

Need Oral Health Information?

**Contact the
National Maternal and Child
Oral Health Resource Center**

**National Oral Health Conference
April 30, 2005**

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

Georgetown University
Washington, DC



Purpose

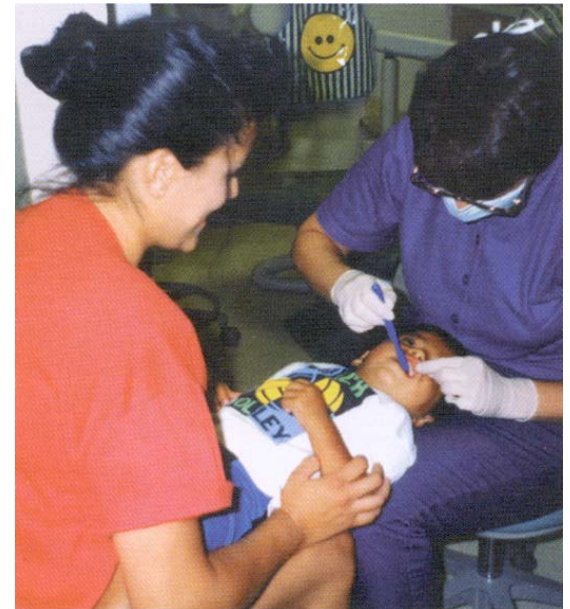
- Supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Address current and emerging public oral health issues
- Gather, develop, and share high-quality information and materials



Target Audience

OHRC serves

- Health professionals
- Human services providers
- Program administrators
- Educators
- Researchers
- Policymakers



Services

- Collect and share information about materials
- Collect and share program descriptions
- Respond to information requests
- Develop and disseminate materials
- Maintain Web site
- Collaborate on joint projects with others
- Present and exhibit at conferences



Reference Collection

- Serve as a central repository for oral health materials that typically are not cataloged in traditional libraries
- Collection includes materials such as standards, guidelines, curricula, manuals, policies, procedures, reports, needs assessments, and conference materials
- Materials are produced by agencies, associations, and foundations



Reference Collection

- Materials are cataloged by staff librarians into bibliographic database
- Over 1,100 print and electronic materials
- View topical bibliographies of materials available via OHRC Web site
- Search database using publication's author, title, date, publisher, or key words via OHRC Web site



Information Requests

Topics include

- Periodicity of oral health care
- Promoting good oral hygiene and feeding/eating behaviors
- Strategies for early childhood caries prevention and early intervention
- Use of dental sealants
- Examples of community safety net programs



Information Requests

OHRC responds with

- Information obtained from in-house and external database searches
- OHRC-produced print or electronic materials
- Links for electronic materials or contact information for print materials produced by others
- Loan materials no longer in print
- Referral to other organizations



OHRC Materials

Print materials

- Resource bulletins
- Resource guides
- Fact sheets
- Tip sheets
- Pocket guides
- Conference materials

Electronic materials

- Knowledge paths
- Distance learning curricula



OHRC Materials

- Single or multiple copies
- Most materials available at no cost
- Permission is given to photocopy documents
- Can be used to
 - Develop or enhance programs
 - Obtain information for a presentation, a testimony, or a proposal
 - Provide education and training



Resource Bulletins

- Promote availability of new materials added to reference collection
- Include descriptions
- Include acquisition information
- Two volumes in the series are produced per year

Resource Guides

- List recent journal articles
- Provide materials descriptions and acquisition information
- List organizations that may serve as resources
- Topics include
 - Dental sealants
 - Children with special health care needs
 - Early childhood caries
 - Women's oral health



Fact Sheets

- Provide quick reference to data and trends
- Highlight programmatic strategies
- Topics include
 - Children and adolescents with special health care needs
 - Dental sealants
 - Early childhood caries
 - Head Start
 - Oral health and learning
 - Women's oral health

Head Start: An Opportunity to Improve the Oral Health of Children and Families

Head Start

Early Head Start and Head Start are comprehensive child development programs that serve infants and children from birth through age 5, pregnant women, and their families. The overall goal of these child-focused programs is to increase the school readiness of young children from families with low incomes.¹

Data from Head Start operating year 2001–2002 reveal the following:

- There were 912,345 children enrolled in Head Start; among these, 848,481 (93 percent) were ages 3 and older.²
- About 68 percent of the children were from a racial/ethnic minority group.²
- Of those children with health insurance, 63 percent were also enrolled in the Medicaid/Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program, which provides coverage for oral health services.²

Most children enrolled in Head Start are eligible for oral health services paid for through either Medicaid/EPSDT, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the Indian Health Service, or the military dependent dental plan.³



Access to Oral Health Services

Head Start program specialists, directors, staff, and parents report that the number one issue affecting Head Start programs nationwide is access to oral health services.⁴

Head Start Program Performance Standards state that programs, in collaboration with parents, must determine each child's oral health status within 90 days of entry into the program. This includes:

- determining whether the child has a "dental home" (a continuous, accessible source of care) and, if the child does not, assisting parents in obtaining a source of care.⁵
- obtaining determination from a dental professional as to whether the child is up to date on the EPSDT schedule of age-appropriate preventive and primary care and, if the child is not, assisting parents in scheduling a dental appointment to bring the child up to date.⁵
- obtaining or arranging for further diagnostic testing, examination, and treatment performed by a dentist for each child with observable, known, or suspected problems.⁵
- developing and implementing a follow-up plan for any identified problems.⁵

Despite these standards, children enrolled in Head Start often experience barriers to dental care (e.g., an insufficient number of dentists serving the Medicaid population, dentists who are uncomfortable treating infants and young children).

