Oral Health Care During Pregnancy

A Resource Guide
ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY: A RESOURCE GUIDE

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National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center
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Pregnancy is a unique period during a woman’s life and is characterized by complex physiological changes, which may adversely affect oral health. At the same time, oral health is key to overall health and well-being. Preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental treatment is safe throughout pregnancy and is effective in improving and maintaining oral health.

However, health professionals often do not provide oral health care to pregnant women, and, at the same time, pregnant women themselves often avoid obtaining it. Oral health care is not routinely included in perinatal care, and many pregnant women with obvious signs of oral disease do not seek or receive care. In many cases, neither pregnant women nor health professionals understand that oral health care is an important component of a healthy pregnancy.

In addition to providing pregnant women with oral health care, educating them about preventing dental caries is critical, both for women's own oral health and for the future oral health of their children. Evidence suggests that most infants and young children acquire caries-causing bacteria from their mothers. Providing pregnant women with counseling to promote healthy oral health behaviors may reduce the transmission of such bacteria from mothers to infants and young children, thereby delaying or preventing the onset of caries.

For these reasons, it is essential for health professionals (e.g., dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners, physician assistants) to provide pregnant women with appropriate and timely oral health care, which includes oral health education.

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) developed this publication, Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A Resource Guide, to provide information to health professionals, program administrators and staff, educators, policymakers, and others working in states and communities in planning, developing, and implementing efforts to ensure that pregnant women receive optimal oral health services. The resource guide is divided into three sections. The first section lists journal articles appearing in the peer-reviewed literature from 2008 to 2012. The second section describes materials published from 2008 to 2012, including brochures and handouts, guidelines, policy briefs, tools, and webcasts and webinars. The third section lists federal agencies, national professional associations, resource centers, and national coalitions that may serve as resources.

Many of the items in the Materials section are available from the Internet. Others can be requested from the organizations that produced them or are available from OHRC. Inclusion in the resource guide does not imply endorsement by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, OHRC, or Georgetown University.

Our intent is to share resources that are useful and represent current science and practice. For further information, we encourage you to contact the organizations listed in the third section. Your state and local departments of health; state health-related associations and societies; schools of dentistry, dental hygiene, medicine, and nursing; state or local coalitions; and university-based libraries are additional sources of information. OHRC will update the resource guide periodically, and we would appreciate hearing from you if you know of any relevant resources that are not included in this edition. An electronic version of the publication with clickable links to all the URLs shown is available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/OralHealthPregnancyResGuide.pdf.
Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the following experts for their review of the resource guide: Tarsha Cavanaugh, Maternal and Child Health Bureau; Irene Hilton, Dental Bureau, San Francisco Department of Public Health; Christine Riedy, Northwest Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities, University of Washington; Lindsey Robinson, California Dental Association; and Renee Samelson, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Albany Medical College. We would also like to thank those who submitted items for inclusion in the guide.
JOURNAL ARTICLES
This section presents articles published in the peer-reviewed literature between January 2008 and March 2012.

ASSESSING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDREN’S ORAL HEALTH STATUS AND THAT OF THEIR MOTHERS

This article describes a study that used data from a nationally representative sample to determine whether an association existed between the oral health status of mothers in the study sample and that of their children. Higher levels of untreated dental caries or tooth loss among mothers was a strong indicator of higher levels of caries in their children. The effect of poor maternal oral health on children’s oral health was significant, irrespective of poverty status.


THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MATERNAL ORAL HEALTH EXPERIENCES AND RISK OF PRETERM BIRTH IN 10 STATES, PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEM, 2004–2006

This article describes a study that assessed the association of oral health experiences of women during pregnancy and the risk of preterm delivery. Women who did not receive oral health counseling or did not have a tooth cleaning during pregnancy were at slightly higher risk for preterm delivery than women who did receive care.


BARRIERS TO UTILIZATION OF DENTAL SERVICES DURING PREGNANCY: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

This article describes a study that examined reasons that women with low incomes did or did not use oral health services in a pilot program to promote dental visits during pregnancy in Klamath County, Oregon. Pregnancy stressors and oral-health-related issues were identified as barriers to using services. Stressors included difficulties with domestic relationships, personal finances, and employment. Oral-health-related issues included women’s negative perceptions of oral health experiences, negative attitudes toward oral health professionals, not valuing oral health or believing that it is important, perceived inability to pay for care, time constraints, and oral health professionals’ and office staff’s poor attitudes toward pregnant women.


CENTERING PREGNANCY SMILES: A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A NEW ORAL HEALTH AND PREGNATAL CARE MODEL IN RURAL KENTUCKY

This article reviews Centering Pregnancy Smiles, a community-university partnership program that incorporates group-based prenatal care with oral health education and treatment to improve pregnant women’s oral health status and health behaviors. Topics include assessment of the problem, planning of the model, engagement and implementation processes, and preliminary program outcomes.

CENTERING PREGNANCY SMILES: IMPLEMENTATION OF SMALL GROUP PRENATAL CARE MODEL WITH ORAL HEALTH

This article describes preliminary outcomes of a program to integrate oral health education and treatment into prenatal care in a rural health care clinic in western Kentucky. Program findings include improved oral health status of pregnant women at 34–38 weeks’ gestation and possible benefits for birth outcomes (rates of preterm birth and low birthweight).


