

NC Oral Health Section
Historical Perspective

- 2013 – significant cuts to Section staff
- 2014 – state developed an Oral Health Strategic Plan
 - To conduct oral surveillance in adult populations
 - To introduce programs for new populations
 - To offer more preventive services
- 2015 – Section was reorganized to a regional model in an effort to meet the directives of the 2014 Strategic Plan
 - Completed first statewide oral health survey of elderly in assisted living facilities



NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

Pregnant Women

- Many do not understand the connection between oral health care and pregnancy
- Belief that poor oral health status during pregnancy is normal
- Often do not seek or receive oral health care
 - U.S. – only 49% visited a dentist during pregnancy (2011 PRAMS)
 - North Carolina – 45% (2011 PRAMS)



NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

Healthcare Providers

- Many medical providers do not understand the connection between oral health and pregnancy
- Lack of routine assessment of pregnant women's oral health status and referral to dental professionals by medical professionals
- Dental professionals tend to postpone providing oral health care to pregnant women



NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

Importance of Oral Health Care during Pregnancy

- Educating pregnant women about preventing and treating dental caries is critical
- Most young children acquire caries-causing bacteria from their mothers
- Counseling may reduce transmission of bacteria from mothers to young children, thereby preventing or delaying onset of caries



NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

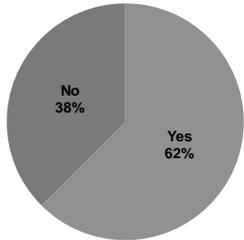
Key Messages for You to Share

- Pregnancy is a unique period characterized by physiological changes, which may adversely affect oral health.
- Prenatal oral health can affect the health of the baby
- Oral health is key to overall health and well-being.
- Preventive, diagnostic, and restorative dental treatment is safe throughout pregnancy.



Oral Health Partnership grantee survey respondents:

Medical providers performing prenatal oral screenings

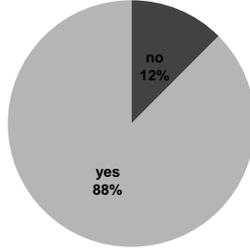


Response	Percentage
No	38%
Yes	62%



Oral Health Partnership grantee survey respondents:

Medical providers aware of ACOG recommendations



NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

What is Happening Nationally?

- Several states have created guidelines for oral health care during pregnancy
- Educational resources
- Many national organizations have issued statements and developed recommendations

[http://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175\(16\)30159-9/abstract](http://www.jognn.org/article/S0884-2175(16)30159-9/abstract)

NC Oral Health Section
Perinatal Oral Health

What is Happening in North Carolina?

Earlier this year, DHHS pulled together the NC Perinatal Oral Health Task Force

The Task Force's aims are to:

1. strengthen medical-dental collaboration surrounding perinatal oral health
2. develop Practice Guidelines and effect policy change
3. create another collaborative practice program modeled after the IMB program

NC Oral Health Section
Oral Health Screening Survey

Oral Health Surveillance

- Guide action for cases of public health importance
- Measure the burden of a disease, the identification of populations at high risk, and the identification of new or emerging health concerns
- Monitor trends in the burden of a disease
- Guide programs to prevent and control disease
- Evaluate public policy
- Detect changes in health practices and the effects of these changes
- Prioritize the allocation of health resources
- Develop hypotheses for epidemiologic research



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NC Oral Health Section
Oral Health Screening Survey

Opportunity for Partnership

- First statewide survey of this population in North Carolina
- Build upon our existing partnerships with county programs
 - Focus on local health departments that provide offer prenatal care services

Goal: by end of September 2016, screen at least 400 pregnant women, inclusive of at least the health departments offering direct prenatal care



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NC Oral Health Section
Oral Health Screening Survey

Opportunity for Partnership

- Minimum, if any, burden on health department staff
- The Ask:
 - Allow us to screen for 1 or 2 days
 - Promote the screenings to your patients
 - Provide small private or semi-private area
 - *If feasible and necessary*, assistance from your interpreter
 - Survey is web-based, so we may ask about wireless internet reception (will use paper surveys if absolutely necessary)



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NC Oral Health Section
Oral Health Screening Survey

Opportunity for Partnership

- We would like to know if you have an existing dental referral list
- We will follow your HIPAA requirements, but identifiable information will not be collected



NC Oral Health Section
Oral Health Screening Survey

Opportunity for Partnership

- Section's public health dental hygienists will be conducting the screening surveys
 - Guided questionnaire – approx. 10 minutes
 - Available in Spanish
 - Non-invasive oral screening – approx. 5 minutes
 - No x-rays or treatment provided
 - Minimum burden on survey participants
 - Voluntary participation, verbal consent
 - Pregnant minors (17 and younger) excluded



Participant Benefits



- Screening results form
- Dental referral list by county
 - Medicaid providers who treat pregnant women
- Gift bag:
 - Oral health board book
 - Adult & toddler toothbrushes
 - Adult toothpaste

Partner & Public Benefits

- Results will be shared with our stakeholders & partners
 - Perinatal Oral Health Task Force
 - National Oral Health Surveillance System
 - NCALHD
 - DPH, Women's Health Branch
 - Public dissemination via OHS website
- Findings will be used to develop preventive oral health programs and drive health policy
- Health Department accreditation
 - Community collaboration
 - Research (Note: these screenings are not for research)



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Our goal is to be as non-disruptive as possible, so let us know how we can best screen in your clinic!

THANK YOU



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