

# Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy

## UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

October 2024

This issue is part of a series of updates that highlight recent policies, programs, and resources to help ensure that health professionals and pregnant women and their families are aware of the importance and safety of receiving oral health care during pregnancy. The goal of these efforts is to increase pregnant women's access to and use of oral health care and ultimately improve the oral health and overall health of pregnant women and their children.

The October 2024 issue highlights policies, programs, and resources published in 2023 and 2024. Past issues of *Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy* are available [online](#).

The *Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy* series is intended to support and promote the use of the seminal resource [Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement](#). This resource endures as evidence-based guidance for both oral health professionals and prenatal care health professionals.





## Policies and Programs

### *2025 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets and Mandatory Reporting Guidance*

In May 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the 2025 Core Set of Children’s Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Child Core Set) and the 2025 Core Set of Adult Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid (Adult Core Set). Data reported on the core sets assist CMS and states in understanding the quality of health care provided to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries, monitoring access to health care for beneficiaries, and improving understanding of health disparities that beneficiaries experience.

The oral evaluation during pregnancy measure, which focuses on oral health care during pregnancy, was added to the 2025 Adult Core Set for voluntary reporting. The same measure, specified for a younger age group, was added to the 2025 Child Core Set as a provisional measure, meaning that reporting the Child Core Set measure will be voluntary in 2025,

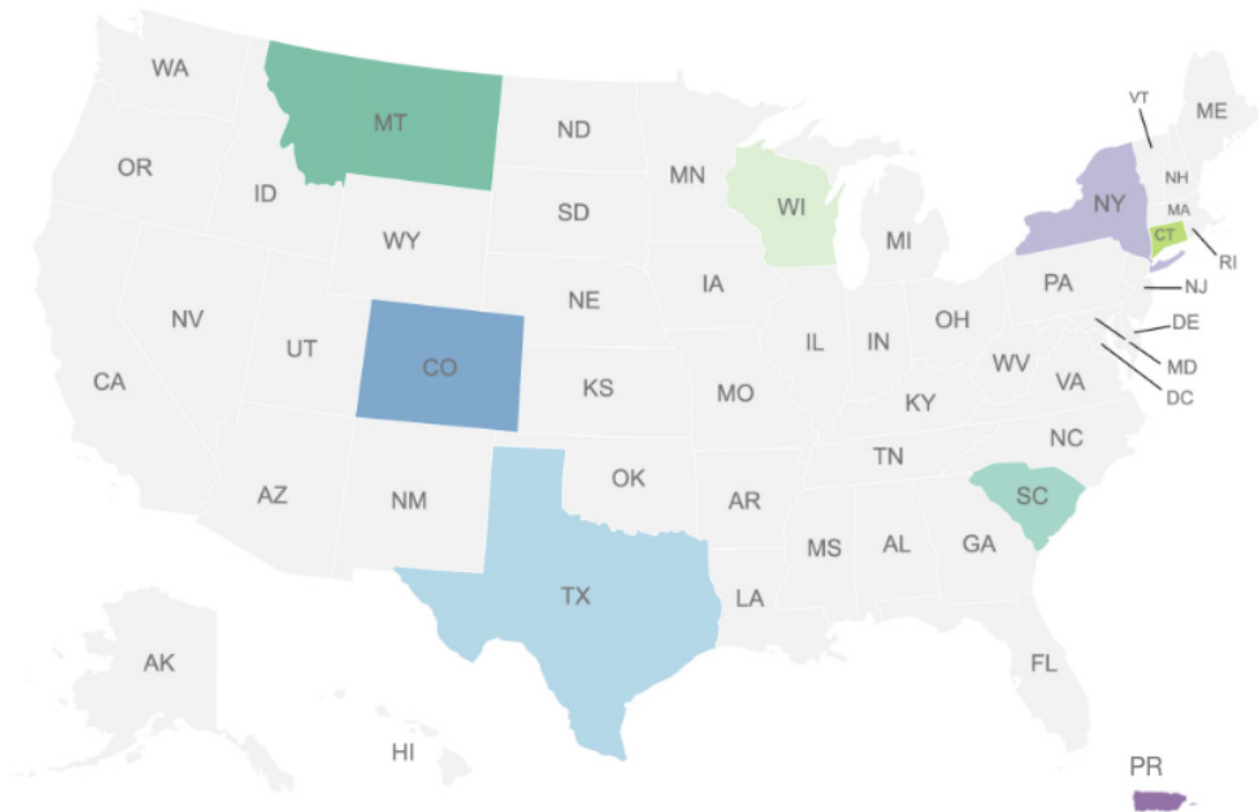
with an expectation that the measure will be added to a future Child Core Set for mandatory reporting. The oral evaluation during pregnancy measure assesses the percentage of beneficiaries with live-birth deliveries in the reporting year who received a comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation from a dental provider during pregnancy. This measure recognizes the important connection between oral health and overall health during pregnancy.

