

ORAL HEALTH in WEST VIRGINIA

Poor Oral Health Remains a Neglected West Virginia Epidemic¹

Last update on September 4, 2006

Oral diseases are among the most common health problems in the United States. Thousands of West Virginians suffer diseases and conditions of the oral cavity that result in needless pain and suffering; difficulty speaking, chewing and/or swallowing; increased cost of care; loss of self-esteem; decreased economic productivity through lost work and school days.

Dental caries are the most common infectious disease of West Virginia children. By the time of high school graduation, 84 percent of West Virginia youth have had dental caries. Thirty-three percent of West Virginia children suffer from untreated decay. Among Medicaid covered children, only 36 percent received dental services in 2003, the most recent year for which data is available. WVCHIP children fare better in that 96 percent of continuously enrolled children received dental services.

WV Healthy People 2010 Data

	Percent	Baseline Year	2010 Goal
Children age 8 with one or more cavities	65.6%	1998	60%
Youth age 15 with one or more cavities	66%	1998	60%
Untreated cavities age 6-8	35.5%	1998	30%
Untreated cavities age 15	32.9%	1998	25%
Adults age 65 and older who have lost all their natural teeth	47.9%	1999	40%
Oropharyngeal cancer lesions detected at stage 1	37%	1993-96	40%
Children age 8 with protective sealants on permanent molars	36.7%	1998	40%
Youth age 14 with protective sealants on permanent molar teeth	34.6%	1998	40%
Population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated	82%	1992	85%

¹ West Virginia Healthy People 2010, Section 21, Oral Health. www.wvdhhr.org/bph/hp2010/

water			
School based health centers with oral health services ²	40%	1998	50%
Continuously enrolled CHIP children receiving dental services ³	96%	2004	NA
CHIP utilization rate per child ⁴	1.38	2004	NA
Medicaid children receiving dental services	36%	2003	NA
Medicaid covered pregnant women receiving oral health services			NA
Community Health Centers with Oral Health Programs		2006	NA

ADDRESSING ORAL HEALTH IN WEST VIRGINIA

The Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, (OMCFH) Bureau for Public Health, WVDHHR.

Children's Dentistry Project

Children's Dentistry Project works in concert with other OMCFH children's programs, Head Start, public schools, local health departments, community health centers and others to promote dental health services as an integral part of preventive, primary health services and to encourage proper self-care.

Components:

- Provides oral health education in public schools in 38 counties through contracts with community-based organizations and individuals
- Supplies oral health instructional modules for teaching grades K-9 within the public school system
- Supplies fluoride drops and tablets and water test kits for distribution through local health departments
- Works with the OMCFH/HealthCheck Program to encourage medical practitioners to refer Medicaid-eligible children for dental services
- Assists local communities in establishing school-based dental services

² Note that only about 10 percent of West Virginia children are served by school based health centers.

³ This number represents only those children continuously enrolled in CHIP for the entire year; total number of children enrolled for the entire was 8,556 or about one third of the number of children enrolled on any given day. WVCHIP Annual Report, 2005.

⁴ In 2004 WVCHIP paid for 33,314 dental visits; payment for dental visits was \$163.91 per member per year; WVCHIP Annual Report, 2005.

- Supplies oral hygiene supplies and education materials to organizations in all 55 counties

Donated Dental Project

- Provides dental care for a limited number of low-income senior citizens and adults who have disabilities. Eligibility requirements:

SSI recipient, 21 years of age and older or

Adults 65 years of age and older with incomes at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level

Pre-Employment Services Project

- Provides dental and vision services for eligible individuals who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits from the Department of Health and Human Resources

For more information, please contact the Oral Health Program at 1-800-642-9704 or go to www.wvdhhr.org click on public health; click on office of maternal, child, family health.

Benedum Funded Oral Health Projects: 2006

Shenandoah Community Health Center: One Year Planning Grant- \$25,000.00 focus on pediatric population (July 2006 – June 2007)

Contact: Susan Walters Phone: (304) 876-8210 email: SusBWalter@aol.com

Issues and Work Completed as of August 2006:

- Completed a face-to-face survey of local dentists with 44 out of the 53 interviewed: A significant number stated a willingness to help solve the problem and treat children in an organized program. Two outstanding issues- getting paid for the services- too many hoops to go through, and high rate of no shows in that patient population
- The Eastern Panhandle has the lowest rate in WV for serving Medicaid and CHIP children. This is due to the poor rates and difficulties with getting reimbursement as well as capacity issues of serving the Eastern Panhandle's growing population.
- In the process of forming an Oral Health Task Force/Work Group for the Tri-County area of the Eastern Panhandle to identify the needs and begin to address them

- Issues CHC faces is referring children to EA Hawes, which is more than 1.5 hours away or to Morgantown more than 2.5 hours away.

New River Community Health Center: One Year Planning Grant - \$35,000

Contact: Terri Harlan Phone: (304) 469-3345 email:teri.harlan@pihn.org

Issues as of August 2006:

- Great need for dental services, lack of funding from HRSA
- Looking at alternative ways to get services-
 - Portable chairs
 - Non-dental professional
 - What can they do on their own and still make ends meet
 - Providing services at the SBHC

Valley Health: Three year multilevel implementation grant -\$600,000

Contact: Bobbi Jo Muto Phone: (304) 525-3334 ext. 5112
email:bjmuto@valleyhealth.org

Three Main Areas of Focus:

1. Statewide Grassroots Public Awareness Campaign “SMILE WV”
2. Expansion of the WVPPOHP- to include all CHC’s, OB/GYNs, Pediatricians, Medical Schools and Residency Programs in WV
3. Demonstration Project and expansion of the current Oral Health Educators Program

WV Head Start Association: Three year statewide implementation grant - \$225,000

Contact: Becky Gooch-Ehrbacher Phone: (304) 233-4450 email:
wvhsa@comcast.net

Issues and Work:

- Access for children especially in the Eastern Panhandle.
- Grant will provide for all Head Start Staff, Parents and Children to receive Oral Health Training, will address issues of Head Start’s high incidence of missed appointments

Healthy Kids and Families Coalition/Community Voices – Six month coordination and state policy development grant -\$35,000

Contacts: Bobbi Jo Muto, 304-525-3334 x 5112, bjmuto@valleyhealth.org
Renate Pore , 304-346-8815, renatepore@verizon.net

Issues and Work:

- Support and coordinate Benedum and State Oral Health Projects
- Initiate research and work for statewide needs assessment
- Research and identify state policy issues for oral health for children, pregnant women and adult population.

Our Motto: SMILE MORE ☺

Benedum Oral Health Grantees

Contact our state coordinator at

smilewv@valleyhealth.org

Posted August 2006