

Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Baby Oral Health Program (bOHP)

A considerable lack of access to dental services exists among young American children; only ten percent of children under age five years reported having received a preventive dental visit. With the rise in dental disease among preschool-age children and the lack of available workforce to care for their needs, a logical expansion of the safety net for children's oral health lies among general dental practitioners. The Baby Oral Health Program (bOHP) was developed at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill to address this opportunity to increase the availability of preventive care to infant and toddlers.

The bOHP educates dental students and dental health care providers on the principles of infant and toddler oral health, and equips them with the necessary tools to be comfortable and competent in providing preventive oral health services to young children. The bOHP trains dental students and practitioners in providing dental preventive services to infants and toddlers. The program is supported by the North Carolina Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, North Carolina Academy of General Dentists, North Carolina Dental Society, and National Children's Oral Health Foundation. The bOHP has provided every graduating student in the UNC School of Dentistry classes of 2008 and 2009 with a bOHP kit for their practice, and has expanded to offer trainings to practitioners in clinical settings.

Lessons Learned:

- The bOHP training can have an impact on increasing knowledge, comfort and provider willingness to deliver preventive oral health services to infants and toddlers.
- Hands-on clinical training is a key component to successfully implementing bOHP.

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