

Virginia Department of Health Dental Hygiene Pilot

Virginia Oral Health Coalition Summit
October 21, 2011

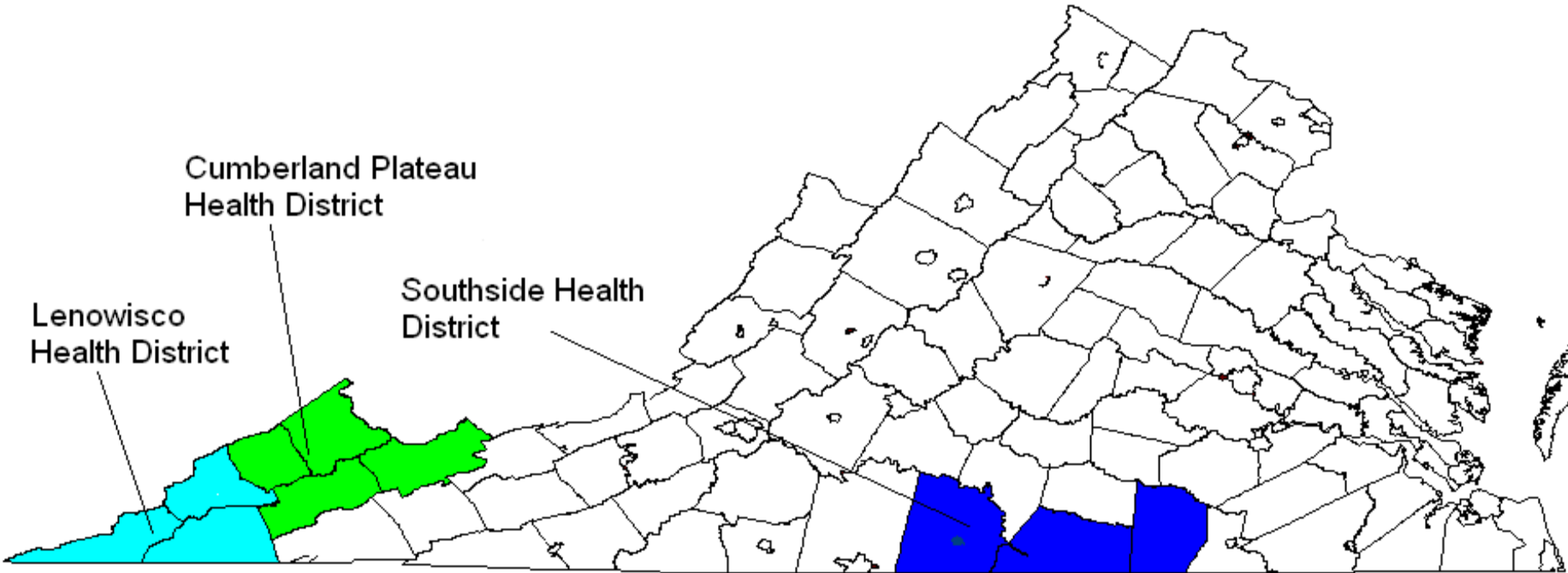
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Statutory Authority



- Legislation revised
 - § 54.1-2722 “License; application; qualifications; practice of dental hygiene”
- Hygienists employed by VDH who work in
 - Cumberland Plateau Health District
 - Lenowisco Health District
 - Southside Health District
- Provide preventive care under a new protocol
- Expires on July 1, 2012

VDH Pilot Protocol Areas



VDH Pilot Protocol Committee



Comprised of Representatives from:

- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Virginia Board of Dentistry
- Virginia Dental Association
- Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association

VDH Pilot Protocol Definition

“Remote supervision” means that a public health dentist has regular, periodic communication with a public health dental hygienist regarding patient treatment, but has not done an initial examination of the patients who are to be seen and treated by the dental hygienist, and is not necessarily onsite with the dental hygienist when dental hygiene services are delivered.



VDH Pilot Protocol

The VDH dental hygienists must:

- Be a graduate of an accredited school of dental hygiene
- Be licensed in Virginia and have a minimum of two years of dental hygiene practice experience.
- Consent in writing to provide services under remote supervision.
- Supervise assistants - assistants are not permitted to provide direct clinical services to patients.
- Have clinical oversight provided by local or central office VDH public health dentist(s)



VDH Pilot Protocol

- To date, a total of six full- or part-time dental hygienists have worked under remote supervision in these three districts.
- By comparison, in 2011 there are currently 4,198 dental hygienists licensed in Virginia who have addresses in the state.

Implementation of Pilot Protocol

- Funding for positions through an Oral Health Workforce Grant.
- Services provided using the protocol are through newly established school-based dental sealant programs in the three districts.

Services Provided Under Pilot Protocol



- To date:
 - 1,514 children screened.
 - 3,186 dental sealants placed on permanent molars.
 - 722 children have been referred to a dentist for evaluation or treatment.
- On average, the cost per sealant was:
 - \$24.10 under general supervision.
 - \$19.26 under remote supervision.

Moving Forward



- Availability to preventive services has been proven to significantly reduce the dental disease burden.
 - Increased access for underserved populations, who are at increased risk of disease.
- Alternative method of delivery of preventive services for safety net dental programs.

Moving Forward

- Preventive services provided to more individuals at lower personnel costs.
- Increased program sustainability as cost for delivering services are reduced.
- Referrals to dentists for treatment services from a greater geographic area.