

**Feasibility Assessment: Implementation of Quality Indicators to  
Improve the Oral Health of the Maternal and Child Health Population  
Pilot Project**

**Prepared by**

**Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement Quality  
Indicator Advisory Team**

**Dental Quality Alliance**

**National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center 2018**



Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement  
ASTDD | DQA | OHRC



*Improving Oral Health Through Measurement*



National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

## Overview

The Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII) consortium is a 4-year project to improve existing systems of care in support of a quality improvement, patient-centered approach to address the oral health needs of the maternal and child health (MCH) population. The consortium is led by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) in collaboration with the [Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors](#) and the [Dental Quality Alliance](#) (DQA) and is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

A key project goal is to identify and implement oral health quality indicators to monitor and improve oral health services delivered to the MCH population in public health programs and systems of care at the national, state, and local levels. Under the guidance of the Quality Indicators Advisory Team (QIAT), a measurement framework was developed and an environmental scan of existing quality indicators was conducted to identify a core set of oral health quality indicators in year 1 of the project (see [www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/quality.php](http://www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/quality.php)).

OHRC, DQA, and members of the QIAT will provide targeted technical assistance (TA) to states participating in a pilot project to implement the quality indicators. To support the implementation process and most effectively target TA, feasibility assessments will be completed by the participating states to determine their level of readiness to implement the indicators. A user's guide will also be developed with input and lessons learned from the states.

### **Quality Indicator Pilot Implementation Feasibility Assessment**

Thank you for participating in this important project and for completing this assessment. This assessment tool is designed to help identify available data sources and evaluate the capacity within your state to use those data to calculate the MCH oral health quality indicators. It also explores what would be required to gain access to data that may not currently be available to your agency and to expand capacity to implement the MCH oral health quality measures. Reach out to members of your team to complete the assessment. TA from the COHSII team for any aspect of this feasibility assessment is available at [Sandersm@ada.org](mailto:Sandersm@ada.org).

## Background Information

Name of person completing assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Department: \_\_\_\_\_

## Current Improvement Activities

1. Has your state/agency developed oral health improvement goals for the following populations? If yes, please check all that apply.

- Women of child-bearing age
- Pregnant women
- Children
- Children with special health care needs

2. Does your agency report or use any oral health quality measures or performance indicators?

- Yes
- No

If yes:

a. Please list the measures that your agency reports or uses in the table below, indicating whether your agency calculates the measures using data it has access to or if the measures are obtained from another source.

Measure Name	Measure Source/ Steward (if not sure, list where you found the measure)	Measure Data Source (e.g., claims, survey, electronic health record)	Measure Population	Calculated by Your Agency/ Obtained Elsewhere
<i>Example: Topical fluoride for children at elevated risk for dental caries</i>	<i>Dental Quality Alliance</i>	<i>Medicaid claims</i>	<i>Children aged 1 through 20 years</i>	<i>Obtain from state Medicaid agency</i>

b. Please attach sample measurement reports that you are able to share.

## Set of MCH Indicators: Women of Child-Bearing Age and Pregnant Women

### Summary

#### Access

- Percentage of pregnant women reporting difficulty getting dental care (Data source: PRAMS)
- Percentage of pregnant women who had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy (Data source: PRAMS)
- Percentage of pregnant women receiving oral health screening or information from medical PCPs (Data source: PRAMS)

#### Utilization

- Percentage of women of child-bearing age (18 -44 years) who report having a visit to a dentist or dental clinic in the past year (Data source: BRFSS)

#### Outcome

- Percentage of pregnant women reporting that they needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy (Data source: PRAMS)
- Percentage of pregnant women who had a problem with their teeth or gums during pregnancy who received treatment for that problem (Data source: PRAMS)

### Data Source: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)

3. What agency within your state administers the PRAMS survey?

4. Please indicate whether the following questions were included in your state's 2018 PRAMS survey. (If information is not available for the 2018 survey, indicate the most recent year for which you are responding.)

