

Project Abstract

West Virginia Perinatal & Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project (PIOHQI)

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

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West Virginia leads the United States in many poor health indicators and perinatal oral health is no different. At-risk pregnant women in the State do not receive oral health services primarily due to the unavailability of a dental insurance coverage for the Medicaid population. West Virginia currently provides preventive dental services through the Helping Appalachian Infants and Families (HAPI) Project, which works in coordination with the Right from the Start Program (RFTS), to a small region of eight (8) counties. The Oral Health Program will coordinate with community, state and national partners to expand upon the HAPI Project so that at-risk mothers and infants across the State can have access to comprehensive preventive and restorative care.

The goals of this proposed project are to establish a statewide approach to deliver oral health care to low income pregnant women; increase the number of low income children who have an established dental home; and expand the West Virginia Oral Health Surveillance System to monitor and evaluate the oral health of pregnant women. The objectives for this project are listed below:

1. By August 2017, increase the percentage of expecting mothers who have their teeth cleaned during pregnancy from 34.7% to 40.0%.
2. By August 2017, increase the percentage of mothers who have their teeth cleaned after pregnancy.
3. By June 2014, begin expansion of the oral health component of the HAPI Project to the statewide RFTS.
4. By June 2014, develop a financial plan that will enable oral health services to be provided to pregnant women.
5. By August 2014, increase the number of Public Health Hygienists from 45 to 60.
6. By August 2017, increase the number of Medicaid eligible children ages 0-2 years who received any dental service from 5,189 per year to 6,000.
7. By June 2014, establish baseline data for pregnant women utilizing the Basic Screening Survey protocol developed by ASTDD.
8. By August 2014, develop and distribute an issue brief on the oral health status of pregnant women.

The West Virginia PIOHQI Project will undergo continuous evaluation and quality improvement to assess effectiveness of attaining project goals and objectives.