For additional information on the core sets and state reporting requirements, see the “[2025 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets and Mandatory Reporting Guidance](#)” state health official letter.

### *Maternal and Child Health—Improving Oral Health Integration Projects*

In July 2024, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau funded eight Maternal and Child Health—Improving Oral Health Integration (MCH-IOHI) projects to advance the integration of preventive oral health care (POHC) into primary care. The 4-year projects aim to make POHC more accessible to pregnant women, infants, children, and adolescents, including those

## MCH-IOHI Projects



with special health care needs, who are at risk for poor oral health. The projects will implement a two-tier, state-level and local-level improvement approach that will address three core functions: policy and practice; education and outreach; and data, analysis, and evaluation. Three projects (New York, Puerto Rico, and Texas) include pregnant women in their target population.

### *Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model*

In June 2024, CMS released a notice of funding opportunity to fund 15 awards for the Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) model to focus on improving access to health care, including oral health care, for women during the prenatal period through the postpartum period, as well as for their newborns, who are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. The model supports participating state Medicaid agencies in developing a whole-person approach to pregnancy and postpartum care that addresses physical health (including oral health), mental health, and social services needs during these periods. A companion [fact sheet](#) is also

available. The project will include a 3-year pre-implementation period, during which participating Medicaid agencies receive targeted technical assistance to advance each model element and achieve required pre-implementation milestones, and a 7-year implementation period to implement their model. CMS will announce the TMaH model award recipients in January 2025 by posting an update on the TMaH Model webpage.

### *Updated Recommendations to Enhance Radiography Safety in Dentistry*

In February 2024, the American Dental Association released updated recommendations for use of appropriate, justified dental X-rays and discontinuing use of lead abdominal aprons or thyroid collars on patients when conducting dental X-rays. The recommendations aim to improve radiation protection in dental radiography and cone-beam-computed tomography for patients, including pregnant women. State laws and regulations may still require the use of lead abdominal aprons or thyroid collars.



## Resources

The following section includes resources produced by the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII), the Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net, and other organizations.

### Resources Produced by the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

COHSII partners—the [Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors](#), the [Dental Quality Alliance](#), and the [National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center](#)—supported by a 3-year (2021–2024) cooperative agreement from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, were instrumental in producing the following resources:

#### *Capacity Inventory for Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care for Pregnant Women: Brief*

This brief provides information on the development of a capacity-inventory tool to help state oral health programs or other statewide organizations assess

systems-level capacity factors and prioritize needs. The brief discusses the importance of oral health, especially during pregnancy, and strategies to advance oral health equity for pregnant women. Factors contributing to state systems-level capacity to improve integration of oral health care and primary care for pregnant women are organized by categories. The brief was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.

#### *Capacity Inventory for Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care for Pregnant Women: Tool*

This tool was developed to assist states in their efforts to improve their capacity to integrate oral health care and primary care for pregnant women. The purpose of the tool is to help state oral health programs or other statewide organizations assess systems-level capacity factors and prioritize needs. Staff can use the tool to consider factors that facilitate integration of oral health care and primary care for pregnant women and to look for opportunities to improve integration. The tool was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.