PRAMS Phase 8 Question	Included on your state's 2018 PRAMS survey?
<p>Y6. Did any of the following things make it hard for you to go to a dentist or dental clinic about the problem you had during your <i>most recent</i> pregnancy? For each item, check No if it was not something that made it hard for you or Yes if it was.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I could not find a dentist or dental clinic that would take pregnant patients</li> <li>○ I could not find a dentist or dental clinic that would take Medicaid patients</li> <li>○ I did not think it was safe to go to the dentist during pregnancy</li> <li>○ I could not afford to go to the dentist or dental clinic</li> </ul>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

PRAMS Phase 8 Question	Included on your state's 2018 PRAMS survey?
<p>ME83. Do you have any insurance that pays for some or all of your dental care? Please include dental insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs or government plans such as Medicaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Yes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>FL77. During your most recent pregnancy, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker do any of the things listed below? For each item, check No if it is not true or does not apply to you or Yes if it is true.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ask me about my teeth and gums</li> <li>○ Look at my teeth and gums</li> <li>○ Talk with me about visiting a dentist or dental hygienist</li> <li>○ Help me get dental care</li> <li>○ Give me information about taking care of my teeth and gums</li> <li>○ Give me information about taking care of my baby's teeth and gums</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Y7. This question is about the care of your teeth <i>during your most recent pregnancy</i>. For each item, check No if it is not true or does not apply to you or Yes if it is true.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I knew it was important to care for my teeth and gums during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ A dental or other health care worker talked with me about how to care for my teeth and gums</li> <li>○ I had my teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist</li> <li>○ I had insurance to cover dental care during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a <b>problem</b></li> <li>○ I <u>went</u> to a dentist or dental clinic about a <b>problem</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Y8. Did you get treatment from a dentist or another doctor for the problem that you were having during your pregnancy? Check ONE answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment after my pregnancy</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment both during and after my pregnancy</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**5. Does your Title V MCH program have access to your state's PRAMS data?**

- Yes, direct access— can pull data directly from PRAMS database     
  Yes, indirect access— access granted through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or collaborative agreement     
  No current access to these data
- List agency providing data:





**13. a. Does the agency that administers your state’s Title V MCH program have personnel who could conduct data analyses using the BRFSS data to generate the quality indicator score? (Please see the appendix for a summary of the indicator description.)**

**Note:** The BRFSS indicator requires stratification by gender and age in order to report on women ages 18-44.

Yes

No

Unsure

**b. If no, please indicate how difficult you believe it will be to establish an agreement with the agency that administers the BRFSS to have the measure calculated.**

Not difficult

Somewhat difficult

Very difficult

Extremely difficult

## Set of Indicators: Children

### Summary

#### Access

- Percentage of children eligible for Medicaid/CHIP that are enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP
- Percentage of children currently covered by health insurance or health coverage plan
- Percentage of children with consistent health insurance coverage during the past 12 months
- Access to dental care [CAHPS]

#### Utilization

- Percentage of children who had a dental visit in the last 12 months
- Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving preventive dental services

#### Process

- Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving at least 2 topical fluoride applications as a dental service
- Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving at least 2 topical fluoride applications as an oral health service
- Percentage of children aged 6–9 years at elevated risk who receive sealants in their permanent first molars
- Percentage of children aged 10–14 years at elevated risk who receive sealants in their permanent second molars

#### Outcomes

- Percentage of children with dental caries experience (treated or untreated tooth decay)
- Percentage of children with urgent dental treatment needs





**Data Source: State Oral Health Screening Survey/Basic Screening Survey**

**18. What agency within your state administers oral health screening surveys/Basic Screening Surveys (clinical screening of teeth and determination of oral health status)?**

**19. Please indicate which populations are screened and the years in which screening occurred.**

Population	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Early Head Start	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Head Start	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kindergarten	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 <sup>rd</sup> grade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women of reproductive age/Pregnant women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (list):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**20. Does your Title V MCH program have access to your state's oral health/basic screening surveys?**

Yes, direct access—  
can pull data directly  
from screening  
databases

Yes, indirect access—  
access granted through  
an MOU or collaborative  
agreement

No current access  
to these data

List agency providing  
data:

**21. a. If your Title V MCH program does not have access to your state's oral health screening data, please describe the agreements and processes that need to be in place to obtain data or summary reports. Please also describe potential barriers.**

**b. Please rate how difficult you believe it will be to gain access to your state's oral health screening data:**

Not difficult     Somewhat difficult     Very difficult     Extremely difficult

22. a. Does the agency that administers your state's Title V MCH program have personnel who could conduct data analyses using oral health screening data to generate quality indicator scores? (Please see the appendix for a summary of the indicator descriptions.)

