



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (BBTD) Program

Baby bottle tooth decay (BBTD) or early childhood caries (ECC) was recognized and identified as a public health problem in Vermont. The Vermont Department of Health, Dental Health Services administers the Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (BBTD) Program, which was established in 1997. The BBTD Program aims to provide prevention and intervention of early childhood caries through the health care system, targeting children age four years and younger. The program raises awareness and educates providers and parents on the oral health of young children, promotes preventive care (such as fluoride supplement), and facilitates early visits to the dentist. Initial funding to begin the program (approximately \$11,000) was given to the Health Department from the following partners: Delta Dental, Vermont's Dental Society, EDS, Insurance Company Blue First, and the Vermont Laboratories. The program: (1) Recruits the support of pediatricians to provide dental health education, fluoride supplements and dental referrals for early prevention; (2) Works with WIC clinics to detect BBTD and make referrals; (3) Offers water fluoride testing of private water sources to assess the need and appropriate dosage of fluoride supplements; (4) Provides a referral list of dentists recruited by the program to accept and treat young children in their practices. The 2001 budget for the BBTD Program included \$4000 for laboratory water testing of fluoride (\$10 per testing kit; approximately 400 tests per year) and \$500 for material and supplies for mailings. The program has recruited 110 dentists to treat children referred by the program, worked with all WIC clinics to assess BBTD, and provided resources and updates to all pediatrician's offices through periodic mailings made three times per year. The impact of the program is observed with the mobilization of partners in the community to prevent BBTD/ECC.

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