



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Klamath County Early Childhood Cavities Prevention Program

Klamath County, Oregon is a scenic rural county that is home to approximately 70,000 people in 6,135 square miles. The Klamath County Department of Public Health (KCPHD) provides a wide range of services to its residents, including an innovative program that approaches a common public health issue in a non-traditional way. The Early Childhood Cavities Prevention Program (ECCPP) aims to eliminate early childhood cavities among low-income children up to three years of age by integrating preventive oral health services into Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinical services. Pregnant women receive home/WIC visits and are assigned to a dental home under a dental managed care program with two Dental Care Organizations (DCOs). Initial care was provided at the Oregon Institute of Technology Dental Hygiene Clinic under contract with the DCOs. Care included emergency, preventive, and restorative services. This community-based collaboration has also successfully provided low-income pregnant women and their young children in Klamath County with essential oral health education and oral health tool kits (including parent education brochures, toothbrushes, floss, sippy cups, and children's fluoride toothpaste). Ninety-three percent of all infants reaching their 2nd birthday in the ECCPP were found to be cavity-free. The community health partnership supporting the ECCPP had established a successful and sustainable model extending dental care to pregnant women and promoting preventive services for both new mothers and their young children.

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