

# California Careforce: Coachella Valley Healthcare Clinic

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## OBJECTIVE

For 13 years California Careforce has been providing free medical, dental, and vision services at over 35 clinics across the state. Following approval from the Dental Board of California, Dugoni students had the opportunity to volunteer for the very first time at the Coachella Valley Clinic. With permission for a 6 to 1 student to faculty ratio our we provided care March 8-10, 2024.

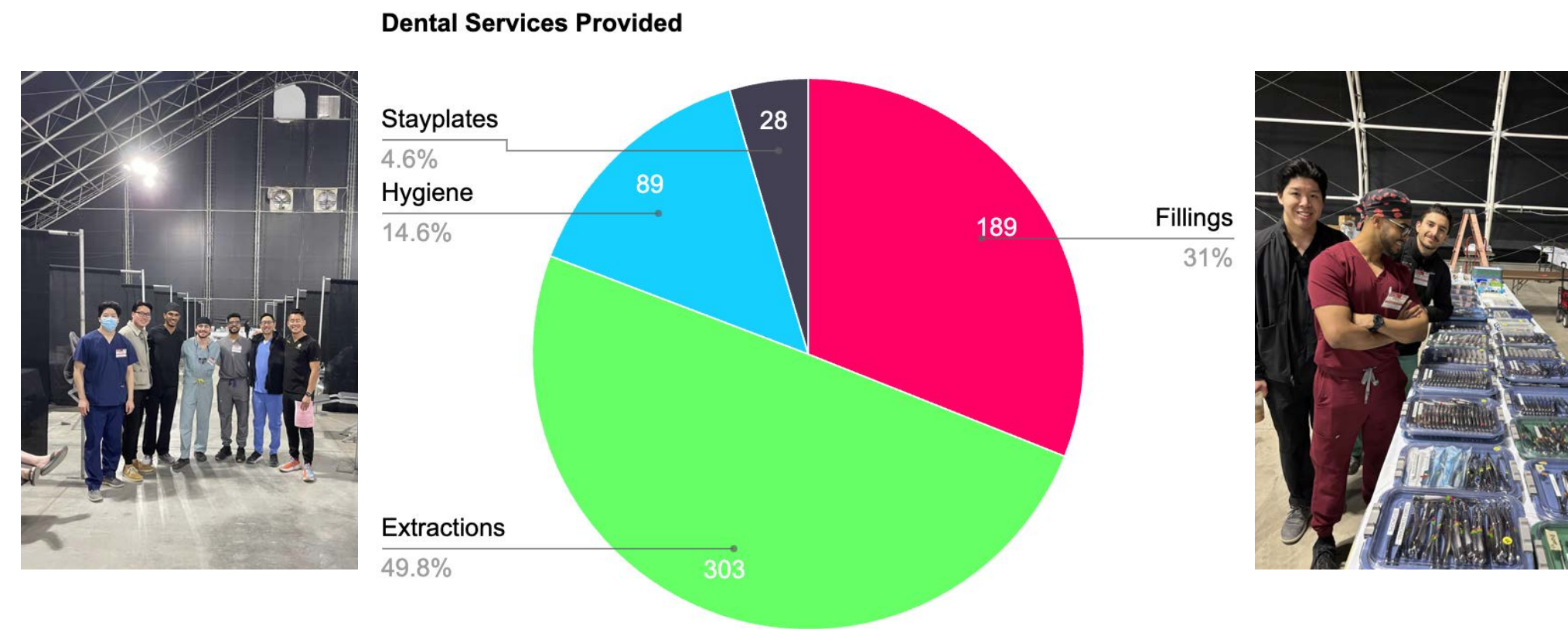


## Summary

5 third year students and 2 supervising faculty worked with the California Careforce team, mainly in the Oral Surgery and Restorative clinics. As this was the first time our school has worked with this organization there were logistical challenges and we had to ensure that the participants and faculty were cleared to volunteer at the clinic. This included utilizing the new legislation Assembly Bill 936 which has expanded the eligibility of dental students in their clinical training years to provide free dental services.

In addition to setting up the entire clinical environment, providing the necessary supplies and instrumentation, and recruiting patients in need of care, California Careforce also provided accommodations for the student and faculty volunteers. The 3 day clinic beginning on Friday was run out of the Empire Polo Grounds in Indio, California and served the entire Coachella Valley. Volunteers were assigned roles such as triage, taking radiographs, assisting, and direct patient care.

