

# Children Now Oral Health Projects & Resources

Oral Health Project Directors Meeting:  
Sacramento, CA January 18, 2019



**Children  
Now**

# Children Now's Current Issue Coverage

## HEALTH

Home Visiting

Developmental Screenings

Insurance Coverage

*Health4All,  
ACA Implementation,  
Medi-Cal Reform, Coveredtil26*

Access & Quality

*Preventive and Primary Care,  
Family Representation,  
Data & Monitoring  
Continuity of Care for Foster Youth*

Oral Health

Mental Health

Nutrition

Obesity

## Integrated Systems

Integrated Data

Prenatal-Age 3

*Comprehensive Agenda*

Childhood Trauma

*Comprehensive Agenda*

School-Based Health  
& Social Services

*Early Childhood & K12*

## CHILD WELFARE

Family Preservation  
& Reunification

Stability & Permanency

Juvenile Justice

## EDUCATION

Early Learning Access & Quality

*Child Care, Preschool and TK*

STEM

*Leading CA STEM Network*

Expanded Learning

Personalized Learning

District and Educator Capacity

Finance Reform

Accountability

Social Emotional Learning

Chronic Absence

School Discipline

Foster Youth Education Reform

# Children Now: Oral Health Projects

- National, Regional and State Oral Health Networks
- State Oral Health Advisory Committees and Workgroups
- Local Oral Health Strategic Planning Processes
- **Medical-Dental Pilots**
- **Policy Development, Advocacy and Implementation**

# DATA: County Profiles & Advocacy



## DENTAL DISEASE & CALIFORNIA'S KIDS



### The most common chronic health problem facing California's kids is a largely preventable one.

Dental disease can affect children's overall health, self-esteem and academic performance. In fact, dental problems are the leading reason why children in California miss school. Research has found that **California students reported missing an estimated 874,000 school days due to dental problems – at a cost of \$29 to \$32 million dollars in lost average daily attendance funding!** Even before children enter school, tooth decay is already an issue. Of California kindergartners, more than 50% have experienced tooth decay and more than 25% have untreated tooth decay.

Schools can play an important role in ensuring student health and helping to reduce dental disease in children. The kindergarten oral health assessment requirement (AB 1433) of 2005 that was recently improved upon by SB 3792 is a way for schools to raise oral health awareness and connect students to dental care. Additionally, school districts can make oral health a priority by identifying the assessment requirement in their local control accountability plan.

### In Contra Costa County



**72%** of school districts reported kindergarten oral health assessment data in 2016.



**63%** of eligible kindergartners in the reporting school districts had an oral health assessment.



**17%** showed signs of untreated decay of those assessed.

California Dentist Association, AB 1433 Reported Data website, <https://www.cdah.ca.gov/health-policy-research/communities-resources/child-dental-care/health-policy-research/ab1433-2016>, accessed on September 23, 2017

### Did you know ?

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson wrote a letter to all County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators encouraging completion and reporting of Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments. View it here:

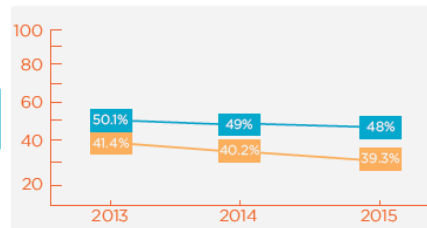
<http://bit.ly/80HA48o>

In Fresno County, the percentage of Medi-Cal enrolled children (ages 0-20) who have received an annual dental visit and/or a preventive dental service has steadily declined over a three-year period.<sup>3</sup>

Service:

■ Annual Dental Visit ■ Preventive Services

Percentage of all Medi-Cal eligible kids ages, 0-20



Visits to the emergency room (ER) for preventable dental conditions are costly to families and to the state. The average cost of ER visits for dental problems is nearly 10 times more expensive than the cost of preventive care delivered by a dental provider.

In Fresno County:

**45%**  
of dental related ER visits were for our littles  
**0-3 years old**



**57%**  
of dental related ER visits were for kids  
**0-5 years old**

### Help make sure children are achieving optimal oral health!

Contact your local school board, <https://fcoe.org/board-education>, and ask how to prioritize students' oral health through the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Each school district must engage parents, educators, employees and the community to establish LCAPs that reflect local priorities.

