Welcome

I am excited to launch this e-newsletter especially created for State Collaboration Directors (SCOs) and their partners. “The Health Information Exchange” (THIE) is the brain child of Dr. Tracie Bullock Dickson, Sr. Research Associate/Health Systems with the National Head Start T/TA Resource Center @ Pal-Tech, Inc. Dr. Dickson became interested in creating the e-newsletter after her conversations with several SCO Directors at the May 2004 State Collaboration National Meeting. She realized at that time that there needed to be a mechanism through which SCOs could share health-related information, as well as highlight the health activities in their states. Several SCO Directors responded positively to Dr. Dickson’s email query regarding their interest in a health-focused e-newsletter. The idea was then further developed, and here we are, nine months later, launching the first edition.

This first issue of THIE focuses on oral health, an important priority for the Head Start Bureau. I am sure you are aware of Program Information Report (PIR) data (2003) indicating that out of the 22 percent of preschool Head Start children identified as needing dental treatment, only 77 percent received the dental treatment they were identified as needing. The article by Dr. James Crall discusses the issue of access to oral health care for Head Start children, while articles by Dr. Reginald Louie and Kathy Geurink provide updates on the work of Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants and State/Territorial Head Start Oral Health Forums respectively. These articles provide examples of how the Head Start Bureau's partnership with the Health Resources and Service Administration is benefiting Head Start children and families in the area of oral health. Additionally, you will surely find SCO Director Ann Patterson’s article of special interest. Ann shares information about her State’s Head Start Oral Health CD-ROM. Finally, Katrina Holt provides you with information about resources available to states as they address current and emerging public oral health issues, and Amanda Schwartz discusses the importance of ensuring oral health services for children with disabilities.

This e-newsletter was created to meet your needs. Dr. Dickson will appreciate your feedback on how we can assure that it does just that (tdickson@pal-tech.com). I would like to thank Lucy Adams for her diligence and support in coordinating this effort to make this e-newsletter a reality (ladams@pal-tech.com).

Carmen Bovell-Chester
Senior Advisor
Head Start State Collaboration Offices

In This Issue

National Update: Oral Health and Head Start
Regional Update: Head Start Regional Dental Consultants
State Update: State Oral Health Forums
Featured State Practice: Arkansas
Oral Health and Disabilities
Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
Resource Corner

THIE is an e-newsletter created for Head Start State Collaboration Offices. This print version is provided for the State Collaboration Meeting at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, February 15-17, 2005.
National Update: Oral Health and Head Start
By James J. Crall, D.D.S., Sc.D.
Oral health has been designated as a priority for Head Start programs. Concern about internal and external data regarding levels of untreated dental disease and access to dental services have prompted program officials to call attention to these problems and initiate steps to secure optimal oral health for Head Start children. This article summarizes the findings that underlie the renewed emphasis on oral health in Head Start, outlines a general strategy for achieving desired improvements, and underscores the need for collaborative efforts at the national, state and local levels.

Regional Update: Head Start Regional Oral Health Consultants
By Staff with Reginald Louie, D.D.S., M.P.H.
In response to the Intra-Agency Agreement developed between the Head Start Bureau and the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and to serve the Head Start community at the Regional level, a new position was created in each of the Head Start Regions — the Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultant. The new consultants will help implement the overall goal of the HSB–HRSA Intra-Agency Agreement, which is to achieve optimal oral health for Head Start children. The Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants are responsible for addressing all areas of oral health in their regions and will work in partnership with other Regional Office Head Start staff and the TA Managers and specialists to support oral health in the regions.

State Update: State/Territorial Head Start Oral Health Forums
By Staff with Kathy Geurink, R.D.H., M.A.
As a result of the Intra-Agency Agreement between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Head Start Bureau to support a Head Start Oral Health Project, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) became a partner in The Head Start Oral Health Project. The project includes an assessment of state activities, identification of model programs, and support of state forums. The goal of the forums is to improve the oral health of Head Start/Early Head Start children and families through the development and submission of oral health state action plans.

Featured State Practice: Arkansas Head Start Oral Health CD-ROM Development Project
By Ann Patterson, M.H.S.A. and Lynn Mouden, D.D.S., M.P.H.

Oral Health Resources for Young Children with Disabilities
By Amanda Schwartz, M.A.
Currently, national attention is focused on the oral health needs of Head Start and Early Head Start children. In Head Start, children with disabilities are even more likely to face oral health difficulties, including an increased probability of oral health illness, insufficient numbers of dental providers, and challenges learning and applying oral health skills. This article discusses the importance of improving oral health care for children with disabilities, current research, and specific resources available to enhance services for these children.

