

Performance Measure 7: Percentage of 3rd grade children with untreated caries

Last Year's Accomplishments

The target for FFY 2007 was 20 percent. The actual percent of third graders with untreated caries was 23.7. Ohio has not met its target.

A. Prevent dental caries through community-based fluoride promotion

Funds and technical assistance were provided to the Northern Area Water Authority to implement fluoridation, 9200 additional Ohioans benefit from water fluoridation. Six water systems were provided assistance purchasing new or replacement equipment for water fluoridation.

44,387 students in 183 high-risk elementary schools (non-fluoridated water and low-income) participated in the school-based fluoride mouth rinse program.

B. Increase capacity of dental care safety net programs to serve vulnerable populations.

22,584 patients received care through the Safety Net Dental Care grants (Title V funds). In addition, the Access to Dental Care and Safety Net Dental Care II programs (state GRF) enabled expansion of dental clinic facilities through space renovation and equipment purchases. Data for safety net clinics receiving grants from ODH are being analyzed to establish benchmarks for evaluating subgrant performance.

Technical assistance was provided to local dental clinics and communities starting clinics to serve the low-income, including assistance developing mentoring relationships with established clinics.

Five dentists were funded through The Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program in 2007 (three new and two renewals). ODLRP dentists reported serving 22,194 unduplicated patients in 2007.

Two renewal and one new application for federal Dental HPSAs were submitted to the Division of Shortage Designation.

C. Help communities assess their oral health needs and resources and develop strategies to meet them.

The Ohio Oral Health Surveillance System was posted on the ODH Web site. This is a county-level, internet-based system that describes oral health status, demographics and access to dental care factors.

BOHS produced two reports relating to oral health and access to dental care:

- Make Your Smile Count! A Survey of the Oral Health of Ohio Schoolchildren, 2004-05, reports on the statewide survey of oral health of third grade students conducted during the 2004-05 school year. The report includes county-level data on several measures of oral health

- Oral Health and Access to Dental Care for Ohioans, 2007, a report which summarizes previous reports on access to dental care in Ohio, was published and made available on the ODH Web site. An executive summary was also produced.

BOHS continued to coordinate with the Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center on content for the Ohio Safety Net Information Center Web site.

A draft manuscript on the validation of the sentinel school survey methodology was written and will be submitted for publication in October, 2007.

Help Me Smile (HMS) materials, oral health risk assessment protocols and training modules for families of children 0-5 years, were distributed via regional trainings: Help Me Grow (60 sites), WIC (22 sites), CFHS (22), Early Learning Initiative (54 programs) and BCMH (43 sites). Two age groups (6-10 and 11-21) were added to the materials and will be part of the regional trainings in 2008. A training DVD on how to use the HMS materials was developed and will be available in 2008.

BOHS staff identified sites (private practices, FQHC's, institutions/hospitals and local health departments) where high numbers of Medicaid-eligible children aged 0-3 years are served by primary care providers. These sites were contacted and encouraged to schedule Smile for Ohio Fluoride Varnish trainings. 48 sites were trained by BOHS staff during this fiscal year. BOHS staff worked with the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to encourage training at local meetings. BOHS staff has worked closely with ODJFS and its Office of Managed Care to reduce problems with payments of claims for physicians.

D. Promote policy-maker awareness of the importance of access to dental care as a public policy issue.

BOHS participated on the planning committee for the second Ohio Oral Health Summit that will be held in early FFY 2008 and will seek to develop an action agenda for improving access to dental care.

BOHS produced two reports (as hard copy and PDF files residing on the Department's Website) relating to oral health and access to dental care.