

Project Title: New York State Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Collaborative Initiative
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ABSTRACT

PROBLEM: There are significant barriers that present difficulties for pregnant women to access dental care. An analysis of the New York State PRAMS data showed that only 45 percent of women visited a dentist during pregnancy. A chart audit of Medicaid prenatal care records in New York State showed that only 37.1% of records included an assessment of oral health.

GOAL(S) AND OBJECTIVES: The overall goal is to improve the oral health of pregnant women and infants in New York State through organizational and system level changes. The objectives are to: 1. Increase the percent of women who visit a dentist during pregnancy; 2. Increase the percent of women who receive an assessment for oral health problems and appropriate referral by a prenatal care provider. 3. Increase the percent of women engage in healthy behavior (appropriate feeding habits and infant oral hygiene practices).

METHODOLOGY: New York's plan integrates oral health into the statewide Maternal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC) projects that are designed to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. A core individual/family level strategy required for the MICHC initiative is the use of community health workers (CHWs). The integration of oral health into this model will be evaluated in one MICHC site.

COORDINATION: Within the New York State Department of Health, the Bureau of Dental Health (BDH) and the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health (BMCH) are housed in the Division of Family Health (DFH), which also serves as the state's Title V program. The bureaus of DFH work very closely with the other organizational segments of DOH whose work complements that of DFH, in particular the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) and the Office of Quality and Patient Safety.

EVALUATION: The evaluation framework is based on a six step model developed by CDC. Using a program logic model, we have identified several key questions. The data needed to address these questions are obtained from progress reports, program logs, interviews, special surveys and other systems such as Medicaid managed care performance reports, perinatal quality improvement studies and Perinatal Risk Assessment Monitoring System.

ANNOTATION: The purpose of the project is to improve the oral health of pregnant women and infants through organizational and system level changes. Several strategies to address barriers to accessing perinatal oral health care that promotes coordinated and collaborative effort among many stakeholders in the health care community will be tested and promoted statewide.