By Katrina Holt, M.P.H., M.S., R.D.
The purpose of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is to respond to the needs of states and communities to address current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC supports health professionals, program administrators, educators, policymakers, and others working in states and communities to improve oral health services for infants, children, and adolescents, including individuals with special health care needs and their families. OHRC collaborates with Federal, state, and local agencies; national and state associations and organizations; and foundations to gather, develop, and share high-quality information and materials.
Oral health has been designated as a priority for Head Start programs. Concern about internal and external data regarding levels of untreated dental disease and access to dental services have prompted program officials to call attention to these problems and initiate steps to secure optimal oral health for Head Start children.

This article summarizes the findings that underlie the renewed emphasis on oral health in Head Start, outlines a general strategy for achieving desired improvements, and underscores the need for collaborative efforts at the national, state and local levels.

Understanding the Dimensions of the Problem

The landmark 2000 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health labeled dental and oral diseases a ‘silent epidemic’ that disproportionately affects vulnerable groups in our society, poor children being one such group. Analyses of national survey data show that children from low-income families are 3-5 times more likely to have untreated dental disease than their more affluent peers, with children from racial and ethnic minorities being at greatest risk.

Head Start program information data obtained from caretakers suggest that roughly 25 percent of Head Start children need dental treatment. However, reports from Head Start program officials suggest that access to dental services is a more pervasive problem.

Many local programs find it extremely difficult to obtain access to dental services—especially treatment services—and report utilization levels more in line with those reported for children enrolled in Medicaid—i.e., that only about one-in-four children manage to obtain access to care in a “dental home.”

Improving the Oral Health of Head Start Children – Need for Coordinated Action on Multiple Fronts

These findings indicate the need for coordinated action on multiple fronts to reduce the risk of dental disease and secure access to dental homes and oral health for Head Start children.
ease requires creating healthy environments and initiating health-promoting behaviors for children in both their Head Start learning program sites and in their homes.

This means educating Head Start staff about how to provide sound nutrition and how to instill recommended “self-care practices” (e.g., daily tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste) for their children. It also means providing necessary resources to promote these activities. Similar information and health-promoting tools need to be provided to parents and other caretakers who look after children at home.

Oral health assessments, oral health education, preventive services and necessary follow-up treatment by properly trained oral health professionals also are key to securing optimal oral health for Head Start children. Many of these services can be provided efficiently on-site within Head Start learning environments. Ideally services would be offered by members of “dental home” teams that have the capacity to provide treatment for those children in need of restorative care—although in most instances restorative services will need to be provided in dental offices equipped to provide such care.

Getting dental practices to serve as “dental homes” for Head Start children may require outreach efforts to educate dentists about local Head Start programs and overcoming perceived shortcomings of state Medicaid programs. Securing the services of a dentist on the local Head Start health advisory committee can be a good first step for building this capacity at the community level.

**Strategies for Improving Oral Health and Head Start Program Advantages**

Tooth decay is now widely recognized as an infectious disease that generally is transmitted from mothers to infants during infancy. This new knowledge has led to increased emphasis on early and ongoing interventions that counter the decay process and prevent or reduce its harmful effects during early childhood, especially in high risk preschoolers.

Because Early Head Start and Head Start programs span the period from pregnancy through early childhood, substantial opportunities exist for EHS/HS programs to play a powerful role in promoting the oral health of millions of mothers and children who are at elevated risk for significant dental problems.

Head Start programs have several distinct advantages for dealing with oral health problems in at-risk preschool children within local communities, including but not limited to the following: manageable numbers of children, program infrastructure and support to help organize and coordinate on-site and community-based services, opportunities to educate children and families, and efficient use of resources.

Securing optimal oral health for all children in Early Head Start and Head Start will require coordinated action on the part of local, state and Federal program officials along with tools and technical assistance for implementing the strategies outlined above. Effective leadership and involvement by Head Start State Collaboration Offices will be critical to achieving this goal.

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1 Throughout the remainder of this article, “Head Start” refers to both Early Head Start and Head Start programs unless otherwise noted.


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In response to the Intra-Agency Agreement developed between the Head Start Bureau (HSB) and the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA); and to serve the Head Start community at the regional level, a new position was created in each of the Head Start Regions—the Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultant. These new consultants will help to implement the overall goal of the HSB–HRSA Intra-Agency Agreement, which is to achieve optimal oral health for all Head Start children. The Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants will be responsible for addressing all areas of oral health in their region and will work in partnership with other Regional Office Head Start staff and the TA Managers and Specialists to support oral health in the regions.

The Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants are licensed, degreed dentists or dental hygienists who have experience in public health, specifically in offering consultation, training, and technical assistance to Head Start or other early childhood programs. They are knowledgeable about the Federal regulations that govern Head Start pertaining to oral health, specifically the Head Start Program Performance Standards, and they are capable of applying this knowledge effectively in Head Start operational oral health contexts. The responsibilities of the Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants follow:

- Provide oral health consultation, training and technical assistance to the Head Start Regional Offices in the following areas, though tasks are not limited to these duties:
  - Assist Head Start Regional Managers and staff with strategic and program planning, PRISM, compliance with HS Performance Standards, Program Information Report submissions, public health and dental public health concerns, health promotion and disease prevention, and dental care financing and delivery systems;
  - Assist in integrating oral health TA into Regional TA systems, including orientation, consultation, TA to program specialists, and cluster TA; and
  - Explore potential formal relationships with other agencies, organizations, and programs, e.g., WIC, Medicaid, SCHIP, state and local primary care/maternal and child health, dental insurance programs, and child care.

- Provide TA to state dental programs, dental/dental hygiene schools, licensure boards, and professional organizations to increase/enhance access to care and preventive services for HS/EHS children.
- Assist in identifying a cadre of dentists and dental hygienists as potential oral health consultants to HS/EHS grantees.
- Provide follow-up TA to state/jurisdictional Head Start Oral Health Forums (e.g., developing implementation plans).
- Provide oral health training sessions to various...
groups (e.g., Head Start Associations, State Collaboration Offices, and Primary Care Associations).

- Provide assistance in identifying "models that work" in Head Start programs and in disseminating information that can be replicated and used for technical assistance.
- Maintain knowledge and information regarding current clinical science specific to HS/EHS children, especially regarding prevention, care delivery and delivery systems, and health education/promotion.
- Participate in efforts that promote, advocate and improve the oral health of HS/EHS children and their families.

Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants will act as leads in the Regional Oral Health Technical Assistance System, focusing on program management, capacity building, and program quality and continuous improvement. An HSB-HRSA Intra-Agency Agreement (IAA) Workgroup has been developed to prioritize the goals, action steps, and resources needed to address access issues related to prevention and treatment, workforce, dental homes, and oral health promotion and identification. The workgroup will identify and prioritize the IAA Workgroup partners outlined in the current agreement and will suggest individual and collaborative efforts for the partners. Partners include Administration for Children and Families' Regional Offices, the Head Start Bureau Technical Assistance Network, the Head Start Learning Center, and the Regional Oral Health Consultants.

Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants have been hired for 8 of the 10 Regional Offices and the American Indian and Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Branches. The Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants are listed below. For further contact information visit the Early Head Start/Head Start section of the Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center Web site at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/headstart.html.

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### Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants

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The Head Start Oral Health Project was developed as a result of the Intra-Agency Agreement between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Head Start Bureau. The Head Start Oral Health Project is responsible for assessing state activities, identifying model programs, and supporting state oral health forums. The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is an important partner in the Head Start Oral Health Project.

An ASTDD Head Start Oral Health Advisory Committee was formed to fulfill the project’s objectives. The committee, in conjunction with the Maternal and Child Health Oral Health Resource Center, focuses on reviewing existing materials and models and developing new materials. Materials are housed at the Oral Health Resource Center and are included in a database on their website at www.mchoralhealth.org.

One of the central roles of the Oral Health Advisory Committee is to approve funding for State/Territorial Head Start Oral Health Forums. The goal of the forums is to improve the oral health of Head Start/Early Head Start children and families through the development and submission of Head Start oral health state action plans. The forums provide an opportunity to create partnerships with statewide and local agencies through networking to share ideas.

There have been six cycles of funding, and the committee has approved funding for a total of 48 states/territories. States/territories that received funding in cycle 6 are now in the process of holding their forums.

The Intra-Agency Agreement offered follow-up funding to implement action plans, and 14 states/territories applied and received follow-up funding. ASTDD intends to seek additional funding for initial and follow-up proposals in the future.

The following map presents states/territories that received funding to hold State/Territorial Head Start Oral Health Forums. Available forum reports can be viewed on the Maternal and Child Health Oral Health Resource Center website at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/summit.html and on the ASTDD website at www.astdd.org.

