and medical health continue to go unmet, there must be another way to treat the patient. This research shows how focused Health Education in rural areas of the Upper Cumberland may provide a hope for patients and a relief for the healthcare system.

Data

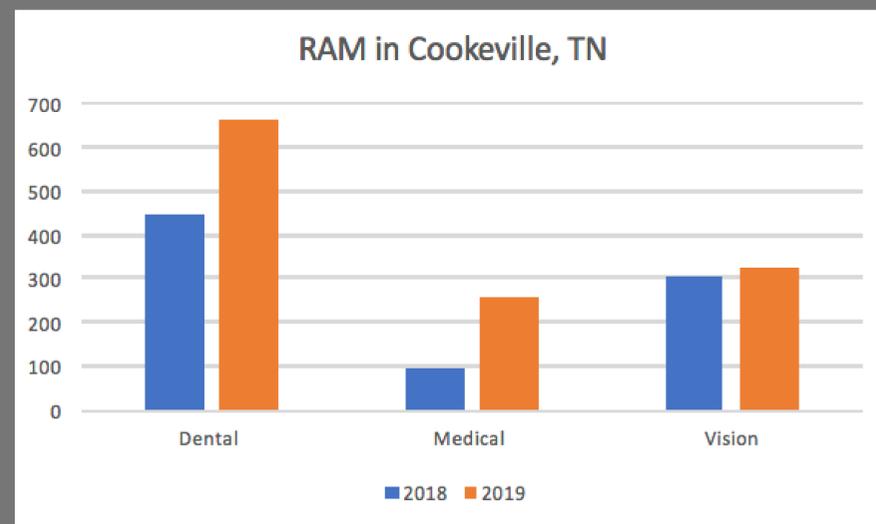


Figure 2. Patients registered for the 2018 and 2019 Remote Area Medical Clinics Cookeville, TN

Service Area



State	Pt #
TN	943
VA	2
WV	1
OH	1
NC	5
KY	3
GA	3
FL	1
AL	5

Figure 3. Patients helped at the 2019 Remote Area Medical Clinic in Cookeville, TN

Hospital Closures

In Upper Cumberland:

Jamestown Regional Hospital- closed 2019
Cumberland River Hospital- closed 2019

Throughout TN:

21 total rural hospital closures in recent years

Discussion

From the data provided by RAM, many statistics were used to produce the figures seen. Figure 2 depicts the distributed need for multiple educational focuses. Annually, dental services are needed in higher demand. In 2019 alone, 1493 teeth were extracted, 274 teeth were filled, and 82 mouths were professionally cleaned. Extractions increased 132% between 2018 and 2019. Prescriptions for glasses decreased by 15% between 2018 and 2019. These differences are depicted in figure 2. In 2018, the estimated value of care given was \$411,998.00. This is compared to an estimated value of care given in 2019, summing \$598,000.00. Figure 3 depicts the home states of patients visiting the RAM clinic held at Cookeville High School. With the increasing need for health care and the decreasing access to health services, health education is the most feasible option. With educational programs tailored to the Upper Cumberland population, long-term health can be placed in control of the patient.

Where to Educate?

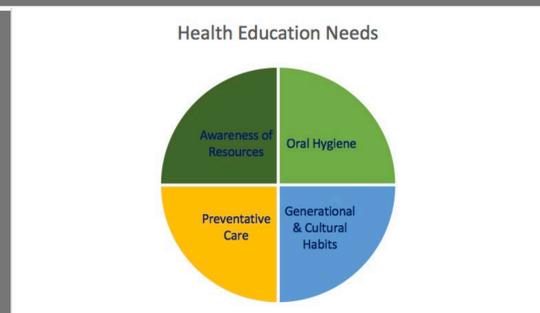


Figure 2. Educational Needs from the Community Needs Assessment in Cookeville, TN

Acknowledgments

- I would like to thank RAM 501(c)(3) for providing the data from the Cookeville RAM clinics in 2018 and 2019.
- The RAM clinics would not be possible without the student leaders of UCCHG and faculty advisor, Mrs. Janet Coonce.
- I would like to thank CRMC for the Community Needs Assessment.