Oral Health Status

According to the Surgeon General's report on oral health, tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease.⁶

As with general health, oral health status tends to vary in the United States based on sociodemographic factors.⁷ Analysis of data from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1988–1994) indicates that children ages 2 through 5 from families with low incomes were five times more likely to have untreated tooth decay than their peers from families with higher incomes.⁸

Children enrolled in Head Start, like other children from families with low incomes, experience more tooth decay, more extensive tooth decay, and more pain and suffering from tooth decay than children from families with higher incomes.³



Tip Sheets

- Provide talking points for presentations
- Highlight ideas for funding proposals, enhancing programs, or identifying areas for collaboration
- Topics include
 - Children and adolescents with special health care needs
 - Head Start

Strategies for Improving the Oral Health System of Care for Children and Adolescents with Special Health Care Needs

The following strategies are intended to inform health professionals in planning, developing, and implementing state and local efforts to ensure that children and adolescents with special health care needs (SHCN) receive optimal oral health care. The strategies may be used as "talking points" for presentations or ideas for funding proposals, enhancing programs, and identifying areas of common interest and fostering collaboration among all health professionals and programs.

Personal Oral Health

Maintaining oral hygiene can be a challenge for many children and adolescents with SHCN and their parents and other caregivers.

- Work with parents and other caregivers to promote performing appropriate self-care, eating healthy foods, and obtaining regular oral health care.
- Establish relationships with family support groups to reach parents and other caregivers.
- Provide case management and personal assistance to children and adolescents with SHCN, including those who live independently or in group homes, and make provisions for oral health visits.

Work Force

There is a shortage of pediatric dentists in many geographic areas, and many general dentists lack the knowledge and skills needed to provide care for children and adolescents with SHCN. The nature and severity of oral disease and its serious implications for general health make it imperative that all health professionals (e.g., dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, dietitians) engage more actively in oral health promotion and disease prevention.

- Recognize the importance of assessment, prevention and early intervention efforts (e.g., fluoride varnish application), education, and referral by all health professionals.



- Improve oral health promotion and disease prevention in education and training programs for all health professionals.
- Develop financial or professional recognition incentives for members of the oral health care team who have special knowledge or skills in serving children and adolescents with SHCN.

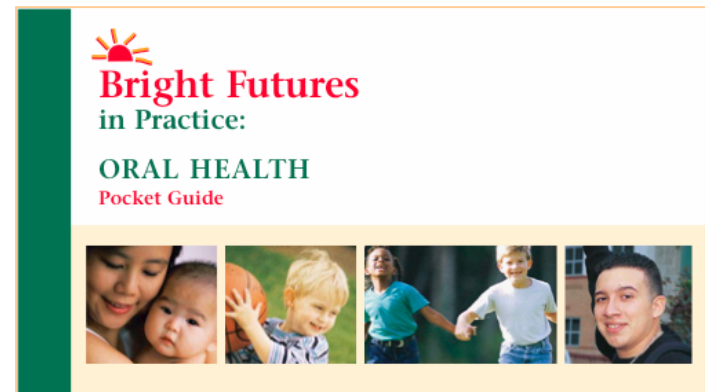
Financing

Complex oral health procedures (e.g., crowns, bridges) or those requiring general anesthesia are often not covered by insurance plans and must be paid for out-of-pocket by families. Insurance coverage for oral health care, even when available, does not ensure access to care. Inadequate reimbursement rates may make it financially difficult for dentists to provide care for children and adolescents with SHCN.

- Increase reimbursement rates to recruit dentists to participate in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Promote supplemental reimbursement rates for the extra time and special knowledge and skills needed to provide care for children and adolescents with SHCN.

Bright Futures in Practice: Oral Health Pocket Guide

- Oral health supervision for five developmental periods: pregnancy and postpartum, infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence
- Risk assessment—dental caries, periodontal disease, malocclusion, and injury
- Appendices—tooth eruption chart, caries-risk assessment tool, and recommended dosage for systemic fluoride supplements



Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals

OPEN WIDE

Oral Health Training for
Health Professionals

[home](#) [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [glossary](#) [tools](#) [help](#)



Welcome to "Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals," a series of four self-contained online modules designed to help health and early childhood professionals working in community settings (for example, Head Start and WIC staff) promote oral health in the course of promoting general health for infants, children, and their families.

