Arizona Preschool Children’s Oral Health Status

*Head Start Dental Home Initiative*
February 25, 2011

Office of Oral Health, Bureau of Women and Children’s Health
602-542-1866

Why is Oral Health Important?
Why is Oral Health Important?

• 51 million school hours lost per year (Gift HC 1997)

• Failure to thrive, impaired speech development, absence from and inability to concentrate in school and reduced self-esteem (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion 2000)

• Decreased school performance, poor social relationships, and less success later in life (US General Accounting Office 2000)

Why is Oral Health Important?

• Early tooth decay is a predictor of a life-time of oral disease
• Tooth decay is a chronic, infectious disease
• Cannot be cured, only mitigated
Why is Oral Health Important?

• Dental diseases linked with other health problems
  – Premature/Low-birth weight infants
  – Failure to Thrive
  – Diabetes
  – Cardiovascular diseases
  – Stroke

“You’re not healthy without good oral health.”
(C. Everett Koop)
Arizona Oral Health Survey of Preschool Children

- Open mouth survey- calibrated survey teams
- CDC provided technical advice on:
  - Survey design, sample and analysis
- Standardized survey instrument:
  - can generalize information to the population
  - can make comparisons to other states

Tooth Decay Experience by Age
Represents both treated and untreated decay

Bordering States:
Tooth decay experience among 3rd graders

- Arizona: 75%
- California: 71%
- New Mexico: 65%
- Utah: 61%
- Colorado: 57%

Untreated Tooth Decay
Children Ages 2-4

- Arizona: 30%
- United States: 16%
Untreated Tooth Decay by Age

Treated Tooth Decay

Leadership for a Healthy Arizona
Treatment Urgency

• 4 out of 10 four year olds have early or urgent treatment needs.

Arizona 3rd Graders

• 75% of Arizona 3rd graders have experienced tooth decay.

*Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health Healthy Smiles—Healthy Bodies Survey of 3rd Grade Children 2009-2010
Reason for no dental visits

- Transportation: 1%
- Can't afford: 12%
- Dentist won't see: 34%
- Child doesn't need: 46%

Tooth decay by parent's education

- Less than High School: 50% untreated, 10% treated
- High School Graduate: 40% untreated, 20% treated
- Some College or tech school: 20% untreated, 10% treated
- College, 4 years or more: 10% untreated, 5% treated

Disparities

Untreated and Treated Tooth Decay by Race/Ethnicity

- American Indian: 31% Untreated, 21% Treated
- Asian: 43% Untreated, 0% Treated
- Black Non-Hispanic: 32% Untreated, 7% Treated
- Hispanic: 34% Untreated, 19% Treated
- White Non-Hispanic: 29% Untreated, 3% Treated

Dental Visits

• 50% of children 0-4 have never visited a dentist.

Establish a Dental Home by Age One

• Recommended by:
  American Academy of Pediatrics (May 2003)
  American Dental Association
  Arizona Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
  Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Establish a Dental Home by Age One
Oral Health Work Force Grant 2009-2012

• Strategies include:
  – Building Regional Oral Health Coalitions
    • Head Start representatives are members
  – Multiple Teledentistry demonstration practice models
    • Head Start model
      – These are pilots projects; OOH will share final “lessons learned” upon completion of the grant.

Arizona Oral Health Survey of Preschool Children, 2009

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