*Puerto Rico received funding in cycle 6; this is not reflected in the above map.

If you are interested in receiving more information on State/Territorial Head Start Oral Health Forums, want an update on your state/territory, or would like to get involved, contact Kathy Geurink.

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Following plenary presentations on oral health and Head Start, forum participants worked in facilitated small group sessions to identify priorities for a Head Start Oral Health Plan for the state of Arkansas. The following priorities were established:

- Increase access to care through advocacy;
- Increase understanding of oral health and the role of Head Start for Head Start parents, staff, and the dental community;
- Increase awareness of community water fluoridation; and
- Increase awareness of family violence prevention among Head Start staff and parents.

To address these priorities, the small groups identified the need for educational materials applicable to oral health and usable by a variety of groups. The four priorities and outcomes of the forums were forwarded to the Arkansas State Oral Health Coalition to encourage collaboration and increased advocacy efforts for access to oral health care for young children and families. In response to the forums and the identified need for appropriate educational materials to address access to oral health care in the Head Start community, the Arkansas Office of Oral Health, the Arkansas Head Start Association, and the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office collaborated to create a CD-ROM of oral health education materials. These educational materials address a wide variety of audiences, from Head Start parents, public officials and state agencies to community leaders and dental professionals.

The CD-ROM includes Power Point presentations on oral hygiene, general oral health, community water fluoridation, child abuse and neglect prevention, and Head Start. A digitized video on dental sealants accompanies the package.

By viewing these materials, dental professionals will expand their understanding of Head Start programs and the Head Start community. Child care and other early childhood education providers will better understand the importance of good oral health.

Current production schedules call for completing the CD-ROM in the Spring of 2005. The Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office will coordinate distribution throughout Arkansas. The CD-ROM also will be made available to the Head Start Bureau and to other Head Start State Collaboration Offices, as requested.

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ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH DISABILITIES

By Amanda Schwartz, M.A.

Currently national attention is focused on the oral health needs of Head Start and Early Head Start children. In Head Start, children with disabilities are even more likely to face difficulties in oral health, including increased probability of oral health illness, insufficient numbers of dental providers, and challenges in learning and applying oral health skills. This article discusses the importance of improving oral health care for children with disabilities, current research, and specific resources available to enhance services for these children.

Head Start and Early Head Start children with disabilities have an increased likelihood of experiencing oral health problems. In addition, children with certain disabilities may be prone to greater risk for craniofacial problems, periodontal disease, and cavities. These oral health issues can further complicate disabilities by impairing speech and language, cognitive, and physical development.

Statistics indicate that children from low-income families are more likely to suffer from oral health problems. This problem is compounded by the added need for services for low-income children with disabilities. It is essential to increase efforts to advance the oral health of this population by establishing collaborations and offering them added support.

While no national database exists on the current status of oral health care for children with disabilities, “clinical accounts and emerging data attest to increased risks in oral disease in children with special health care needs.” A developmental delay or disorder may impair self-help skills, making preventative care more challenging for young children with disabilities. Craniofacial anomalies and poor tooth development also may be a symptom of a disability. Malformation of the head, mouth and teeth are characteristic of various disabilities such as Down syndrome, achondroplasia, cleft lip and palate, Williams syndrome, and others. Given the etiological and developmental issues related to disability, it is evident that children with disabilities have a greater need for specialized oral health care.

Research also indicates that an insufficient number of oral health care providers offer services to individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately, in the past, few oral health providers would accept Medicaid payments or were trained to work with individuals with disabilities. To ensure necessary interventions for young children with disabilities and their families, there was a critical need for improved collaborations and enhanced professional development for oral health providers.

Fortunately, as a result of the Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in 2000, the Federal government’s National Oral Health Initiative has created an increase in research and funding in this area. From a brief analysis of the research, indications are that more projects and grants have been funded to improve oral health services for young children with disabilities in the last four years than in the preceding decade. This push to do more to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities has increased the number of partnerships and services.

Following is a listing of the organizations and resources focused on providing oral health care to children and adults with disabilities. Each listing contains a link and a brief abstract detailing work related to disabilities or special health care needs.

National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse
http://www.nohic.nidcr.nih.gov

This national clearinghouse maintains a small library of information specifically related to children with disabilities and underserved populations. Of particular interest is a section devoted to individuals with developmental disabilities, including resources related to autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, mental retardation, wheelchair transfer,
and everyday dental care. Training materials and links to other organizations also are available.