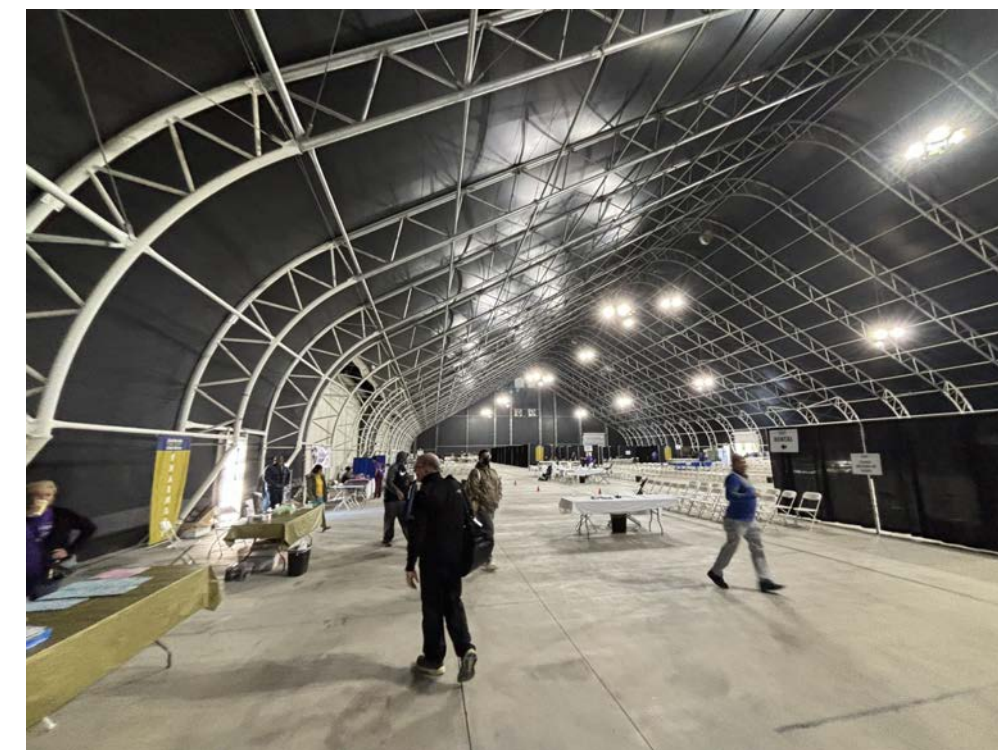
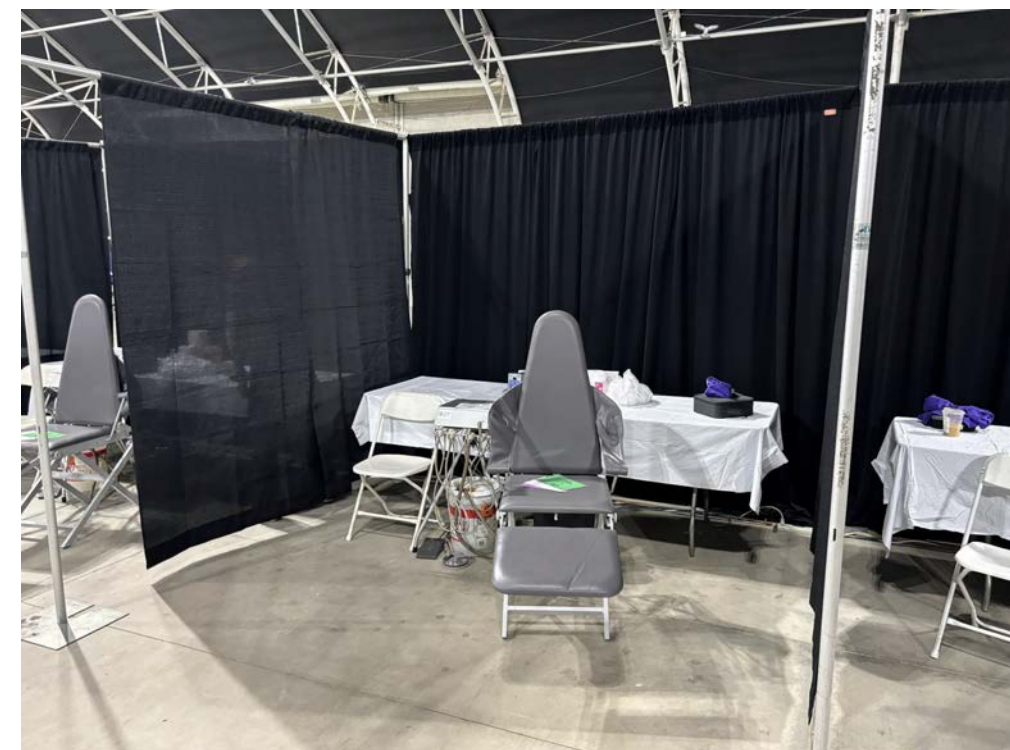
Our team was tasked with providing restorative and oral surgery services including composite fillings and simple and complex surgical extractions.