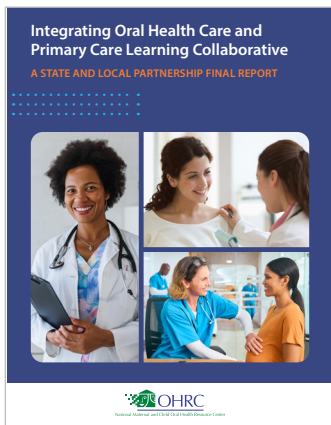
#### *Fluoride Varnish for Adults: Q&A*

This handout provides information for adults, including pregnant women, about how fluoride varnish can make their teeth more resistant to tooth decay. The handout explains what fluoride varnish is and discusses its safety. It also addresses things to avoid after it is applied to teeth, how long it lasts, how often it should be applied, and whether it is covered by dental insurance. The handout is available in English and in [Spanish](#). The handout was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.



### *Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership Final Report*

This report describes programmatic efforts of the Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership project to integrate oral health care and prenatal care with both a state and a local component. The report discusses project team selection, state- and local-level approaches, use of stipend funds and in-kind support, and integration of interprofessional oral health core clinical competencies into prenatal care at the participating clinic site. [A stand-alone executive summary is available.](#) The report was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.



### *Integrating Oral Health Evaluation into Prenatal Care: Considerations and Examples*

This report presents key considerations for integrating oral health evaluation into prenatal care. Topics include completing an evaluation, integrating an evaluation into the electronic medical record, integrating an evaluation into the prenatal care workflow, and strategies to increase primary care health professionals' confidence in completing an evaluation. The report also includes summaries of how prenatal clinics integrate oral health evaluation and links to examples. The report was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.



### *Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the MCH Safety Net—Overview and Project Profiles: Update 2024*

This report provides an overview of the Networks for Oral Health Integration Within the MCH Safety Net and descriptions of the three projects. The report includes a profile of each project: (1) Midwest Network for Oral Health, (2) Rocky Mountain Network of Oral Health, and (3) Transforming Oral Health for Families. Each profile provides information about the network's partners, approach, settings, models of care, strategies to help sustain models of care in community health centers, and core function activities. The report was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.



*Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Network: Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook*

This chartbook provides information on facilitators of and barriers to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children. It includes data related to scope of practice for health professionals, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, dental hygienists, dental therapists, community health workers, and teledentistry. The chartbook was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.

A set of project chartbooks complement the 12–state/ jurisdiction chartbook.

*Midwest Network for Oral Health Integration (MNOHI): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook*

Results from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio

*Rocky Mountain Network of Oral Health*

*(RoMoNOH): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook*

Results from Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming

*Transforming Oral Health for Families (TOHF): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook*

Results from Maryland, New York, Virginia, and Washington, DC

*Oral Health Quality Indicators for the Maternal and Child Health Population*

This handout outlines a set of quality indicators to monitor oral health services delivered in public health programs and systems of care. Indicators for women of childbearing age and pregnant women are broken into three categories: access, utilization, and outcomes. Indicators for children are broken into four categories: access, utilization, process, and outcomes. The handout was produced by the Dental Quality Alliance and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partners.

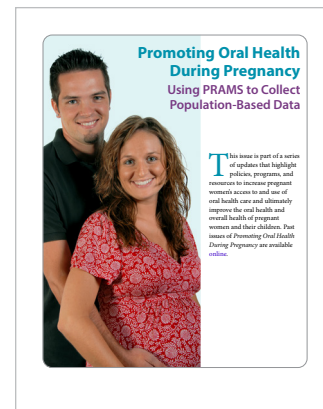
*Policy Statement: Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care*

This policy statement summarizes issues related to integrating oral health care into primary care, the problem of poor oral health among pregnant women and children from families with low incomes, and opportunities to address this problem by integrating oral health

care into primary care. Examples of a national initiative and statewide programs focused on integrating oral health care into primary care are included, and the role of state and territorial oral health programs in this effort is discussed. The policy statement was produced by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partners.

*Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Using PRAMS to Collect Population-Based Data*

This brief provides an overview of activities to promote oral health during pregnancy. It focuses on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), a surveillance project that collects population-based data on maternal and child health indicators. The brief describes the PRAMS questionnaire and PRAMS alternative questionnaires and features resources, including publications and data dashboards, that states have produced to share their PRAMS findings. The brief was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.





*Snapshot of the U.S. Jurisdictions' Activities Addressing Title V National Performance Measure 13 (Oral Health) During Fiscal Year 2022*

This report highlights activities focusing on promoting preventive dental visits for pregnant women and children and adolescents, ages 1 through 17, conducted by American Samoa, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It presents a snapshot of Puerto Rico's experiences with implementing strategies to promote preventive dental visits for pregnant women. The report was produced by the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, COHSII partner.



## Resources Produced by the Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net Project

The NOHI project's [Rocky Mountain Network of Oral Health \(RoMoNOH\)](#), supported by a 5-year cooperative agreement from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, was instrumental in producing the following resources:

*[Arizona: Environmental Scan Results 2023](#)*

This chartbook provides information on facilitators of and barriers to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children in Arizona. The chartbook provides data related to scope of practice for oral health professionals and other health professionals, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, dental hygienists, dental therapists, community health workers, and teledentistry. The chartbook was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, RoMoNOH partner.

*[Colorado: Environmental Scan Results 2023](#)*

This chartbook provides information on facilitators of and barriers to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children in Colorado. It presents information on fluoride varnish application and billing; dental hygienist, therapist, and assistant scopes of practice; teledentistry; community water fluoridation; state strengths related to allowable activities for dental hygienists; and opportunities. The chartbook was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, RoMoNOH partner.

*[Montana: Environmental Scan Results 2023](#)*

This chartbook provides information on facilitators of and barriers to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children in Montana. It includes information on fluoride varnish application and billing; dental hygienist, therapist, and assistant scopes of practice; teledentistry; community water fluoridation; state strengths related to allowable activities for dental hygienists; and opportunities. The chartbook was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, RoMoNOH partner.



### *Wyoming: Environmental Scan Results*

This chartbook provides information on facilitators of and barriers to integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children in Wyoming. The chartbook provides data related to scope of practice for oral health professionals and other health professionals, Medicaid billing and reimbursement, dental hygienists, dental therapists, community health workers, and teledentistry. The chartbook was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, RoMoNOH partner.

## **Resources Produced by Other Organizations**

### *2023 MSDA National Profile of State Medicaid Dental Programs*

This profile provides information on state Medicaid dental programs. For each state, the following topics are discussed: category of care provided; diagnostic code; description of category; whether adults over ages 21, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and pregnant women are covered; adult fees;

whether the category is part of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program; and EPSDT rates for pregnant women. The profile was produced by the Medicaid | Medicare | CHIP Services Dental Association.

### *Addressing the Role of Oral Health in Maternal Mortality and Pregnancy Outcomes*

This report discusses what can be done to reduce the risk for maternal mortality and poor pregnancy outcomes. It provides information on maternal mortality, preterm birth, and the relationship between oral health and maternal and infant health. Data, including data on the likelihood of dying from pregnancy-related causes, stratified by race, are presented. The report was produced by the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.

### *Brush Up on Oral Health*

This series of tip sheets is intended for Head Start staff to use to support the oral health of children and pregnant women enrolled in Head Start programs and their families. The tip sheets present practices and practical tips on promoting good oral health. Health and social services professionals interested in improving the

oral health of children and pregnant women enrolled in Head Start and their families may also find the tip sheets helpful. The series is available in English and in Spanish. The series was produced by the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety.