**National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center**
www.mchoralhealth.org
Through partnerships with the Head Start Bureau, this Web site contains information specific to Head Start. It discusses activities at both the national and regional levels, including initiatives to address the needs of children with disabilities through partnerships at the regional and state levels.

**American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry**
www.aapd.org
This organization offers support to pediatric dentists in providing care to young children with disabilities and their families. Through conferences and publications, it offers professional development to assist professionals in acquiring the skills necessary to provide oral health care to Head Start and Early Head Start children with disabilities. It also provides services to programs and families by offering a directory of dentists categorized by expertise.

**Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities**
www.scdonline.org
This organization focuses on the oral health needs of individuals with disabilities by providing professional development and other awareness activities for providers throughout the nation. It also offers support to professionals working with distinct issues related to disability and advocates for enhanced training and access to care.

This research conference pulled together the latest research in oral health services to children with disabilities to identify gaps and problem-solve issues. It provides a clear picture of the current status of oral health care to children with disabilities throughout the United States. Contributors include experts in the field of oral health and children with special health needs, as well as the Federal training research centers.

**Special Smiles, Special Olympics Oral Health Program**
http://www.specialolympics.org/Special+Olympics+Public+Website/English/Initiatives/Healthy_Athletes/Special+Smiles/default.htm
A core component of the Special Olympics program, the Special Smiles campaign includes resources regarding serving the needs of children with disabilities. Resources include a guide to good oral hygiene, checklists for services, and resources about common dental problems. Popular press articles document local and statewide partnerships with the Special Smiles program that facilitate improved services to children with disabilities.

**University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, Department of Dental Practice. 1998. Overcoming Obstacles to Dental Health: A Training Program for Caregivers of People with Disabilities (4th ed.). San Francisco, CA: University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, Department of Dental Practice.**
http://www.pacificspecialcare.net/overcoming.htm
This training program offers practitioners guidance in working with individuals with disabilities and was commissioned by the California Task Force on Oral Health for People with Special Needs. Developed by the Pacific School of Dentistry, this program seeks to address the issues of inadequate dental care throughout the state of California by
offering guidance in understanding issues of individuals with disabilities.


This national conference sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service addresses the issues of oral health related to individuals with disabilities, particularly mental retardation. By developing a blueprint for services, experts and policymakers demonstrate how they will deal with gaps in services to this population. Particular attention is paid to improving quality care and professional development for providers.

With the increased national focus on oral health care, development of resources and research is underway to assist programs that promote the oral health wellness of all children, including those with disabilities. This article demonstrates the particular need for oral health care for young children with disabilities. Oral health resources for young children with disabilities are available to programs, providers and other partners and are listed below in a resource section. These organizations and resources seek not only to improve services to children with disabilities, but also to increase opportunities for partnerships to support professional development and to improve access to services.


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The purpose of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is to respond to the needs of states and communities to address current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC supports health professionals, program administrators, educators, policymakers, and others working in states and communities with the goal of improving oral health services for infants, children, and adolescents, including individuals with special health care needs, and their families.

OHRC collaborates with Federal, state, and local agencies; national and state associations and organizations; and foundations to gather, develop, and share high-quality information and materials.

OHRC services include:

- Gathering programmatic materials to share with those working to improve access to oral health services for Early Head Start and Head Start participants (e.g., standards, guidelines, curricula, teaching guides, manuals, policies, and reports).
- Collecting and sharing outcomes of Head Start oral health partnership projects, including materials from the national, regional, and state oral health forums (http://www.mchoral-health.org/HeadStart.hsforums.html).
- Developing and disseminating publications such as fact sheets, tip sheets, resource bulletins, and resource guides in print and electronic formats.
- Maintaining an Early Head Start/Head Start page on the OHRC Web site that offers online access to current programmatic materials, links to relevant Web sites, descriptions of oral health projects, materials from oral health forums, and a link to search for Head Start programs (http://www.mchoral-health.org/HeadStart/headstart.html).
- Responding to information requests on topics, such as early childhood caries, dental sealants, water fluoridation, and access to and reimbursement for oral health services.

OHRC is funded by the Health Services and Resources Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau and is located at Georgetown University. Katrina Holt, Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Washington, D.C. E: kholt@georgetown.edu.
**RESOURCE CORNER**

**Web Sites**

**American Academy for Pediatric Dentistry**
http://www.aapd.org
The American Academy for Pediatric Dentistry is a membership organization representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. AAPD’s Web site hosts a variety of links to resources and information regarding pediatric dentistry.

**Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors**
http://www.astdd.org
The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a national non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for oral health. ASTDD’s Web site provides information on state activities, best practices, resources, and publications. ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of sound national dental public health policy and assists state dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the federal agency with primary responsibility for supporting state- and community-based programs to prevent oral disease, promoting oral health nationwide, and fostering applied research to enhance oral disease prevention in community settings.

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oral-health
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Oral Health Web site provides information about oral health programs including: Medicaid dental coverage and its relationship to EPSDT, SCHIP dental coverage, and Medicare dental coverage and its limitations.

**Children’s Dental Health Project**
http://www.cdhp.org
Children’s Dental Health Project is dedicated to assisting policymakers, health professionals, advocates, and parents improve children’s oral health and increase their access to oral health care.

**Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics**
http://www.childstats.gov
Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics Web site offers easy access to federal and state statistics and reports on children and their families, including: population and family characteristics, economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education.

**Head Start Bureau**
http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/hsb
The Administration for Children and Families Head Start Bureau Web site offers information about Head Start programs and services, grant information, research and statistics, publications and resources, policies, events, frequently asked questions, and contact information.

**Head Start State Collaboration Office**
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/contacts/statecollab1.htm
The Head Start State Collaboration Office Web site offers background information on Head Start State Collaboration Offices and provides a complete list of contact persons and information for
each Head Start State Collaboration Office.

Health Resources and Services Administration
Health Resources and Services Administration’s oral health programs promote improved oral health and access to oral health care children from families with low-income, individuals with special health care needs or living in medically underserved areas. HRSA’s Oral Health Web site provides an opportunity to search the information center, order publications, and visit topics of interest within the specific area of oral health.

Maternal and Child Health Library Knowledge Path: Oral Health and Children and Adolescents
http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_oral-health.html
The Maternal and Child Health Library Knowledge Pathway for Oral Health and Children and Adolescents provides a comprehensive list of resources including national websites and electronic publications, state websites and electronic publications, distance learning resources, databases, and electronic newsletters and online discussion groups.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov
The mission of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is to improve oral, dental and craniofacial health through research, research training, and the dissemination of health information. NIDCR’s Web site offers health information, information about clinical trials, news and reports, and funding and training for research.

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
http://www.mchoralhealth.org
The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) responds to the needs of states and communities in addressing current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC supports health professionals, program administrators, educators, policymakers, and others with the goal of improving oral health services for infants, children, adolescents, and their families. The resource center collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies; national and state organizations and associations; and foundations to gather, develop, and share quality and valued information and materials. OHRC maintains an Early Head Start/Head Start Web page that provides links to information and materials including the oral health forum reports, organizations, and a description of ACF/HSB and HRSA/MCHB interagency agreement projects (see http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/headstart.html).
Electronic and Print Publications

http://www.headstartinfo.org/publications/hsbulletin71/cont_71.htm
The bulletin presents the Head Start Bureau’s priority to improve the oral health of young children. The bulletin provides information on the Partner’s Forum on Oral Health, the Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health, causes of dental caries and the role of good nutrition, oral health assessment and dental prevention, access to dental care for preschool children, as well as a resource list and oral health and children virtual resource guide.

To order, go to http://www.headstartinfo.org
This resource kit includes an 18-minute videotape and a videotape guide. The videotape shows how Early Head Start and Head Start are making a difference in the lives of four children and their families.

http://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/multiples/hspartners.html
To order a copy at no cost, go to http://www.ask.hrsa.gov/detail.cfm?id=MCHN023
The Journal of Public Health Dentistry 60(3) describes the proceedings of the Head Start Partners Oral Health Forum and provides informative articles regarding dental caries, risk assessment, and access to dental care for Head Start children. One specific article focuses on access to dental care from a state perspective.

http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Health/Oral_Health/factsheets.htm
This set of oral health fact sheets contains information on early childhood caries, dental amalgam, dental sealants, dietary fluoride supplements, water fluoridation, fluorosis, primary and permanent tooth development, oral cancer, and smokeless tobacco. Each fact sheet provides a brief description of the topic and prevention measures. The fact sheet on tooth development is illustrated.

Surgeon General Report on Oral Health
http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/oralhealth/
On May 25, 2000, Surgeon General David Satcher released Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. The Surgeon General called for action to promote access to oral health care for all Americans, especially the disadvantaged and minority children found to be at greatest risk for severe medical complications resulting from minimal oral care and treatment.