CHANGING KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS THROUGH AN ORAL HEALTH PREGNANCY MESSAGE

This article examines an online approach for promoting awareness of oral health and whether this type of health messaging impacts oral health knowledge and beliefs. A brief commercial and pre- and post-surveys were pilot tested, launched on a website, and monitored for activity. Overall, respondents showed an increase in oral health knowledge from pre- to post-commercial viewing. Respondents also showed more agreement with belief items; they changed their views to more strongly agree that oral health care during pregnancy is important and that a mother can reduce the risk of cavities in her child by having good oral health herself.


DENTAL CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN: AN ASSESSMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL DENTISTS

This article examines the percentage of general dentists in North Carolina who provide oral health care to pregnant women and, among those who do, the extent to which they provide comprehensive care. Ninety-eight percent of respondents provided some oral health care services for pregnant women in their practices each month. Approximately one-half of respondents identified low reimbursement, time restrictions, culture and language differences, and lack of demand for services as barriers to care. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]


DENTAL CLEANING BEFORE AND DURING PREGNANCY AMONG MARYLAND MOTHERS

This article describes factors related to preventive oral health care—specifically, predisposing and enabling factors associated with dental cleaning—before and during pregnancy. The authors found that dental cleaning was associated with dental insurance; oral health counseling; and maternal factors such as race, ethnicity, education, and history of physical abuse.


DENTISTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF BARRIERS TO PROVIDING DENTAL CARE TO PREGNANT WOMEN

This article presents the effects of dentists’ knowledge and attitudes about oral health care for pregnant women on self-reported clinical practices. Dentists’ perceived barriers (e.g., time and economic costs, dissatisfaction with compensation) had the strongest effect on practices. Dentists’ perceived barriers were related to incorrect assumptions, which suggests that dentists who perceived high levels of barriers are more likely to have incorrect assumptions about the appropriateness of routine and emergency oral health care during pregnancy. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE TREATMENT DURING PREGNANCY IN REDUCING THE RISK OF EXPERIENCING PRETERM BIRTH AND LOW BIRTH WEIGHT: A META-ANALYSIS

This article presents findings from a meta-analysis study to determine if treatment of periodontal disease during pregnancy is effective in preventing preterm birth (PTB), low birthweight (LBW), or both in infants. The authors found that periodontal treatment during pregnancy does not reduce risk for PTB or LBW.


EXAMINING THE SAFETY OF DENTAL TREATMENT IN PREGNANT WOMEN

This article compares safety outcomes from a trial in which pregnant women received scaling and root planing and other dental treatments. The authors found that essential dental treatment in pregnant women at 13 to 21 weeks' gestation was not associated with an increased risk of experiencing serious adverse medical events or adverse pregnancy outcomes. Use of topical or local anesthetics during root planing also was not associated with an increased risk of experiencing adverse events or outcomes.


GUIDELINE ON PERINATAL ORAL HEALTH CARE (REV.)

This guideline proposes recommendations for perinatal oral health care, including caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, preventive strategies, and therapeutic interventions. Topics include oral health education, diet, fluoride, professional oral health care, and delay of mutans streptococci colonization in infants. Additional topics include (1) educating pregnant women on the etiology and prevention of early childhood caries and (2) perinatal oral health education in the medical, nursing, and allied health curriculum.


KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS REGARDING ORAL HEALTH AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

This article presents findings from a study to assess and compare oral health knowledge and beliefs among pregnant women and to determine if maternal race, ethnicity, or other factors contributed to their knowledge or beliefs. The authors found that pregnant women's oral health knowledge varied according to maternal race or ethnicity and that their beliefs varied according to their education levels.


MATERNAL ORAL HEALTH IN PREGNANCY

This article examines the effect of maternal oral disease on pregnancy health. Emerging issues and future directions in oral health care for pregnant women are also discussed. The author concludes that (1) there is significant racial disparity in oral health, (2) research on the causal nature of the association between maternal oral health and pregnancy is ongoing, (3) data support providing preventive care in pregnancy, and (4) obstetricians-gynecologists should educate clients about the importance of oral health and preventive measures for maintaining oral health.

A META-ANALYSIS OF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS SHOWS NO EVIDENCE THAT PERIODONTAL TREATMENT DURING PREGNANCY PREVENTS ADVERSE PREGNANCY OUTCOMES

This article presents a meta-analysis of 11 randomized controlled trials to determine if scaling and root planing (SRP) compared with no treatment or prophylaxis reduced the odds of preterm birth or other adverse pregnancy outcomes. The author found that SRP had no significant effect on the incidence of preterm birth. Furthermore, SRP did not appear to have an effect on other adverse pregnancy outcomes such as low birthweight or spontaneous abortions or stillbirths.


OBSTETRIC OUTCOMES AFTER TREATMENT OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE DURING PREGNANCY: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

This article presents findings from a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to determine whether treatment of periodontal disease during pregnancy is associated with a reduction in the preterm birth rate. All of the RCTs included pregnant women with documented periodontal disease randomized to either treatment with scaling and root planing or no treatment. Treatment of periodontal disease with scaling and root planing had no significant effect on the incidence of preterm birth.


