

Oral Health Quality Indicators for the Maternal and Child Health Population

The Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII) Quality Indicator Advisory Team identified a set of maternal and child health (MCH) quality indicators to monitor oral health services delivered in public health programs and systems of care. The report and environmental scan are available at <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/cohsii/quality.php>.

Set of Indicators: Women of Child Bearing Age and Pregnant Women

Access

- Percentage of pregnant women reporting difficulty getting dental care
- Percentage of pregnant women who had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy
- Percentage of pregnant women receiving oral health screening or information from medical primary care providers

Utilization

- Percentage of women of childbearing age (18–44 years) who report having a visit to a dentist or dental clinic in the past year

Outcomes

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

Set of Indicators: Children

Access

- Percentage of children eligible for Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) who 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

Utilization

- Percentage of children who had a dental visit in the past 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 need



About the Center for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement

The COHSII consortium promotes oral health knowledge and skills. COHSII works with key stakeholders to improve systems of care in support of a quality-improvement, patient-centered approach to address the oral health needs of the MCH population. The consortium is led by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center working in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the Dental Quality Alliance.

Over the 4-year project period, COHSII will address three functions: (1) providing training and technical assistance to states and MCHB-funded oral health projects, (2) establishing a set of MCH oral health quality indicators, and (3) developing and disseminating resources.

COHSII is an oral health center of excellence in resource development, technical assistance, and training for the public health community.

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