### [\*Building Blocks for Healthy Teeth\*](#)

This video for pregnant women and parents describes steps to promote good oral health for their infant. Steps include taking care of the woman's mouth during pregnancy, cleaning the infant's gums daily, brushing the infant's teeth with fluoridated toothpaste, taking the infant to the dentist when the first tooth erupts or by age 1, and avoiding giving the infant drinks with added sugar. The video is available in Arabic, English, French, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese. The video was produced by the Ohio Department of Health.

### [\*Healthy Habits for Happy Smiles\*](#)

This series of handouts for pregnant women and parents of infants and young children enrolled in Head Start programs provides simple tips on nutrition and oral health. Topics include the importance of getting oral health care and of taking care of oral health during pregnancy. The series is available in English and in Spanish. The series was produced by the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety.



### [\*Help Me Smile: Ensuring the Oral Health of Young Children\*](#)

This video includes a module that discusses how a pregnant woman's oral health may change; dispels common myths about tooth loss, morning sickness, and getting oral health care during pregnancy; and explains how pregnancy-related hormonal changes during pregnancy can affect oral health. The video also addresses topics related to infants' and young children's oral health. The video was produced by the Ohio Department of Health.

### [\*Medicaid Adult Benefits During Pregnancy and Postpartum and Birth Outcomes by State\*](#)

This data dashboard provides information on Medicaid's dental benefit. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage to find the dashboard. You will see a map, with a list of states on the right side. To see income-eligibility levels and data sources, hover your cursor above the state name for which you would like information. The dashboard was produced by the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.

### [\*Oral Health Among Pregnant Women in Texas: Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2016–2020\*](#)

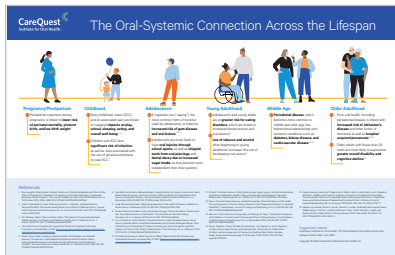
This fact sheet for consumers provides information about oral health in pregnant women in Texas. It explains why taking care of teeth and gums during pregnancy is safe and important. It also presents the percentage of pregnant women who did not visit a dentist during pregnancy because they did not think it was safe; the percentage who had a dental cleaning during pregnancy; and the likelihood of receiving a dental cleaning for white, black, and Hispanic pregnant women. The fact sheet was produced by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

### [\*Oral Health Status and Dental Visits by Race\*](#)

This report provides information on oral health status and dental visits among children in grades K through 12 and pregnant women in North Dakota. Topics include pregnancy; medical-dental integration in a family medical center; and students in kindergarten, third grade, and all grades kindergarten through 12 participating in SEALIND. The report was produced by the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services.

### *The Oral-Systemic Connection Across the Lifespan*

This infographic provides information on the connection between oral health and systemic health and different stages of life. The stages include pregnancy/postpartum, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, and older adulthood. Brief text describes oral health issues that affect people at each stage. The infographic was produced by the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.



### *Oregon Oral Health Surveillance System*

This report provides data about oral-health-related issues in Oregon. Topics include pregnant women; incidence of cleft lip and/or cleft palate in newborns; infants, children, and adolescents from birth through age 17; students in elementary school and in grades 8 and 11; adults; children and adults enrolled in Medicaid; oral and pharyngeal cancer incidence and mortality; the oral health workforce, and the oral health infrastructure. The report was produced by the Oregon Health Authority, Oral Health Program.

### *Pregnancy and Oral Health*

This tip sheet for families provides information about the importance of good oral health for pregnant women and infants. Topics include the importance of taking care of the mouth during pregnancy, the safety of getting oral health care during pregnancy, and the importance of good nutrition during pregnancy. Tips for choosing healthy snacks and drinks, how to care for the mouth if a woman has morning sickness, and finding a dentist are included. The report was produced by the Ohio Department of Health, Oral Health Program.

