

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)

Population	Recommendation	Grade
Children 0 - 5 years	primary care clinicians apply fluoride varnish to the primary teeth of all infants and children starting at the age of primary tooth eruption.	B (benefit is moderate to substantial)

Final Recommendation Statement: Dental Caries in Children from Birth Through Age 5 Years: Screening. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. December 2014.

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

Setting	# of fluoride varnish applications
Medical offices	18,102
WIC/Head Start	6088 (RSDH) 3065 (PHNs)
CHIP home visits	490 (nurses)

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