

# Perinatal & Infant Oral Health in Virginia



Virginia Department of Health  
Division of Prevention and Health Promotion  
Dental Health Program

# Critical Time to Address Perinatal Oral Health

- Release of Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement
- HRSA launched the Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) initiative as a pilot grant program
- HRSA expanded PIOHQIE Grant funding
- VAOH Coalition began providing interprofessional trainings
- Governor's *A Healthy Virginia Program* expanded dental coverage for pregnant women

# Medicaid Dental Coverage

- Smiles For Children - March 1, 2015
- Provides dental services to pregnant women age 21+
- Covered procedures
  - x-rays
  - exams
  - cleanings
  - fillings
  - gum related treatment
  - root canals
  - crowns, bridges,
  - partials dentures
  - extractions
  - other oral surgeries
- Dental benefits stop at the end of the month following the 60th day postpartum

# Title V MCH and Oral Health in Virginia

- Previously, mostly Title V MCH funded
- Changed with new categorical grant funding and State General Fund allocations
- Continue to maintain and expand relationships with Title V Programs

# Text4baby



- Free text messages with oral health information and resources
- Customized with Virginia specific information
- Available in English and Spanish
- Messages timed to baby's due date or birth date, through pregnancy and to baby's first birthday

# Bright Smiles for Babies Fluoride Varnish Program

- Purpose
  - Reduce the risk of early childhood caries in high risk populations (demographic and special needs)
  - Increase awareness and knowledge of medical and early child providers
  - Educate parents about the importance of primary dentition and daily oral care
  - Improve access to preventive dental services via non-dental settings

# Bright Smiles for Babies Fluoride Varnish Program

- Services provided in WIC and Well Child Health Department clinics
- Billable service
- Services provided:
  - Oral screening
  - Fluoride varnish application
  - Oral health education
  - Dental home referrals

Knee - to - knee positioning



# Virginia's ISHCN Oral Health Program

- Began as part of the Bright Smiles for Babies program - focus on oral health care for children with special health care needs
- Now a distinct program for all ages of individuals with special health care needs
- Training provided to a variety of stakeholders on topics related to oral health
- Continuing education courses provided for dental professionals statewide to increasing awareness of the needs of special populations



# New Oral Health Initiative

- Educate maternal clients regarding oral health during pregnancy and pre-conceptual visits
- Educate maternal clients about the components of the Age 1 dental visit
- Refer women for professional dental care
- Follow-up with women for professional dental care
- Establish a dental home by Age 1

# Virginia's Perinatal Oral Health Initiatives/Activities

- Screening/referrals for pregnant women in WIC
- Bright Smiles for Babies Program in WIC and Head Start
- Healthcare provider trainings
- Individuals with Special Health Care Needs Program
- Promotion of resources



# WIC Basic Screening Survey

- Purpose:
  - To obtain a statewide estimate of oral health status of pregnant women enrolled in WIC
  - To collect specific oral health indices and information about self-care, access, and utilization of oral health services for this population
  - To use results for policy and program planning purposes to address disparities in access to dental care and oral health outcomes among this population.

# WIC Basic Screening Survey

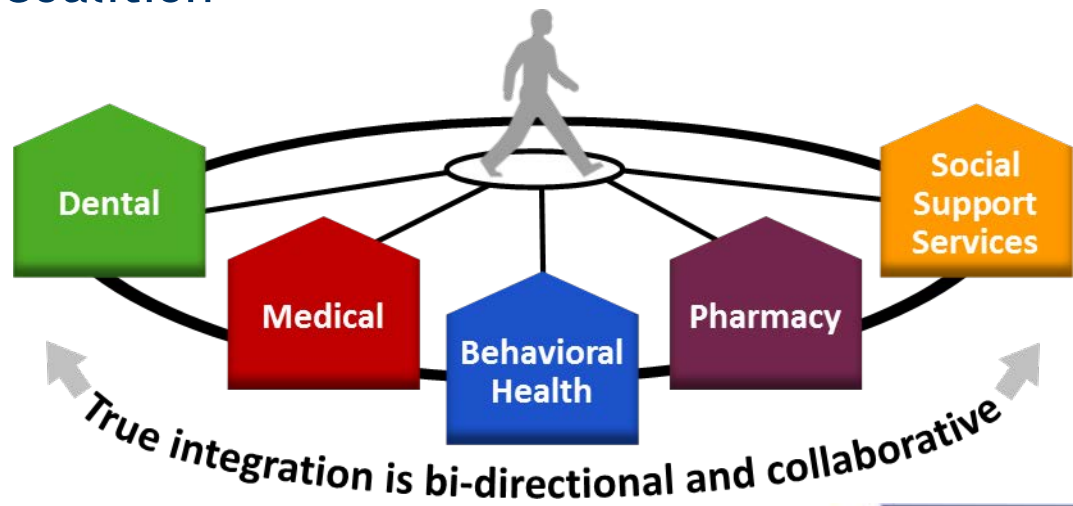
Two components: Questionnaire and Clinical Exam

- Questionnaire variables based on national surveys including BRFSS and PRAMS
  - Demographics, risk factors, oral hygiene habits, access to dental services, oral health conditions
- Clinical variables based on Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Basic Screening Survey
  - Caries, gum disease, urgency of care

# Oral Health Resources

## Virginia Oral Health Websites

- Virginia Department of Health-Dental Health Program  
<http://www.vdh.virignia.gov/livewell/programs/oralhealth>
- Virginia Oral Health Coalition  
[www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org)



# Contact Information

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