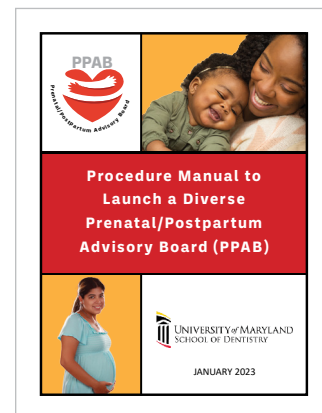
### *Prenatal Oral Health Interprofessional Experience Guide*

This guide is a model for the New York University Prenatal Oral Health Interprofessional Experience. For this program, dental students and nurse midwifery or family nurse practitioner students collaborate to develop a management plan to meet the oral

health needs of pregnant women through oral health screening, education, and referral. The guide includes information on interprofessional collaborative practice competencies, a student assignment example, education resources, and suggestions to facilitate student discussion. The guide was produced by the New York University College of Dentistry and New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

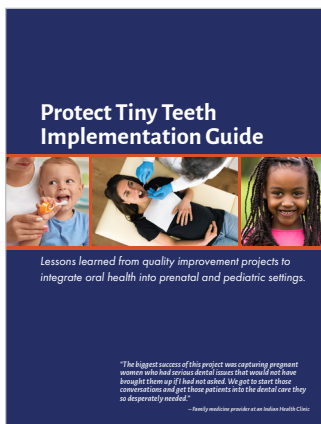
### *Procedure Manual to Launch a Diverse Prenatal/Postpartum Advisory Board (PPAB)*

This manual provides information on creating a diverse prenatal/postpartum advisory board with the goal of improving the oral health and overall health of women with low incomes before, during, and after pregnancy, as well as of children from families with low incomes, in Maryland. The manual was produced by the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.



*Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Guide: Lessons Learned from Quality Improvement Projects to Integrate Oral Health into Prenatal and Pediatric Settings*

This guide discusses lessons learned from quality-improvement projects conducted to integrate oral health care into primary care settings. Topics include planning; setting goals; educating and training staff; launching an integration project and tracking progress; adapting resources to fit the setting; reviewing, celebrating, and discussing progress; and maintaining and sustaining progress. The guide was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics.



*Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Project: A Pediatric Oral Health Medical-Dental Integration Quality Improvement Project—Overview and Results*

This toolkit is a collection of resources designed to help health professionals provide preventive oral health care in pediatric and prenatal care settings. It includes short videos, posters, and infographics as well as a sample clinical workflow. Also included are a prenatal oral health conversation guide, a pediatric oral health risk-assessment tool, and other resources. The toolkit is available in Arabic, Cambodian, English, French, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Taiwanese. The toolkit was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

*Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Project: A Prenatal Oral Health Medical-Dental Integration Quality Improvement Project—Overview and Results*

This report provides an overview of the Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Project, which was designed to improve the oral health of the maternal and child health population, including pregnant women. Topics included focus group testing and communications

messaging; environmental scan; project description, aim, and results; and Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit overview and testing. The report was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics.



*Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Project: Toolkit for Health Care Professionals*

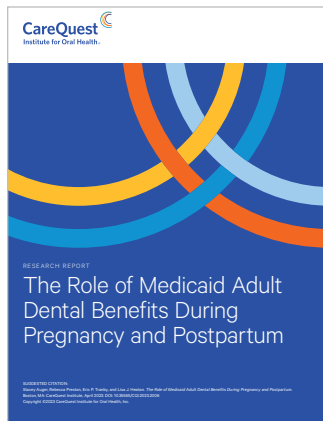
This toolkit is designed to help health professionals provide preventive oral health care in pediatric and prenatal care settings. It includes videos, posters, and infographics as well as a sample clinical workflow. Also included are a prenatal oral health conversation guide, a pediatric oral health risk-assessment tool, and other resources. The toolkit is available in Arabic, Cambodian, English, French, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Taiwanese. The toolkit was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

*Recommendations for Improving Oral Health Care Access, Quality, and Outcomes and Advancing Equity in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program*

This report describes the framework that the 2023 Medicaid and CHIP OHI [Oral Health Initiative] Workgroup used to set priorities for improving oral health care access, quality, and outcomes and advancing health equity for pregnant women and other population groups enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Also provided is background on why good oral health is important and about what the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has done to achieve the goal of improving oral health care for Americans. The report was produced by Mathematica.

