



# Oral Health During Pregnancy

Before The First Tooth staff administered an anonymous survey to dental providers (dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants) during the Maine Dental Association Annual Meeting in June 2016.

In 2016 we surveyed...

**51**  
Maine Dental Providers



**43%** Dentists  
**55%** Hygienists  
**2%** Dental Assistants



**54%** Solo Private Practice  
**26%** Group Private Practice  
**20%** Non-Profit

**98% of providers agreed women should receive preventive dental care during pregnancy.**



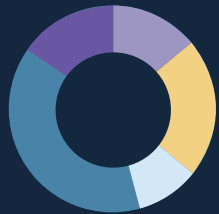
● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Not Sure

**Preventive, diagnostic and restorative dental treatment is safe throughout pregnancy and is an important component of a healthy pregnancy. Health Professionals often do not provide oral health care to pregnant women. Let's change that.**

## RADIOGRAPH SAFETY

When asked which trimester do you provide dental radiographs, the results were 40% during the first trimester, 80% during the second trimester and 65% during the third trimester.

IS IT UNSAFE TO OBTAIN DENTAL RADIOGRAPHS ON PREGNANT PATIENTS?



● STRONGLY AGREE (14%)  
● AGREE (22%)  
● NOT SURE (10%)  
● DISAGREE (38%)  
● STRONGLY DISAGREE (16%)

## ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE

In addition to providing oral health care to pregnant women, there is an opportunity to educate expectant mothers about the transmission of bacteria from the mother to infants to prevent dental caries in children.

DO YOU USE THE PRENATAL VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE? E.G. HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR NEW BABY'S MOUTH AND TEETH.



● YES (70%)  
● NO (17%)  
● OCCASIONALLY (13%)

**In your opinion, are there any other restrictions on treating a pregnant woman?**



● YES (84%) ● NO (16%)

- Take them case by case and consult with an OB provider if needed and don't do anything that can safely wait until after the pregnancy
- Patient comfort and risk of syncope
- Check their medical history as with any patients
- Call MD prior to treatment
- Try not to take x-rays until after the pregnancy unless for an emergency
- For most patients who are pregnant, will wait until after birth for routine radiographs
- Pregnant women should refrain from any procedures that are not necessary with the exception of preventive medication

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