ORAL HEALTH AND ORAL HEALTH CARE PRACTICES AMONG LOW-INCOME PREGNANT WOMEN

This article examines the oral health status and oral health practices of pregnant women with low incomes in San Diego, California, and their need for oral health education. Dental caries and gingivitis were prevalent problems among the women (46 and 37 percent, respectively) and most women (55 percent) had not had a dental visit in the past year. The majority of women (88 percent) indicated that they brushed their teeth two or three times a day, but only 12 percent reported daily flossing. Overall, Hispanic women had poorer oral health and fewer healthy oral practices than Filipina women or women of other ethnicities.


ORAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY

This article encourages physicians to address maternal oral issues through disease prevention, diagnosis, early management, and dental referral. Topics include common oral problems in pregnancy and periodontitis and poor pregnancy outcomes. Additional topics include screening, diagnosis, routine treatment, medications, and management of acute conditions.


ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM PREFERENCES AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN IN A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION

This article examines the oral health information preferences (topics and methods of delivery) of pregnant women with public vs. private insurance. Receiving oral health information by mail was the preferred option in both groups. Preferences for program topics generally favored infant-specific topics over topics that concerned both mothers and infants.

ORAL HYGIENE PRACTICES AND DENTAL SERVICE UTILIZATION AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

This article presents study findings on oral hygiene practices and service use during pregnancy to develop policies to improve the oral health status of pregnant women from racial and ethnic minority groups. Participant characteristics associated with a lack of routine oral health care use during pregnancy included the following: age 36 or older, Hispanic ethnicity, annual income less than $60,000, and infrequent flossing.


PERIODONTAL DISEASE AND PERINATAL OUTCOMES

This article presents findings from a meta-analysis of 125 studies published between 1998 and 2010 on births to women with periodontal disease. After adjusting for maternal age, ethnicity, parity, and intensity of prenatal care, maternal periodontal disease remained associated with adverse perinatal outcomes, including increased rates of preeclampsia and spontaneous preterm labor.


PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN PREGNANCY: REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

This article explores research on periodontal disease, the impact of periodontal disease on pregnancy outcomes, and recommendations for nursing practice. Topics include safety of oral health care in pregnancy, barriers to implementing care, evidence on periodontal disease and the impact of periodontal treatment, promoting oral health during pregnancy, and perinatal-oral-health-education guidelines.


PERSPECTIVES OF MARYLAND WOMEN REGARDING ORAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD

This article presents findings from a series of focus groups with pregnant women with low incomes and new mothers to gather information on their oral health knowledge and behaviors. The authors found that women were reasonably well informed about oral health practices for themselves and their children; however, important myths and misperceptions were common. Several themes emerged, a central one being that most women had not received oral health information in time to apply it according to recommended practice.


PROVIDING DENTAL CARE TO PREGNANT PATIENTS: A SURVEY OF OREGON GENERAL DENTISTS

This article presents findings from a statewide survey of general dentists’ attitudes, beliefs, and practices about dental treatment and anticipatory guidance for pregnant women. Most respondents (92 percent) agreed that treatment should be part of prenatal care, and two-thirds (68 percent) reported an interest in receiving continuing dental education about a pregnancy-related topic. Comparisons of self-reported knowledge and practice revealed several points of difference: taking full-mouth radiographs, providing nitrous oxide, administering long-acting anesthetic injections, and recommending over-the-counter pain medications.

PROVIDING A DENTAL HOME FOR PREGNANT WOMEN: A COMMUNITY PROGRAM TO ADDRESS DENTAL CARE ACCESS—A BRIEF COMMUNICATION

This article describes the initial evaluation of a community-based intervention to provide oral health services for pregnant women with low incomes in Klamath County, Oregon. The program consisted of outreach and anticipatory guidance to pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid, and placement with a dentist. A follow-up component ensured that infants had a dental visit by age 1. Overall, 56 percent of women received care. Most who did not have a visit either moved or were not the infant’s caregiver.


SCALING AND ROOT PLANING TREATMENT FOR PERIODONTITIS TO REDUCE PRETERM BIRTH AND LOW BIRTH WEIGHT: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS OF RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS

This article presents findings from a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials to determine whether scaling and root planing treatment in pregnant women with periodontitis reduces the risk of preterm birth or low birthweight compared to placebo or no treatment. Scaling and root planing reduced the risk for preterm birth only for groups at high risk for preterm birth.


REDUCED RISK OF NEURAL TUBE DEFECTS AND OROFACIAL CLEFTS WITH HIGHER DIET QUALITY

This article examines the association of maternal diet quality in the year before pregnancy and the risk for neural tube defects and orofacial clefts. The authors found that increasing diet quality was associated with reduced risks for the congenital disabilities studied.


SPECIAL ISSUE ON ORAL HEALTH IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

This special issue focuses on the role of nurses in promoting oral health in women, children, and adolescents. Topics includes a nurses’ call to action to improve oral health in women; gaps in practice and research on pregnancy and oral health and recommendations to close these gaps; and maternal periodontal disease, pregnancy, and neonatal outcomes. The journal also addresses nursing care and management of pathological oral conditions in women and nurse-dentist collaboration.


REFERRALS FOR DENTAL CARE DURING PREGNANCY

This article reviews the reasons that oral health care during pregnancy is advisable, describes common dental procedures and treatment provided to pregnant women, and provides resources that health professionals can share with their clients to help them understand the importance of maintaining good oral health during pregnancy and ways to do so.