### [\*The Role of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits During Pregnancy and Postpartum\*](#)

This report provides information on the role of Medicaid adult dental benefits during pregnancy and postpartum. It discusses the importance of oral health during these periods, the safety and use of oral health care during pregnancy, and dental coverage for pregnant and postpartum women. A snapshot of dental benefits is also included. The report was produced by CareQuest Institute for Oral Health.



### [\*State Health Coverage for Immigrants and Implications for Health Coverage and Care\*](#)

This brief provides an overview of state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program options to expand coverage for pregnant women and children who are immigrants lawfully present in the United States and/or for state-funded programs to fill gaps in coverage for immigrants. It also examines how health coverage and care for immigrants vary by state-coverage policies. The impact of state coverage expansions on health care access and use is addressed. The brief was produced by KFF.

### [\*Tiny Teeth: The Art of For-Two'ing\*](#)

This video for pregnant women provides information on oral health issues that may occur during pregnancy. It also emphasizes the importance of scheduling an oral health visit while pregnant rather than waiting until after delivery. The video was produced by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

### [\*VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Pregnancy\*](#)

This practice guideline provides information about the relationships between various care options and health outcomes in the management of pregnancy. Topics include approaches to care of pregnant women in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense; recommendations, including for oral health care during pregnancy; routine pregnancy care; referral indications; emerging topics; and research priorities. The practice guideline was produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

## **Journal Articles**

Battani K, Norrix E, Sailor L, Farrell C. 2023. [\*Improving access to oral health care: Integrating dental hygienists into federally qualified health center obstetrics and gynecology clinics in Michigan\*](#). *Journal of Dental Hygiene* 97(3):7–12.

This article presents information about the Michigan Initiative for Maternal and Infant Oral Health, a program that integrates dental hygienists into obstetrics and gynecology clinics in federally qualified health centers located in underserved areas of Michigan with the goal of improving the oral health of pregnant women. The program is described, and results of the intervention are presented.

Brame JL, Quinonez RB, Ciszek BP, Weintraub JA. 2023. [\*Implementing a prenatal oral health program for dental students: Lessons learned\*](#). *Health Promotion Practice*. Online ahead of print.

This article describes a study that used quantitative data from fourth-year dental students who participated in the Prenatal Oral Health Program, which was developed to educate dental students about prenatal oral health and promote access to oral health care for pregnant women. The study also used qualitative data from a student-faculty-staff focus group discussion. Different clinical structures, appropriate leveling in the curriculum, management with a patient-care coordinator, and inclusion of interprofessional learning experiences were compared.



Byrappagari D, Cohn L, Sailor L, Clark S. 2024. [Association between dental visits during pregnancy and setting for prenatal care](#). *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* 84(1):21–27.

This article presents an analysis of Michigan Medicaid administrative data for all live birth deliveries between April 2018 and December 2020. Billing data were used to categorize the predominant setting for prenatal care as occurring at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) or a non-FQHC, and claims data were used to identify dental visits during pregnancy. The relationship between the prenatal care setting and dental visits during pregnancy is discussed.

Herndon JB, Ojha D, Amundson C. 2024. [Measuring quality of dental care during pregnancy](#). *Journal of the American Dental Association* 155(2):167–176.