## Summary Cont.

Throughout the three days of clinical operations, dental care was provided to 425 patients, including 303 extractions, 189 fillings, 28 stay plates, and 89 cleanings. In addition to dental, 1178 patients were treated for their medical and vision needs by the other volunteers. The UOP students were utilized to provide mainly surgical services, it is noteworthy that in future trips more students would be able to participate in providing restorative procedures for patients.

Supplies including handpieces, antibiotics, pain medications, surgical instruments, and toys for children were procured through various sponsorships. Stayplates were provided by Riverside dental lab and Glidewell Laboratories. Pharmaceutical supplies were provided by La Botica Pharmacy.



## Significance

The 2024 clinic in Indio was successful in the outreach to the local communities of Coachella Valley with a focus on patient education and surgical services. In order to continue this momentum of community outreach, the student leaders for the trip have paved the way for future participants, providing guidelines for upcoming trips and to improve upon the previous experience. This is will include more in depth participation by UOP students, both dental and hygiene, with more faculty to provide a broader range of services to the community. California Careforce provides clinics across California, as we continue building this relationship, more opportunities will arise for UOP Dental Students.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. Ned Nix, Prof. Eve Cuny, Dr. Peter Scheer, Dr. Brian Diep, Dr. David K. Lam, California Careforce



# OKU Sutro Excellence Day Project Cover Sheet

## **Project Title**

Indio Trip: Seal Team Nix

## **Full name(s) and class year(s) of all project collaborators**

*Example: Jane Smith, DDS 2022; John Smith, DDS 2022*

Peter Perez, DDS 2024; Shiv Patel DDS 2024

## **Project Category**

DDS/IDS/DH - PIP Awards: Community Health Service & Health Promotion

## **Enter your abstract text here (max 300 words)**

### Objective

The 2024 clinic held in Indio marked a pivotal moment in UOP's involvement in California Careforce's 13-year legacy of offering free medical, dental, and vision services at numerous clinics throughout the state. Following approval from the Dental Board of California, Dugoni students seized the chance to volunteer at the Coachella Valley Clinic. Operating under a student-to-faculty ratio of 6 to 1, our team provided care from March 8 to March 10, 2024.

### Summary

In collaboration with the California Careforce team, composed of 5 third-year students and 2 supervising faculty members, our involvement primarily centered on oral surgery and restorative clinics. However, given the novelty of our partnership with this organization, logistical hurdles necessitated clearance for both participants and faculty members, leveraging the recently enacted legislation, Assembly Bill 936. This bill extended eligibility for dental students in their clinical training years to administer free dental services.

Beyond logistical preparations, including establishing the clinical infrastructure, securing essential supplies and instruments, and enlisting patients in need of care, California Careforce generously provided accommodations for our student and faculty volunteers. Over the span of three days, beginning on Friday, the clinic at the Empire Polo Grounds in Indio, California, catered to the entire Coachella Valley. Volunteers assumed various roles such as triage, radiography, assistance, and direct patient care.

Our team's primary responsibilities revolved around delivering restorative and oral surgery services, encompassing tasks like composite fillings and simple and complex surgical extractions. Over the course of the clinic, 425 patients received dental care, including 303 extractions, 189 fillings, 28 stay plates, and 89 cleanings. In addition to dental services, 1178 patients received medical and vision treatments from other volunteers. While our UOP students primarily focused on surgical extractions, future trips aim to involve more students in providing restorative procedures for patients.

Sponsored contributions facilitated the procurement of essential supplies such as handpieces,