MATERIALS
BROCHURES AND HANDOUTS

BRUSH FOR YOU & YOUR BABY’S GOOD HEALTH! WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ORAL HEALTH


This brochure for pregnant women and new mothers addresses oral health during pregnancy and infancy. Topics include the importance of regular toothbrushing and flossing, a healthy diet and nutrition, and smoking cessation. The brochure also addresses X-rays, bleeding gums, nausea, and oral emergencies during pregnancy. The brochure is available in English and Spanish.


CAVITY KEEP AWAY


This brochure and poster contain messages about the importance and safety of oral health care during pregnancy and infancy. The materials explain how mothers can avoid passing to their infants the bacteria that can cause tooth decay. The materials are available in English and Spanish.


DENTAL CARE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PREGNANCY


This handout provides tips for women on oral hygiene and oral health care before, during, and after pregnancy. Topics include toothbrushing, flossing, eating healthy foods, and visiting the dentist. Information for women who experience nausea and vomiting is included. Infant oral hygiene, feeding practices that may contribute to oral problems in infants, and the importance of taking infants to the dentist by age 1 are also discussed.


FOR A HEALTHY PREGNANCY AND A HEALTHY BABY


This handout discusses the importance of oral health during pregnancy and encourages Native American women to seek care. Topics include common problems (tooth decay and gum disease) and tips for maintaining oral health, such as daily toothbrushing with fluoridated toothpaste, getting enough calcium, limiting sweets and sodas, and getting dental and prenatal checkups.

Contact: Native American Professional Parent Resources, Dental Support Center, 6916 Fourth Avenue, N.W., Suite 1, Albuquerque, NM 87107.
FOR THE DENTAL PATIENT . . . : ORAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY—WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN EXPECTING


This handout provides information for pregnant women on the need for oral examinations and professional cleanings during pregnancy, how frequent snacking can increase the risk for developing tooth decay, and the importance of oral health to overall health. The article is one in a series of articles that dentists can copy for their clients. Other topics in the series include gum disease, tobacco-use cessation, oral health during cancer treatment, and the benefits and safety of dental X-rays.

Contact: American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2678. Telephone: (312) 440-2500; fax: (312) 440-7494; e-mail: info@ada.org; website: http://www.ada.org. Available at http://www.ada.org/sections/scienceAndResearch/pdfs/forthedentalpatient_may_2011.pdf.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ORAL HEALTH


This handout provides answers to questions that women frequently ask about oral health. Topics include common problems and how they may be linked to non-oral-health problems, oral hygiene and dental visits, pregnancy, infant health, and cancer treatment. Contact information for organizations that provide relevant information is also included.


GOOD ORAL HEALTH FOR TWO


This resource presents oral health messages for pregnant women and new mothers. Topics include the importance of toothbrushing, flossing, eating healthy foods, and getting dental checkups and treatment during pregnancy. Illustrations and color photographs show common oral conditions such as tooth decay and gum disease, as well as toothbrushing and flossing techniques. Infant feeding, oral hygiene, and oral health care are also addressed. The resource is available in English and Spanish.

Contact: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/goodoralhealthfortwo_eng.pdf (English) and http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/goodoralhealthfortwo_sp.pdf (Spanish).

HEALTHY SMILES FOR TWO


This brochure presents tips for women on oral hygiene and oral health care during and after pregnancy. Topics include the importance of visiting the dentist early in pregnancy, eating healthy foods, drinking water with fluoride, avoiding adverse impacts of nausea and vomiting during pregnancy, and avoiding tobacco products.

LA BOQUITA DE FELIPE: COMO LA FAMILIA DE FELIPE APRENDIO A CUIDAR SUS DIENTES


This booklet illustrates the importance of good oral health in pregnant women and infants as described by a young family. Topics include oral hygiene during pregnancy, tooth eruption, early childhood caries, and visiting the dentist. An English transcript of the Spanish booklet is available.


ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION CARDS


This series of 13 cards provides talking points for health professionals and community program staff to share with clients. Each card is accompanied by a brochure for clients containing the messages and additional resources. Two of the cards provide oral health messages for pregnant women. Topics include hormonal changes and nausea, oral health care, toothbrushing and flossing, and drinking fluoridated water.


PATIENT EDUCATION TOOLS


This series of handouts on oral health topics is presented in a question-and-answer format. Several topics related to oral health care during pregnancy include gum disease, nutrition, and xylitol. The articles are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Chinese, Russian, and Vietnamese.

Contact: California Dental Association, 1201 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (800) 232-7645; e-mail: contactcda@cda.org; website: http://www.cda.org. Available at http://www.cda.org/page/patient_education_tools.

SHARE WITH WOMEN: ORAL HEALTH—KEEPING YOUR MOUTH CLEAN AND HEALTHY


This handout was developed for health professionals to share with their clients. It explains the importance of oral health and how it affects pregnancy, signs of periodontal disease and how to prevent it, and oral health care during pregnancy. Smoking cessation and substance use, diet and nutrition, and physical activity are also addressed.