This article describes the development and validation of two Dental Quality Alliance measures of access to oral health care during pregnancy (Utilization of Services During Pregnancy, Oral Evaluation During Pregnancy). Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System enrollment and claims data for a sample of 7,767,806 people enrolled in five state Medicaid programs

and Children's Health Insurance Programs were used to report on the performance of these measures.

Linden JE, Gundacker CLU, Deinhammer L, Crespin M. 2023. [Medical dental integration in Wisconsin: Integrating dental hygienists into pediatric well child visits and prenatal care](#). *Journal of Dental Hygiene* 97(3):13–20.

This article describes how dental hygienists were incorporated into medical care teams in Wisconsin as part of the Wisconsin Medical Dental Integration model. The model expanded access to preventive oral health services by integrating dental hygienists into pediatric primary care and prenatal care teams to address oral health inequities with the goal of reducing dental disease. The article also discusses how legislation expanding scope of practice made this possible.

Panda A, Silk H, Hayes C, Savageau JA. 2024. [An assessment of oral health training in obstetrical care in Massachusetts](#). *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 28(7):1168–1177.

This article describes a study that assessed the perspectives of obstetrical health professionals about oral health education and promotion. It shares survey findings from obstetrics and gynecology physicians, family medicine physicians, and other prenatal care health professionals in Massachusetts. In addition, the article describes findings from in-depth interviews with eight physicians, during which they shared their experiences with prenatal oral health training and practice.

Parry S, Jeffcoat M, Reddy MS, Doyle MJ, Grender JM, Gerlach RW, Tanna N, Geisinger ML, Geurs NC, Biggio J. 2023. [Evaluation of an advanced oral hygiene regimen on maternity outcomes in a randomized multicenter \(OHMOM\) clinical trial](#). *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology Maternal-Fetal Medicine* 5(8):100995.

This article describes an advanced oral hygiene program, including an antibacterial regimen coupled with a power toothbrush and hygiene instruction, implemented to improve periodontal health and reduce the rate of spontaneous preterm birth. Clinical trial participants consisted of obstetrical patients with moderate-to-severe gingivitis who were randomized to an advanced oral hygiene regimen vs. a standard oral hygiene regimen.

Reynolds JC, Comnick C, Heeren T, Xie XJ, Damiano PC. 2024. [Medicaid dental benefits for pregnant people and dental care use among very young children](#). *Maternal and Child Health Journal* 28(9):1604–1611.

This article describes a national study conducted to examine the association between Medicaid dental benefits for pregnant women and oral health care use among infants and young children from birth to age 2 enrolled in Medicaid. The study pooled data from the National Survey of Children's Health and state Medicaid policy data. Findings estimate the association between Medicaid dental benefit generosity (i.e., emergency only vs. extensive coverage) for pregnant women and the infant or child having a dental visit in the past year.

Spencer M, Idzik SK. 2023. [Dental screening and referral during prenatal care](#). *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing* 48(6):320–325.

This article describes a quality-improvement project that was implemented to develop an oral-health-screening tool for use during prenatal care visits to help prenatal care health professionals identify pregnant women with oral health care needs and provide a referral to a dentist, if necessary. The project was implemented over a 14-week period and included an oral health screening using a valid and reliable tool to identify oral health care needs.



Vamos CA, Cayama MR, Mahony H, Griner SB, Quinonez RB, Boggess K, Beckstead J, Daley EM. 2023. [Oral health during pregnancy: An analysis of interprofessional guideline awareness and practice behaviors among prenatal and oral health providers](#). *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 23(1):721.

This article discusses national interprofessional guidelines developed in an effort to improve perinatal oral health in the United States. The guidelines include recommended practice behaviors for both oral health professionals and prenatal care health professionals. The analysis was conducted to examine guideline awareness, familiarity, beliefs, and practice behaviors among both provider types.

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#### Cite as

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[National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center](#)  
Georgetown University  
E-mail: [OHRInfo@georgetown.edu](mailto:OHRInfo@georgetown.edu)



*More than 25 years serving the MCH community*