This curriculum offers health and early childhood professionals information to help them prevent tooth decay, which still afflicts many U.S. children, especially children from families with low incomes, children in certain minority groups, and children with special health care needs. The modules present providers with information about tooth decay, risk factors, and prevention, explain how to perform an oral health risk assessment and oral health screening, and highlight anticipatory guidance to share with parents.

- ✦ [Module 1: Tooth Decay](#)
- ✦ [Module 2: Risk Factors for Tooth Decay](#)
- ✦ [Module 3: Prevention of Tooth Decay](#)
- ✦ [Module 4: What to Do and How to Do It](#)

Throughout the modules, we use the term "parent" or "parents" to refer to the adult or adults responsible for the infant or child. We use the term "infant" to refer to the period from birth to age 1 and the term "child" to refer to the period from age 1 to age 5.

After completing each module, please take a moment to fill out the Module Evaluation. Your feedback will help improve the course.

[Module 1](#) ➤

Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals

OPEN WIDE Oral Health Training for Health Professionals

module 1

Overview

- 1.1
Tooth Decay
- 1.2
Streptococcus Mutans
- 1.3
Transmission of
Bacteria From Parent
or Caregiver
- 1.4
Food Interactions with
Streptococcus Mutans
- 1.5
Tooth Decay and Other
Problems

Key Points

Self-Assessment Quiz

Online Resources

Module Evaluation

[home](#)[1](#)[2](#)[3](#)[4](#)[glossary](#)[tools](#)[help](#)

Module 1: Tooth Decay

Overview

Module 1 focuses on the biological causes of tooth decay and its physical and psychological effects. The module provides an overview of tooth decay and of *Streptococcus mutans* (*S. mutans*) role in the decay process. The module also explains how a parent or other intimate caregiver can "infect" an infant or child with *S. mutans* and what foods interact with *S. mutans*. In addition, the module discusses problems that tooth decay may cause.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the process of tooth decay.
- Identify the bacteria associated with tooth decay.
- Explain where in the mouth the bacteria associated with tooth decay can be found.
- Discuss the physical and psychological effects of tooth decay.

Time Needed to Complete this Module

Approximately 10 minutes

[next >](#)

A Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management



A Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management

HOME MODULE **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 EVALUATION CONTENTS GLOSSARY HELP

Welcome to A Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management, a series of seven self-contained online modules designed to assist health professionals in managing the oral health of infants and young children.

These modules provide health professionals with information to help them prevent oral diseases, which still afflict many U.S. children, especially children from families with low incomes, children in certain minority groups, and children with special health care needs. The modules assist health professionals in performing an oral screening to identify infants and children at increased risk for oral health problems, offering referrals to oral health professionals, and providing parents with anticipatory guidance.

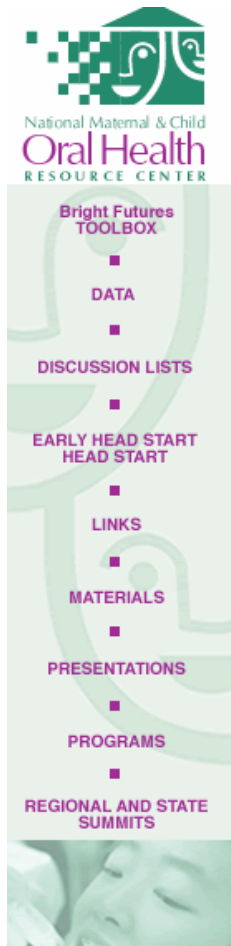
- Module 1: An Introduction to Infants' and Young Children's Oral Health
- Module 2: Managing Infants' and Young Children's Oral Health
- Module 3: Oral Conditions and Abnormalities
- Module 4: Prevention of Oral Disease
- Module 5: Non-nutritive Sucking Habits
- Module 6: Oral Injury
- Module 7: Infants and Young Children with Special Health Care Needs

Please take a moment to fill out the **course evaluation**.

Get Started: Module 1 

Web Site

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org>



National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

HOME ■ ABOUT US ■ CONTACT ■ FAQs ■ SITE MAP ■ SEARCH

Helping states and communities address public oral health issues



NEW February is National Children's Dental Health Month

Knowledge Path: Oral Health and Children and Adolescents

This electronic resource guide offers a selection of current, high-quality resources that analyze data, describe effective programs, and report on policy and research aimed at improving access to and the quality of oral health for children and adolescents.

Looking for materials for families? Go to the [Bright Futures Toolbox](#). You will find activity/coloring books, brochures, and other materials for children, adolescents, and parents. Materials in foreign languages are also included

[Bright Futures in Practice: Oral Health Pocket Guide](#)
Available online and in print

Contact Us

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

Georgetown University
Box 571272

Washington, DC 20057-1272

Tel: (202) 784-9771

Fax: (202) 784-9777

E-mail: info@mchoralhealth.org

Web site: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org>