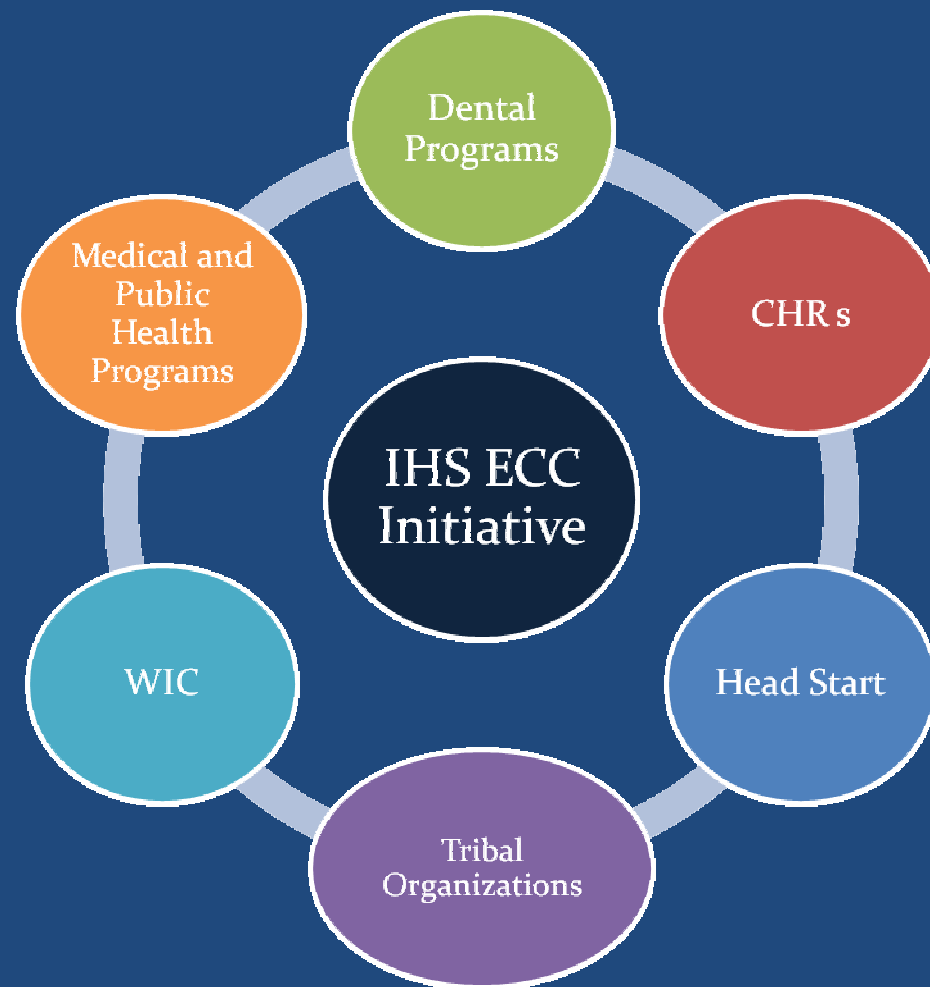




IHS and Head Start Prevention Initiatives

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IHS Head Start Program and
Northwest Tribal Dental Support Center

IHS Early Childhood Caries Collaborative



Collaboration

- Dental alone cannot prevent ECC because nationally our access to care rate is low, and children don't often come to the dentist at an early age.





Overall Goal: Reduce the prevalence of ECC among 0-5 year old AI/AN children by 25% by FY 2015.

1. Increase dental access by 25% in five years.
2. Increase the number of children who received a fluoride varnish treatment by 25% in five years.
3. Increase the number of sealants by 25% in five years.
4. Increase the number of ITRs by 50% in five years.

ECC Collaborative Products

- ECC Initiative Packet
- Two Online Courses
 - *Fluoride Varnish*
 - *Caries Stabilization*



Check us out at:
www.ihs.gov/doh/ecc

Your Baby's Teeth

Your baby's teeth are very important! They help with chewing and learning to talk. Take these steps to keep your baby's teeth strong and healthy.



Lift the lip and look for chalky white or brown spots. Go to the dentist if you see these signs of cavities.



Brush baby's teeth twice daily with a smear of fluoride toothpaste beginning when the first tooth comes in.



Put baby in bed without a bottle and wean from the bottle around 12 months of age.



Feed your baby a healthy diet and limit sweets and sodas.



Ask about fluoride varnish treatments to protect your baby's teeth from cavities.

ASK YOUR DENTIST
ABOUT MIGHTY MOUTH
SEALANTS AND
FILLINGS!



Call your dental clinic today!

What we've learned so far from our Virtual Learning Communities

- Local Champion
- Case Management
- Open Access
- Paradigm Shift:
GI sealants and restorations
- Collaboration with Medical and Community Partners



A photograph of four diverse children (three boys and one girl) standing in a studio setting, holding a large white sign. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain white wall and floor. The entire image is framed by a blue border with a colorful, wavy graphic at the top.

***Together we
can prevent
ECC!!!***

Head Start PIR Data

	Region XI 2002	Region XI 2012	National 2012
Dental Exam	77%	81%	87%
Dental Home	71%	88%	91%
Preventive Care	71%	86%	84%
Needs Treatment	50%	34%	20%
Received Treatment	74%	64%	81%

Promising Practices to Improve the Oral Health of Head Start Children



Fluoride Varnish Initiative

Certification Process

- Step I: Online Course
- Step II: Practice
- Step III: Standing Orders



Unexpected Outcomes

- Increased knowledge about oral health and the prevention of ECC
- The dental staff still apply fluoride varnish onsite
- Head Start staff follow-up with applications on special needs children, children with behavior issues, and children who were absent.

Be Flexible: Try something new!

“Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”

(Albert Einstein)



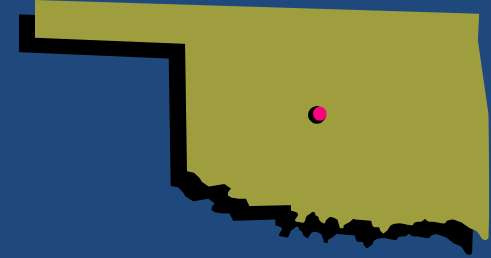
Exams and Routine Treatment: More Ways to Get There

- Provide dental exams onsite or have the children transported in groups to the dental clinic.
- Work with families to obtain informed consent and then Head Start can transport children to the dental clinic for exams and routine treatment.

OR...thinking outside of the box

- Provide less invasive treatment options so that more children can be treated quicker, avoiding referrals to pediatric dentists.

Cherokee Nation



- Director is on a mission!
- 850 children, 37 centers, 20 EHS programs
- Staff are certified to apply fluoride varnish
- Daily circle brushing with fluoride toothpaste
- Reach out to pregnant women
- 2010: Less than 18% needed dental treatment!
- Tribe has a dedicated dentist who works with the Head Start programs.

TIP: Commitment and Passion for Prevention

San Felipe



- Hired a dental hygienist to provide exams, fluoride varnish, education, and case management to assure that dental treatment is completed
- Funding OHI grantee but now Medicaid funded
- Tip: The dental hygienist has built relationships with families and engaged them in oral health.

2013 and Beyond

To Do:

- Fluoride Varnish Initiative
- Caries Stabilization
- Sesame Street Collaboration
- Distribution of toothbrushes/
FTP to every EHS family
- Pedo Webinars for dental staff



Together, we can make a difference!