For more information, please contact:  
Katie Andrew, [kandrew@childrennow.org](mailto:kandrew@childrennow.org)



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# Applying state policy at the local level: some ideas

State Policy	Local Level
<b>SB 379 and AB 1433: Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment. Collect and report data to State Office of Oral Health from incoming K/1<sup>st</sup> graders (i.e. caries, assessment, etc.)</b>	<p>Do schools and districts have capacity to disseminate forms to parents and collect and input data?</p> <p>Are there opportunities to screen younger children (e.g. TK)?</p> <p>For parents who could not complete the form due to financial burden, are there resources to connect that family to coverage/care?</p>
<b>Medi-Cal allows for primary care providers to apply fluoride varnish. Also given grade “B” by the USPSTF, meaning the suggestion is for medical practices to offer/provide this service</b>	<p>Are networks of medical providers/staff educated about and trained to apply, bill for, and report fluoride varnish applied to children?</p>

# Applying state policy at the local level: some more ideas

State Policy	Local Level
Per 2017 DHCS Report, Santa Clara was determined to be “barely below standard” when it came to Medi-Cal Dental Provider Participation of licensed dentist to general population ratio.	Has Delta Dental State Government Program met with Santa Clara County to discuss activities to address provider shortage?
Prop 56 Supplemental Payments passed in the 2018-19 budget includes several new codes/services including removal of orthodontia appliances	How are enrollers, navigators, community health workers, etc. trained on a continual basis to keep up with changes at the state level to educate beneficiaries?

# Med-Dental Pilot Findings: Los Angeles County

## Protocol for Primary Care Providers

### REQUIRED ELEMENT:

Determine whether the child is on the list of patients under age 6 who have not had a dental visit in the past 12 months.

NO

Give EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE to parent/ caregiver as a reminder to continue bringing children for regular, preventive dental visits.

YES

PCP emphasizes importance of oral health and preventive care.

PCP asks parent if child is enrolled in dental managed care plan or fee-for-service, and if the parent knows who the child's dentist is.

Dental managed care (Access, Health Net, LIBERTY)

PCP gives parent EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE, Denti-Cal, or Health Care Options

PCP fills out prescription form and give includes LIST OF AVAILABLE PROVIDERS (FILE: middle and last copies of

PCP instructs pre-assigned staff to assist in remaining copies of the prescription for caregiver to identify Denti-Cal provider selected provider in dental referral form.

### Why Visit the Dentist?

- Every child deserves a healthy start in life!
- Dental health is an important part of overall health!
- Dental problems can begin early in life – as soon as the first tooth comes in. It is much easier to prevent dental disease than to treat it!
- 1 in 4 elementary school age children have tooth decay!



My Plan's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Dentist's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Dentist's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
My Dentist's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To make an appointment, call your dentist. If you don't know who your dentist is or would like to change dentists please call your dental plan at:

ACCESS DENTAL  
1-888-414-4110

HEALTH NET  
1-888-703-6999

Health Net  
1-800-977-7307

If you are having trouble with your dental plan, or getting through to your dental plan please call, The Department of Managed Health Care at: 1-888-466-2219

If you do not know what dental plan you are in or would like to change dental plans please call Health Care Options at: 1-800-430-4263

Revised Date 01/2015  
PCP: 01/2015 (PCP, 01/15)

## Prescription for Dental Health



Name of Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient health plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring MD Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Primary Care Physician's Number)

**Rx:** It's time to see your dentist.



### Dental Health Begins with Your Child's First Tooth

Los Angeles County

Department of Health Care Services  
dentalmanagedcare@dhs.ca.gov

### For Your Child's First Tooth?

For your child's first tooth, whichever day, whichever is the first tooth arrives – then switch to a soft toothbrush.

When your child's first tooth is visible, at the first tooth arrives, and ride and how

as recommended

parten, 50% Regular dental care and stop new cavities from forming.

### Age 0-1 year How can you help?

If you give your baby a bottle at bedtime, only give water in the bottle – no milk, formula, juice, or sweet drinks. Gently wipe your baby's gums with a washcloth until the first tooth arrives – then switch to a soft toothbrush.

### Age 1-2 years How can you help?

Brush your child's teeth in the morning and before bed with a tiny dab of fluoride toothpaste. Look closely for any signs of early cavities (chalky white-brown areas on teeth near gums). Ask your medical doctor to apply fluoride varnish to your child's teeth at well-child checkups. Your child should now be drinking from a cup, not a bottle. Give milk or juice only at mealtimes and give water in between.