TWO HEALTHY SMILES: TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR BABY HEALTHY (REV.)=DOS SONRISAS SALUDABLES: CONSEJOS PARA MANTENERTE A TI Y A TU BEBÉ SANOS

This brochure is designed to educate women about the importance of oral hygiene and oral care during pregnancy. Topics include brushing, flossing, eating healthy foods, and getting dental checkups and treatment. Additional topics include the impact of hormonal changes during pregnancy on gum health, caring for an infant’s gums and teeth, and finding a dentist. The brochure is available in English and Spanish. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

**Contact:** National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/order (order print copy), or http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/pregnancybrochure.pdf (English), or http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/pregnancybrochure_sp.pdf (Spanish).

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**GUIDELINES**

**2008 PREVENTION SUMMIT: A SUMMARY PAPER—BRINGING EVIDENCE AND BEST PRACTICES INTO HEALTH CENTER DENTAL PROGRAMS: IMPROVING CHILDHOOD ORAL HEALTH**


This paper summarizes a summit held on December 8, 2008, in Washington, DC, to convene experts in oral-disease prevention to review and recommend manageable and effective strategies that can be implemented in health centers and other safety net oral health programs. The strategies discussed include effective preventive solutions for dental caries and periodontal disease in pregnant women. Critical factors for national implementation and perinatal measures and definitions are also addressed.

**Contact:** National Network for Oral Health Access, PMB 329, 3700 Quebec Street, Unit 100, Denver, CO 80207-1639. Telephone: (303) 957-0635; fax: (866) 316-4995; e-mail: info@nnoha.org; website: http://www.nnoha.org. Available at http://www.nnoha.org/goopages/pages_downloadgallery/download.php?filename=5457_3125512.pdf&orig_name=Prevention_Summary_Final_04.09.pdf.

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**GUIDELINES FOR ORAL HEALTH CARE IN PREGNANCY**


This document provides guidelines and recommendations for providing oral health care to pregnant women. It discusses treatment considerations related to hypertension, diabetes, the use of heparin, and the risk of aspiration as well as the need to correctly position clients during procedures. A chart summarizes recommendations during various pregnancy stages.

**Contact:** Northwest Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities, University of Washington School of Dentistry, Health Sciences B-530, Box 357480, Seattle, WA 98195. Telephone: (206) 543-5599; fax: (206) 685-8024; e-mail: nacrohd@u.washington.edu; website: http://depts.washington.edu/nacrohd. Available at http://depts.washington.edu/nacrohd/sites/default/files/oral_health_pregnancy_0.pdf.

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**IMPROVING PERINATAL ORAL HEALTH: MOVING FORWARD—AN EXPERT MEETING, MEETING SUMMARY REPORT**


This report summarizes the perinatal oral health meeting held on September 8, 2008, in Washington, DC. Topics include the Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s role in improving pregnant women’s oral health; an overview of needs by dentists, obstetricians and gynecologists, state policymakers, and consumers; strategies for approaches in improving oral health care during the perinatal period; and identifying areas for working in collaboration. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]
ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY:
AT-A-GLANCE REFERENCE GUIDE


This guide provides recommendations for oral health professionals and prenatal care health professionals on helping women obtain oral health care during pregnancy. Topics include emergency or non-elective treatment and dental X-rays, routine dental cleanings or elective dental procedures, using and avoiding medications, complying with standards of care, strategies for increasing pregnant women's comfort during treatment, and recommendations for improving or maintaining oral health during pregnancy.

**Contact:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Oral Health, 201 West Preston Street, Third Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201. Telephone: (410) 767-5300; (800) 735-2258; fax: (410) 333-7392; e-mail: oralhealth@dhmh.state.md.us; website: http://fha.dhmh.maryland.gov/oralhealth/SitePages/Home.aspx. Available at http://fha.dhmh.maryland.gov/oralhealth/docs1/pregnant_women_reference_guide.pdf.

ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY:
AT-A-GLANCE REFERENCE GUIDE


This guide highlights key recommendations for both assessment of and anticipatory guidance for pregnant women. It is designed to be used chair-side as a checklist when providing care. Topics include complying with standards of care, strategies for improving pregnant women’s oral health, treating pregnant women, and when to consult with a prenatal health professional.

**Contact:** National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRC info@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/order (order print copy) or http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/OralHealthPregnancyConsensus.pdf.

ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY:
A SUMMARY OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

This document summarizes the New York State Department of Health publication *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood: Practice Guidelines*, which is geared toward prenatal care health professionals and oral health professionals. The guidelines are intended to bring about changes in the health-care-delivery system and to improve the overall standard of care for pregnant women. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

**Contact:** National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/order (order print copy) or http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/Summary_PracticeGuidelines.pdf.

**ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING PREGNANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD: PRACTICE GUIDELINES**


These practice guidelines are intended for use by prenatal care, oral health, and child health professionals in bringing about changes in the health-care-delivery system and improving the standard of care for pregnant women and young children. Contents include general information about oral health and pregnancy and about oral health and early childhood, along with background information and specific recommendations for prenatal care, oral health, and child health professionals. An executive summary and instructions for using the guide are also provided. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

**Contact:** New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Dental Health, Corning Tower Building, Room 542, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237. Telephone: (518) 474-1961; fax: (518) 474-8985; e-mail: oralhealth@health.state.ny.us; website: http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental. Available at http://www.health.state.ny.us/publications/0824.pdf.

**ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**


This document presents clinical practice guidelines for the oral health care of pregnant women in South Carolina. The document contains data on infant mortality and preterm birth and the use of oral health care and counseling in South Carolina and recommendations for health professionals. Topics include strategies to improve access to care, key messages for pregnant women, and the oral health assessment. Recommendations for oral health professionals on conducting a health history, risk assessment, and examination; treating pregnant women; managing disease; and knowing when to consult a prenatal health professional are provided. Referral forms are included.

**Contact:** South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Telephone: (803) 898-3432; fax: (803) 898-3323; e-mail: form on website; website: http://www.scdhec.gov. Available at http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009437.pdf.

**ORAL HEALTH DURING PREGNANCY AND EARLY CHILDHOOD: EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**


These guidelines are designed to help health professionals deliver oral health services to pregnant women and young children. Topics include the importance of oral health; maternal physiological considerations related to oral health; pregnancy, oral conditions, and oral health care; oral health and early childhood; access to care; and systems improvement and public policy changes. Sample forms and websites for parents are included as appendices. A policy brief is also available.

**Contact:** California Dental Association Foundation, 1201 K Street, Suite 1511, Sacramento, CA 95814. Telephone: (800) 232-7645, ext. 4916; e-mail: foundationinfo@cda.org; website: http://
POLICY BRIEFS

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE DURING THE PERINATAL PERIOD: A POLICY BRIEF


This policy brief provides an overview of the major barriers to addressing women’s oral health needs during the perinatal period. The brief provides examples of strategies to promote the use of guidelines during the perinatal period, expand opportunities for professional and consumer education, increase dental insurance coverage, and integrate oral health care as a part of routine perinatal care. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

Contact: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/PerinatalBrief.pdf.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PERINATAL ORAL HEALTH CARE: STRATEGIES & CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTH PLANS


This issue brief explores how oral health practices and utilization of oral health care among pregnant women may affect a woman’s overall health, her birth outcomes, and her children’s oral health. Guidelines and statements are reviewed, and barriers that limit utilization of perinatal oral health care are explained. The brief describes opportunities for health plans to remove barriers to ensure that all pregnant women have access to oral health care during pregnancy. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]


INCREASING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IN MEDICAID: TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR FOUR POPULATIONS


This policy brief describes strategies that several states have used to address the oral health needs of Medicaid beneficiaries, including young children, pregnant women, people with developmental disabilities, and people living in rural areas. The brief also examines ways that California’s state agencies (including Denti-Cal, the state’s Medicaid dental program), dental associations, and universities have explored these issues, and additional steps the state might take to build on its efforts.

Contact: National Academy for State Health Policy, 10 Free Street, Second Floor, Portland, ME 04101. Telephone: (207) 874-6524; (202) 903-0101; fax: (207) 874-6527; e-mail: info@nashp.org; website: http://www.nashp.org. Available at http://www.nashp.org/sites/default/files/Dental_Reimbursements.pdf.

MEDICAID COVERAGE OF ADULT DENTAL SERVICES


This issue brief presents findings from a survey of Medicaid dental program managers to assess the status of states’ Medicaid coverage of adult (ages 21 and older) oral health services. Topics include categories of service (emergency services only, examinations, preventive services, basic restorative services, advanced restorative services,
periodontal services, dentures, oral surgery services; annual limits; variation in coverage (range of services) by state; and variation by population. Information on coverage for people with disabilities and for pregnant women is included.

**Contact:** National Academy for State Health Policy, 10 Free Street, Second Floor, Portland, ME 04101. Telephone: (207) 874-6524; (202) 903-0101; fax: (207) 874-6527; e-mail: info@nashp.org; website: http://www.nashp.org. Available at http://nashp.org/sites/default/files/Adult%20Dental%20Monitor.pdf?q=files/Adult%20Dental%20Monitor.pdf.

**MEDICAID COVERAGE OF DENTAL CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**


This policy brief examines state Medicaid oral health coverage for pregnant women. Topics include the importance of oral health during pregnancy, oral health care utilization, and state recommendations to improve access to oral health care for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]


**STATE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF WOMEN: FINAL REPORT**


This review examines the ways in which states are addressing women’s health and health care needs. The review explores the areas of women’s health that states are addressing as exemplified by priority needs statements, and it highlights specific state efforts to improve women’s health. The review also describes state performance measures for women’s health and implications for a national performance measure for women’s health. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

**Contact:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, 725 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, CB# 7590, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. Telephone: (919) 966-5011; e-mail: web@schsr.unc.edu; website: http://www.schsr.unc.edu. Available at http://mchb.hrsa.gov/grants/womenshealthrpt1262009.pdf.

**TOOLS**

**INVESTING IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH: AN EMPLOYER’S TOOLKIT (UPD. ED.)**


This kit outlines opportunities that employers have to improve the health of children and adolescents (from birth to age 21) and women (pre-conception, pregnant, and postpartum periods). Topics include health benefit design, beneficiary education and engagement, and health promotion programs. Recommendations related to minimum dental benefits, cost-sharing arrangements; and other information pertinent to plan design and administration are provided. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

**Contact:** National Business Group on Health, 20 F Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001-6700. Telephone: (202) 558-3000; fax: (202) 628-9244; e-mail: info@businessgrouphealth.org; website: http://www.businessgrouphealth.org. Available at http://www.businessgrouphealth.org/healthtopics/maternalchild/investing/docs/mch_toolkit.pdf.
ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES COLLABORATIVE IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL


This manual provides an overview of the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Oral Health Disparities Pilot, launched in 2005. The care model is described as it relates to the improvement of perinatal oral health and the treatment and prevention of early childhood caries. Contents describe lessons learned, oral health and medical primary care integration, the business case for oral health, a guide to getting started, and information about improving dental practice efficiency. Also included is Steps to Success, a compilation of change concepts and ideas for improving the oral health status of pregnant women and of infants and children from birth through age 5.

