

# TX PIOHQI Expansion Project

## ABSTRACT

Title: Texas Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Expansion Program  
Applicant Organization Name: Texas Department of State Health Services  
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**PROBLEM:** Although pregnancy and early childhood are particularly important times for maintaining good oral health, many pregnant women and infants in Texas face multiple barriers in accessing oral health care. The most recent analysis of the Texas Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) revealed that only 28% of pregnant women reported having a dental cleaning during pregnancy.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** The overall goal of the Texas Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) Expansion Project is to improve the oral health of pregnant women and infants in Texas through coordinated statewide efforts to integrate oral health education within perinatal care. The objectives are to: 1. Collaborate with the Texas Home Visiting (HV) Program to enhance oral health education and data collection through a multiple county pilot program; 2. Increase the percentage of pregnant women and infants who are referred to a dentist; 3. Increase awareness of the importance of perinatal and infant oral health care through provider education; 4. Increase the percentage of pregnant women and infants who receive oral health care; and 5. Enhance state-level data sources and collection.

**METHODOLOGY:** The project will utilize an existing education and outreach model to target at-risk pregnant women; educate providers through development and delivery of best practices; enhance state level data sources through surveying the knowledge, attitude, and behaviors (KABs) of pregnant women; and evaluate HV client and state claims data to determine the effectiveness of the project; and facilitate the development of state Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Guidelines to enhance sustainability.

**COORDINATION:** The Texas PIOHQI Expansion Project is a collaborative effort between the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Oral Health Program (OHP), the Office of Title V and Family Health (OTVFH), the DSHS Office of Program Decision Support (OPDS), and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Prevention and Early Intervention Program.

**EVALUATION:** Process, outcome and impact indicators are established to evaluate the project. The evaluation activities will assess the progress and effectiveness of attaining the project goals and objectives.

**ANNOTATION:** The purpose of the project is to integrate oral health information through a collaborative model for education and referral services within the Texas HV Program to improve the percentage of pregnant women who receive oral health care for themselves and their infant. The TX PIOHQI project will partner with stakeholder groups through the Texas Collaborative for Healthy Mothers and Babies to address coordinated strategies for improving perinatal oral health care statewide.