- Yes  No  Unsure

b. If no, please indicate how difficult you believe it will be to establish an agreement with the agency that administers the oral health screening program to have the measures calculated.

- Not difficult  Somewhat difficult  Very difficult  Extremely difficult

### Data Source: Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Survey

23. Do any agencies within your state administer any CAHPS surveys for children?

- Yes  No  Unsure

a. If yes, how difficult will it be to add an existing oral health module to this survey for implementation in 2020?

- Not difficult  Somewhat difficult  Very difficult  Extremely difficult

Please describe what is required to add this module, including potential barriers.

b. If no, how difficult will it be to implement a CAHPS oral health survey for children . . .

in 2020?

- Not difficult  Somewhat difficult  Very difficult  Extremely difficult

in 2021?

- Not difficult  Somewhat difficult  Very difficult  Extremely difficult

Please describe what would be required to implement the survey, including the state partnerships required and potential barriers.



## Other Data Sources

27. Does your state have any registries or other integrated data systems that include oral health data (e.g., registries for oral cancer or cleft lip and palate)? If yes, please describe.
  
28. Do any agencies within your state have the ability to report data from electronic health records for any Title V subpopulations (e.g., pregnant women, children)? If yes, please describe data availability and for which subpopulations.
  
29. Please describe any other relevant oral health data within your state that could be used for performance assessment and quality improvement.
  
30. Additional comments:

## Appendix: Quality Indicator Descriptions

### Set of MCH Indicators: Women of Child-Bearing Age and Pregnant Women

<b>ACCESS</b>	
<b>Self-Reported Survey Indicators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of pregnant women reporting difficulty getting dental care   <b>Denominator:</b> Number responding to question; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number indicating "yes" to any of the response options   <b>Survey item:</b> Did any of the following things make it hard for you to go to a dentist or dental clinic about the problem you had during <i>your most recent</i> pregnancy? For each item, check No if it was not something that made it hard for you or Yes if it was.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I could not find a dentist or dental clinic that would take pregnant patients</li> <li>I could not find a dentist or dental clinic that would take Medicaid patients</li> <li>I did not think it was safe to go to the dentist during pregnancy</li> <li>I could not afford to go to the dentist or dental clinic</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">PRAMS Phase 8 – standard (optional) question Y6</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey of pregnant women.</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of pregnant women who had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy   <b>Denominator:</b> Number responding yes or no to question; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number indicating "yes" to question)   <b>Survey item:</b> Do you have any insurance that pays for some or all of your dental care? Please include dental insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicaid.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">PRAMS Phase 8 – standard (optional) question ME83</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey of pregnant women.</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of pregnant women receiving oral health screening or information from medical PCPs   <b>Denominator:</b> Number responding to question; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number indicating "yes" to any of the response options   <b>Survey item:</b> During your most recent pregnancy, did a doctor, nurse, or other health care worker do any of the things listed below? For each item, check No if it is not true or does not apply to you or Yes if it is true.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask me about my teeth and gums</li> <li>Look at my teeth and gums</li> <li>Talk with me about visiting a dentist or dental hygienist</li> <li>Help me get dental care</li> <li>Give me information about taking care of my teeth and gums</li> <li>Give me information about taking care of my baby's teeth and gums</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">PRAMS Phase 8 – standard (optional) question FL77</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey of pregnant women.</a></p>
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	
<b>Self-Reported Survey Indicators</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of women of child-bearing age (18-44 years) who report having a visit to a dentist or dental clinic in the past year   <b>Denominator:</b> Number of female respondents, aged 18-44 years; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number who report having been to the dentist or dental clinic within the past year   <b>Survey item:</b> Including all types of dentists, such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists, how long has it been since you last visited a dentist or a dental clinic for any reason? [Response options only read if necessary.] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Within the past year (any time less than 12 months ago)</li> <li>○ Within the past 2 years (1 year but less than 2 years ago)</li> <li>○ Within the past 5 years (2 years but less than 5 years ago)</li> <li>○ 5 or more years ago</li> <li>○ Don't know/not sure</li> <li>○ Never</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">BRFSS 2018</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey stratified to women of child-bearing age.</a></p>
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**OUTCOMES**