Contact: Health Care Communities, HRSA Healthcare Systems Bureau, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 12C-06, Rockville, MD 20857. Telephone: (301) 594-1390; fax: (301) 443-9795; e-mail: Quality@hrsa.gov; website: http://www.healthcarecommunities.org. Available at http://www.healthcarecommunities.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=2897.

PERINATAL SCREENING, RISK ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL FORM

New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. 2007. Perinatal Screening, Risk Assessment and Referral Form. Trenton, NJ: New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services. 2 items.

This risk-assessment screening tool collects information on pregnancy risk factors, medical conditions, and social risk factors. The tool directs health professionals to examine the teeth and gums of pregnant women and to refer women with periodontal disease or other oral health problems to local oral health professionals for care. The form is designed to be incorporated into a central data repository for use by Medicaid managed care health plans in New Jersey. An accompanying document provides information on the pilot project, including design, implementation, key lessons, and future plans.

Contact: New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, P.O. Box 728, Trenton, NJ 08625-0212. Telephone: (800) 356-1561; website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/index.html. Available at http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/PRA_Form.pdf.

PREGNANCY AND DENTAL CARE


This mini-poster and wallet card remind pregnant women of the importance of healthy teeth and gums and visiting the dentist or dental hygienist during pregnancy. Information on the relationship between germs in the mouth, tooth decay, and infant health is provided. The materials are available in English and Spanish. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

Contact: New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Dental Health, Corning Tower Building, Room 542, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237. Telephone: (518) 474-1961; fax: (518) 474-8985; e-mail: oralhealth@health.state.ny.us; website: http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental. Available at http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/dental/publications.htm.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS: FOCUS ON PREGNANCY AND PERIODONTAL HEALTH


This resource features selected materials on pregnancy and periodontal health. It includes a list of materials such as brochures and handouts for pregnant women, policy briefs, practice guidelines, program reports, and websites. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

Contact: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, Georgetown University, Box 571272, Washington, DC 20057-1272. Telephone: (202) 784-9771; fax: (202) 784-9777; e-mail: OHRCinfo@georgetown.edu; website: http://www.mchoralhealth.org. Available at http://www.mchoralhealth.org/highlights/pregperio.html.
SMILES FOR LIFE: A NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH CURRICULUM (3RD ED.)


This curriculum comprises eight modules covering core areas of oral health, including oral health and the pregnant patient. Modules include presenter notes, companion videos, an implementation guide, educational objectives, test questions, and text resources. The modules may be completed online or downloaded and are suitable for individual or small-group education. Pocket cards and mobile device applications that summarize key point-of-care information on adult oral health and dental emergencies are available. Posters in English and Spanish may also be downloaded from the website.

Contact: Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 540, Leawood, KS 66211. Telephone: (913) 906-6000; (800) 274-7928; fax: (913) 906-6096; e-mail: stfmo@stfm.org; website: http://www.stfm.org. Available at http://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org.

TEXT4BABY


This free mobile information service provides health tips timed to a woman’s stage of pregnancy or an infant’s age. The service enables pregnant women and new mothers to get health information delivered regularly to their mobile phones by text message. Messages focus on topics such as nutrition, breastfeeding, oral health, and tobacco use. The program also connects women to public clinics and support services for prenatal and infant care. Messages are available in English and Spanish.

Contact: National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, 2000 North Beauregard Street, Sixth Floor, Alexandria, VA 22311-1748. Telephone: (703) 837-4792; fax: (703) 684-5968; e-mail: info@hmhb.org; website: http://www.hmhb.org. Available at no charge at http://www.text4baby.org.

WEBCASTS AND WEBINARS

ENGAGING PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE PERINATAL AND INFANT ORAL HEALTH: INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES


This webinar, which was held on April 16, 2009, focuses on interventions designed to improve perinatal and infant oral health. Topics include preventing disease, assessing risk, and increasing access to care by engaging professionals who provide services for pregnant women, infants, and their families. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]

Contact: Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, Parklawn Building, Room 18-05, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Telephone: (301) 443-2170; (800) 311-BABY (311-2229); (800) 504-7081; website: http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov. Available at http://webcast.hrsa.gov/Postevents/archivedWebcastDetail.asp?aeid=494.
Organizations
ACADEMY OF GENERAL DENTISTRY
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611-1999
Telephone: (888) 243-3368
Website: http://www.agd.org

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) serves the needs of general dentists, represents their interests, and provides continuing education. AGD's website features a message board where consumers can post questions that will be answered by a dentist, a referral service and directory, and a monthly e-newsletter.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
P.O. Box 11210
Shawnee Mission, KS 66207-1210
Telephone: (913) 906-6000

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) promotes the science and art of family medicine to provide high-quality, cost-effective health care for clients. AAFP's websites contain information on clinical care and research, policy and advocacy, careers, and educational resources.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
141 Northwest Point Boulevard
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Telephone: (847) 434-4779, (866) 843-2271
E-mail: oralhealthinfo@aap.org
Website: http://www.aap.org

