Early Child Oral Health Integration

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Bright Smiles for Babies Program

- **Goal**: to prevent early childhood caries and refer to a dental home
- **Targets** children five and under in non-dental settings
  - Existing systems supporting early child health
- **United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 0 - 5 years</td>
<td>primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.</td>
<td>B (benefit is moderate to substantial)</td>
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Community Level Partners

- Medical offices
- WIC clinics
  - VDH public health nurses
  - Remote supervision dental hygienists
- Care Connection clinics
- Community health centers
- Early Head Start / Head Start
  - EHS staff nurses (under standing order)
  - Remote supervision dental hygienists
- Home visiting programs
  - CHIP of Virginia staff nurses (0 - 3)
Remote Supervision Dental Hygienists

- Pregnant women
  - Oral screenings
  - Counseling
  - Referrals / case management
- Infants and children
  - Oral screenings
  - Fluoride varnish applications
  - Counseling of parent
  - Referrals / case management
  - Includes children with special needs
## Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th># of fluoride varnish applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical offices</td>
<td>18,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC/Head Start</td>
<td>6088 (RSDH)</td>
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<td>3065 (PHNs)</td>
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<td>CHIP home visits</td>
<td>490 (nurses)</td>
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Obstacles

- Lack of awareness
- Insufficient resources (time, staff)
- Frustrations with referral process / finding dentists willing to treat young children
- Change is hard!

Source: FreeDigitalPhotos.net
Next Steps

• Perinatal Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Grant
• Goal: Improve dental care utilization for pregnant women and infants through integration into the primary care delivery system
• Objectives
  • Expand the role of the VDH RSDH
  • Strengthen workforce capacity/professional trainings
  • Develop community-level pilots
    • Based on local needs and resources
  • Expand surveillance / data systems