### Age 2-6 years How can you help?

Continue brushing your child's teeth every morning and before bed with a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste. Children under 7-8 years old can't do a good job without your help, but let them practice after you have done your part. Limit sugary drinks and foods every day.

### How Can You Help?

#### Age 6-12 years How can you help?

Let children brush their own teeth but continue to help them to be sure they are doing a good job. Help them floss their teeth before bed. Talk to your child's dentist about dental sealants and fluoride to prevent cavities. Continue to limit sugary drinks and foods every day.

#### Age 12+ years How can you help?

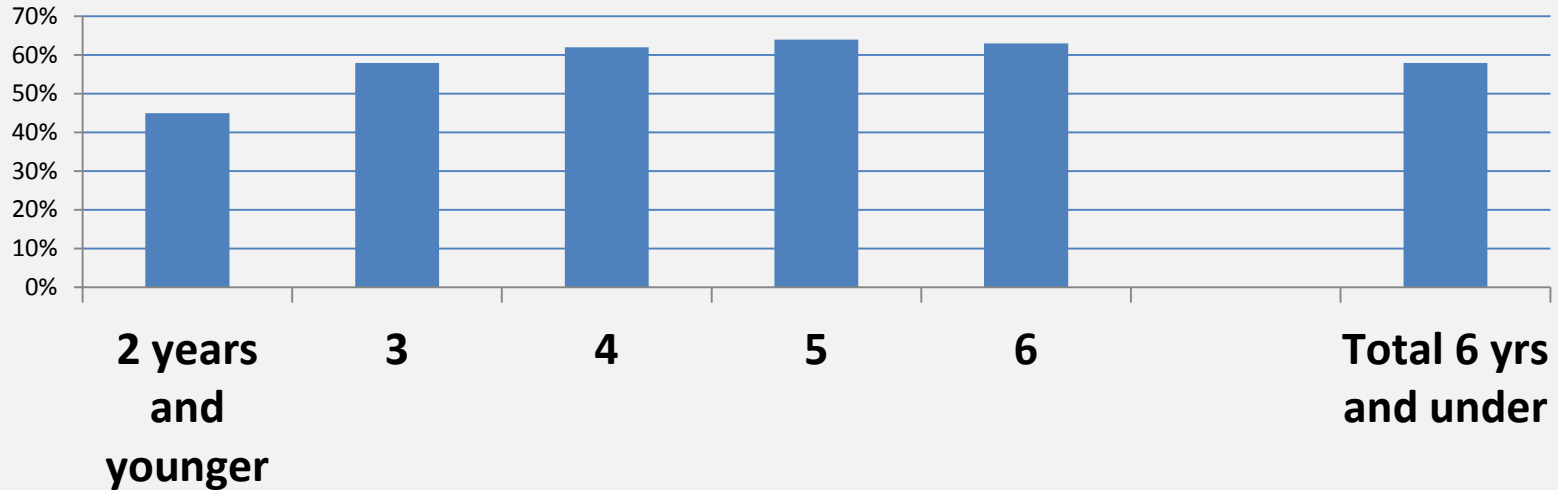
Continue to check your child's brushing at least twice a day. Limit sports drinks and sodas, and avoid energy drinks altogether. Talk to your child's dentist about dental sealants to prevent cavities and mouth guards for sports.

#### At any age How can you help?

You, the parent, can help prevent cavities. Ask your medical doctor to apply fluoride varnish to your child's teeth at well-child checkup visits. Don't share toothbrushes. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your doctor and dentist are there to help.

# Med-Dental Pilot Findings: How'd We Do?

**Percentage of Children by Age Who Saw a Dentist w/in 6 months of Doctor's Visit**



# Building Upon Our LA Experience

- Implementing the Medical-Dental Collaboration Pilot in Sacramento and Amador Counties as part of Every Smile Counts! (ESC!) local dental pilot project



# Policy Development, Advocacy and Implementation

## AB 2207 (Wood):

A Medi-Cal managed care health plan shall:

- (1) Provide dental screenings for every eligible beneficiary as a part of the beneficiary's initial health assessment.
- (2) Ensure that an eligible beneficiary is referred to an appropriate Medi-Cal dental provider.
- (3) Identify plan liaisons available to dental managed care contractors and dental fee-for-service contractors to assist with referrals to health plan covered services

## AB 1433/SB 379: Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

# Questions?

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