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) works to improve children's oral health by fostering communication and collaboration between medical and dental homes and to make pediatricians and other health professionals an essential part of the oral health team. AAP's Section on Oral Health and Chapter Oral Health Advocates provide education, training, and advocacy for pediatricians, dentists, other health professionals, and families. The Section on Perinatal Pediatrics works to improve the health of pregnant women, unborn fetuses, and newborn infants by sponsoring programs, improving care delivery, supporting continuing and postgraduate education, fostering research, and seeking funding for maternal and child health programs.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY
737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60611-6660
Telephone: (312) 787-5518
Website: http://www.perio.org

The American Academy of Periodontology seeks to advance the periodontal health of the public and to represent and serve the academy's members. The academy's website provides information on periodontal disease, including fact sheets and other educational materials and frequently asked questions. The site also includes a database for finding a periodontist.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
2318 Mill Road, Suite 1300
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: (703) 836-2272
Fax: (703) 684-1924
E-mail: aapa@aapa.org
Website: http://www.aapa.org

The American Academy of Physician Assistants works to provide high-quality, cost-effective, and accessible health care by supporting the professional and personal development of physician assistants. The website provides information on the profession, careers, and practice; continuing medical education; research; news and publications; and events.
The American Dental Association (ADA) is committed to the public’s oral health and to ethics, science, and professional advancement. Initiatives include advocacy, education, research, and the development of standards. ADA’s website contains information on continuing education, volunteer opportunities, and information for families.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) provides education, improves health care for women through practice and research, and offers support and services for members. ACOG provides educational materials on pregnancy, birth, contraception, reproductive health, and issues relevant to women’s health, such as outreach to underserved women. Statistics from a variety of resources are posted on the website, along with guides to selected resources. Services to consumers include inquiry responses and publications. Some materials are available in Spanish.

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) works to improve services for mothers and infants in cooperation with other allied groups. ACNM’s website includes information in English, Spanish, French, and Asian languages. ACNM also offers a website for consumers called mymidwife.org.

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) works to advance the art and science of dental hygiene, promote standards of education and practice in the profession, and provide professional support and educational programs. ADHA’s website offers information about continuing education, career opportunities in public health, and publications. The site also features resources for families, including materials in Spanish.

The Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP) educates health professionals across disciplines and specialties. ARHP produces accredited programs for health professionals across a range of reproductive health topics. The website provides information on professional education, policy and advocacy, publications and resources, and news.

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) formulates national oral health public policy and promotes its establishment and assists state oral health programs in developing and implementing programs and policies for the prevention and control of oral diseases. ASTDD’s website contains information on national, state, and local partners; state reports and action plans; and related resources.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health, provides leadership in preventing and controlling oral disease, promoting oral health, and improving the quality of community water fluoridation. The division’s website includes information for health professionals and consumers in English and Spanish.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services offers guidance to states administering Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and provides services to beneficiaries and health professionals. The website contains an overview of Medicaid dental coverage, a guide to children’s oral health care in Medicaid, and Medicaid/CHIP contacts. The site also includes national and state reports as well as information on policy issues, promising practices, and innovations.

The Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Women’s Health works to protect and advance the health of women through policy, science, and outreach and advocates for women’s participation in clinical trials. The website provides information on women’s health topics, product recalls and alerts, science program outcomes, and related links.

The March of Dimes (MOD) works to promote healthy pregnancies and to prevent congenital disabilities, premature births, and infant mortality. MOD fosters research and advocacy efforts, shares best practices, and conducts educational campaigns. The website provides information about MOD’s national and local efforts, research, advocacy, and campaigns. Statistics and educational resources are available for professionals and communities.

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau provides leadership, partnership, and resources to advance the health of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents, including those with special health care needs. Services to health professionals and consumers include referrals, publications, and a hotline for prenatal care information.

The Medicaid-Chip State Dental Association (MSDA) works to optimize the oral health of Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries by developing, promoting, and promulgating evidence- and best practices-based state and national Medicaid/CHIP oral health policies and practices. The website provides news and information about events, resources, and partners.
The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) works to improve the quality of health care for infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. NAPNAP sponsors conferences and collaborates with a number of nursing and other health organizations. Publications include a newsletter and a journal.

The National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) improves the health and safety of mothers, infants, and families through education and collaborative partnerships of public and private organizations. Products include a weekly newsletter, educational materials, and a maternal and child health webinar series. HMHB also sponsors the national public-awareness campaigns text4baby and Healthy Beginnings for Babies.

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) seeks to improve oral health through research, training, and the dissemination of information. NIDCR’s National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse (NOHIC) also provides information and materials on topics related to children’s oral health. NOHIC produces and distributes consumer-education and professional-education materials and provides information on organizations.

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) gathers, develops, and shares information and materials to respond to the needs of states and communities in addressing current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC’s website describes and provides links to professional and family resources, including brochures, curricula, fact sheets, guidelines, manuals, policies, and reports.

The National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) provides advocacy and support for health centers working to improve the oral health status of underserved populations. NNOHA’s website includes news and membership information as well as information on careers, events, forums, medical/dental partnership, policy and advocacy, programs and initiatives, publications, and other resources.