



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Developing Practice Guidance on Oral Health Care During Pregnancy for Prenatal and Dental Providers in Maryland

With support from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) Office of Oral Health (OOH) launched its Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) project in 2015 to address barriers related to access to oral health care for pregnant women. As part of the PIOHQI project, an interprofessional steering committee of Maryland experts developed state-specific practice guidance for health care providers who serve pregnant women. The purpose of the guidance document was to provide up-to-date, evidence-based recommendations and resources to prenatal and dental providers throughout the state to increase utilization of oral health care services and ultimately improve oral health of pregnant women and infants in Maryland.

The final document, *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers* and its additional resources took almost two years to develop and cost approximately \$75,000 including lead staff member salary, and printing and mailing expenses. It was disseminated via mail to about 7,600 dentists, dental hygienists, obstetricians and gynecologists, and nurse midwives and was sent electronically to numerous provider organizations and academic and public health programs in Maryland.

Lessons Learned:

Key lessons learned include ensuring an adequate number of committee meetings for review of document drafts and establishing a diverse group of experts to serve on the steering committee. Having an in-house graphic designer, sufficient internal staff support, and utilizing a cloud platform to house and access materials was critical to the development of a high-quality document.

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