<p><b>Self-Reported Survey Indicators</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of pregnant women reporting that they needed to see a dentist for a problem during pregnancy   <b>Denominator:</b> Number responding yes or no to question Y7, response option "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a <b>problem</b>"; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number indicating "yes" to the response option: "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a <b>problem</b>"   <b>Survey item:</b> This question is about the care of your teeth <u>during</u> your most recent pregnancy. For each item, check No if it is not true or does not apply to you or Yes if it is true. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I knew it was important to care for my teeth and gums during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ A dental or other health care worker talked with me about how to care for my teeth and gums</li> <li>○ I had my teeth cleaned by a dentist or dental hygienist</li> <li>○ I had insurance to cover dental care during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a <b>problem</b></li> <li>○ I <u>went</u> to a dentist or dental clinic about a <b>problem</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">PRAMS Phase 8 – standard (optional) question Y7</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey of pregnant women.</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Indicator:</b> Percentage of pregnant women who had a problem with their teeth or gums during pregnancy who received treatment for that problem   <b>Denominator:</b> Number responding "yes" to <b>question Y7</b>, response option "I <u>needed</u> to see a dentist for a <b>problem</b>"; exclude unknowns and refusals  <b>Numerator:</b> Number indicating "yes" to any of the 3 "yes" response options   <b>Survey item:</b> Did you get treatment from a dentist or another doctor for the problem that you were having during your pregnancy? Check ONE answer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment during my pregnancy</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment after my pregnancy</li> <li>○ Yes, I got treatment both during and after my pregnancy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Source: <a href="#">PRAMS Phase 8 – standard (optional) question Y8</a>; Data: <a href="#">Survey of pregnant women.</a></p>

**Set of MCH Indicators: Children**

<b>ACCESS</b>	
<b>System-Level Administrative Databases</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of population eligible for Medicaid/CHIP that is enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP</li> </ul>	Data: Census data to estimate eligible & Enrollment/CMS 416 for enrolled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children currently covered by health insurance or health coverage plan</li> <li>Percentage of children with consistent health insurance coverage during the past 12 months</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">National Survey of Children's Health</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Surveys</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to dental care</li> </ul> <p><u>Individual Items</u></p> <p><b>For each, report percentage responding “usually” or “always”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How often were your [child's] dental appointments as soon as you wanted?</li> <li>If you tried to get an appointment for your [child] with a dentist who specializes in a particular type of dental care (such as [extractions]) in the last 12 months, how often did you get an appointment as soon as you wanted?</li> <li>How often did you have to spend more than 15 minutes in the waiting room before you saw someone for your [child's] appointment?</li> <li>If you had to spend more than 15 minutes in the waiting room before you saw someone for your [child's] appointment, how often did someone tell you why there was a delay or how long the delay would be?</li> </ul> <p><b>For the following, report the percentage responding “definitely yes” or “somewhat yes”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If [your child] needed to see a dentist right away because of a dental emergency in the last 12 months, did [your child] get to see a dentist as soon as you wanted?</li> </ul> <p><u>Composite</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A composite indicator can be calculated from the above items. See: <a href="https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/cahps/surveys-guidance/dental/about/measure-dental-plan-709.pdf">https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/cahps/surveys-guidance/dental/about/measure-dental-plan-709.pdf</a></li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">CAHPS</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Surveys</a> ( <b>Note:</b> modified for children)
<b>UTILIZATION</b>	
<b>System-Level Administrative Databases (enrollment and claims data)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children who had a dental visit in the last 12 months</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving preventive dental services</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .



<b>PROCESS</b>	
<b>System-Level Administrative Databases</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving at least 2 topical fluoride applications as a dental service</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children at elevated risk receiving at least 2 topical fluoride applications as an oral health service</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children aged 6–9 years at elevated risk who receive sealants in their permanent first molars</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children aged 10–14 years at elevated risk who receive sealants in their permanent second molars</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">DQA</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Claims</a> .
<b>OUTCOME</b>	
<b>System-Level Administrative Databases</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children with dental caries experience (treated or untreated tooth decay)</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">State Oral health clinical screening survey</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Clinical Screening Survey</a> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of children with urgent dental treatment need</li> </ul>	Source: <a href="#">State Oral health clinical screening survey</a> ; Data: <a href="#">Clinical Screening Survey</a> .

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