BABY TEETH MATTER: ORAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center
Washington Dental Services Foundation
Indian Health Service

- Officially established in 1955

- Agency under the Department of Health and Human Services.

- Serve 2.1 million AIAN people who live on or near reservations and are members of 566 federally recognized tribes.
American Indians and Alaska Natives as a Share of the Total Population, by State, 2009-2011

Total: 2.5 million = 1% of U.S. Population

- Less than 1% (36 states)
- 1-3% (8 states)
- More than 3% (7 states)

American Indian and Alaska Native includes people of Hispanic origin.
Source: KCMU analysis of 2009-2011 ACS.
The Indian Healthcare System

- **Indian Health Service (IHS) direct health care services**
  IHS services are administered through a system of 12 Area offices and 168 IHS and tribally managed service units.

- **Tribally-operated health care services**
  Today, over half of the IHS appropriation is administered by Tribes through self-determination contracts or self-governance compacts.

- **Urban Indian health care services**
  There are 33 urban programs
While tribal sovereignty is limited today by the United States under treaties, acts of Congress, Executive Orders, federal administrative agreements and court decisions, what remains is nevertheless protected and maintained by the federally recognized tribes against further encroachment by other sovereigns, such as the states. Tribal sovereignty ensures that any decisions about the tribes with regard to their property and citizens are made with their participation and consent.
Health Disparities

- Leading causes of death are heart disease and cancer
- More than twice the rate of diabetes of US all populations
- Three times chronic liver disease
- Death from unintentional injuries and motor vehicle crashes almost double
The Cross Cultural Dance

http://store.samhsa.gov/product/American-Indian-and-Alaska-Native-Culture-Card/SMA08-4354
Just the Facts: 2-5 year olds

- AI/AN:
  - Decay Experience: 54%
  - Untreated Decay: 37%

- US:
  - Decay Experience: 28%
  - Untreated Decay: 21%
Two is Too Late!

Percent of AI/AN Children with Decay Experience by Age, 2014

- 1 Year: 18.1%
- 2 Years: 39.4%
- 3 Years: 59.9%
- 4 Years: 69.4%
- 5 Years: 75.6%
- 1-5 Years: 54.1%
Treatment alone does not stop ECC

- IHS has estimated that it costs thousands of dollars to treat each child with ECC and $8,000 or more if they are treated under general anesthesia.

- 40-50% of children treated with severe ECC have new decay within 4-12 months.
Assumptions

• ECC is both preventable and manageable if we can see children regularly beginning soon after the first tooth erupts.

• IHS/Tribal dental clinics are the best dental home for young children and dental treatment under general anesthesia should be avoided if possible.
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that repeated or lengthy use of general anesthetic and sedation drugs during surgeries or procedures in children younger than 3 years or in pregnant women during their third trimester may affect the development of children’s brains.
Baby Teeth Matter: Objectives

- Increase the number of 0-5 year olds who receive dental access, with an emphasis on 0-2 year olds.
- Increase the number of 0-5 year olds who receive comprehensive dental care at their IHS/Tribal dental program.
Baby Teeth Matter: 12 Dental Programs
BTM Structure

- 3-4 face to face meetings yearly
- Collection of baseline and quarterly data
- Quarterly conference calls
- Ongoing training and technical assistance
PDSAs: Plan, Do, Study, Act

- Mini-experiments to see what does and doesn’t work to increase access and to keep young children in our IHS/Tribal dental programs.
Baseline Data: Jan-June 2013

Patient Outcome as of 12/2013

- Child did not receive TX: 23.5% (44)
- TX completed with GA: 27.8%
- TX completed without GA: 30.5% (57)
- TX started but not completed: 9.6% (18)
- Unknown outcome: 8.6% (16)
Children 3 to 5 years old were twice as likely to access care as children 0 to 2 years old

Nearly 32% (n=229) of children receiving dental exams/screenings needed restorative care

Nearly 24% (n=44) of children who needed restorative care did not receive treatment and 9% (n=16) had an unknown outcome
Three Year Results

Children 0-5 Accessing Care at IHS/Tribal Dental Clinics (Phase I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Data</th>
<th>Inception of program</th>
<th>Progress Measure Data</th>
<th>% Change from Baseline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-June 2013</td>
<td>Jan-June 2014</td>
<td>Jan-June 2015</td>
<td>Jan-June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>295</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>508 (+148%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>436</td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>246</td>
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<td>313 (+248%)</td>
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- Children Accessing Care 0-2
- Children Accessing Care 3-5
- Children Accessing Care 0-5
WHAT WORKS?

Key Elements:

DENTAL CLINIC
- Caries Risk Assessment and Recall
- Fluoride Varnish and Sealants
- Minimally Invasive Dentistry
- Case Management and Open Access for Babies
- Family Goal Setting

LEADERSHIP

SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS IN WHAT IT TAKES FOR MAKING
BABY TEETH MATTER

MEDICAL & COMMUNITY
- Collaboration with Medical Staff
- Collaboration with Head Start and Childcare
- Collaboration with WIC and other Community-Based Programs
- Policies that include Dental in Well-Child Visits
- Media Strategies to Engage New Families

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

The family can do the most to promote healthy habits at home and prevent early childhood caries.

- Brush children's teeth twice daily with fluoride toothpaste
- Limit foods high in sugar and carbohydrates
- Drink less juice and more water
- Bring baby in for a dental visit
Minimally Invasive Dentistry

- “Treat” while spot lesions and incipient dental caries with fluoride varnish and sealants
- Use silver diamine fluoride to arrest caries
- SMART: silver plus glass ionomers
- Hall Crowns
Variations on the knee to knee technique

Distraction is key.

Keep your cool 😊

Building this relationship early on makes for a more cooperative 3-4 year old dental patient.
Social Media Experiment
People don’t care what you know… until they know that you care