



Community Health Newsletter

November 2011



Public Health
MADISON & DANE COUNTY

Healthy people and places

From Your Oral Health Team!

Children's Dental Health Program

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Our Children's Dental Health Program (CDHP) has been serving clients referred from Public Health since the mid 1970s. This program was developed in partnership with the Madison Area Technical College (Madison College) Dental Hygiene Program to provide comprehensive dental care for uninsured adults and children. It was later modified to serve uninsured children ages 4 through 18 and has been a dental home for many children throughout the years.

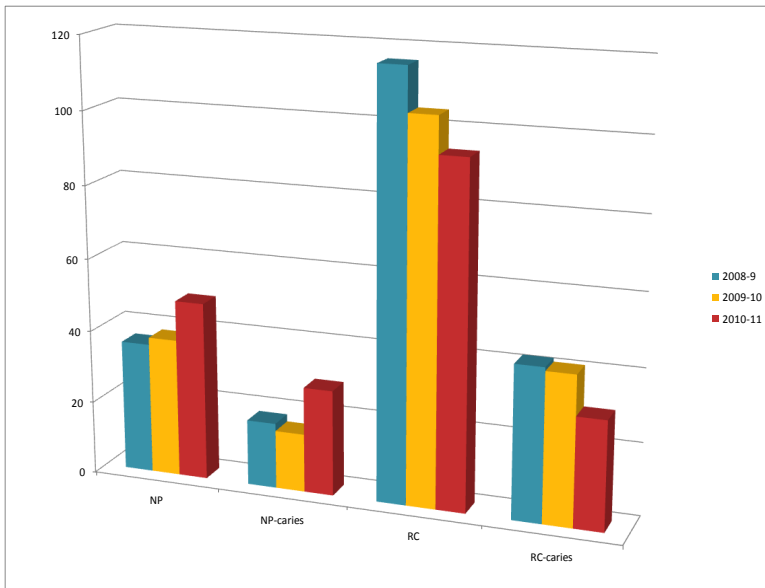
We've collected some recent data that illustrates caries rates and numbers of



CDHP children (clients). On the graph shown, the number of new clients has increased slightly each year while returning (recall) clients has decreased. This is positive data since our new/recall client mix has remained stable even without Well Child Clinic as our primary referral source. While new clients present with relatively high rates of caries (~51%), returning children's caries rates continue to decrease with each year in the program. [see graph, column 3, (~37%)] The goal is to see a consistent decline of caries in our established clients resulting in improved oral health in the community through educating families and providing prevention and treatment services. We collaborate with Madison College and

our contract interpreters on best practice approaches and continue to look for ways to improve the program to provide the greatest impact for the most children each year.

This past year has seen many changes in our state and local communities including PHMDC, and our oral health programs are not exempt from adaptation. In preparation for future Madison College developments, we began to transfer more of the administrative duties of CDHP to a bilingual dental assistant/administrator who works for Madison College. The college plans to build a new health occupations facility at their Truax campus which will include dental clinic space with greater capacity for serving the needs of the community.



NP = new patient RC = recall patient

Fluoride Supplement Program

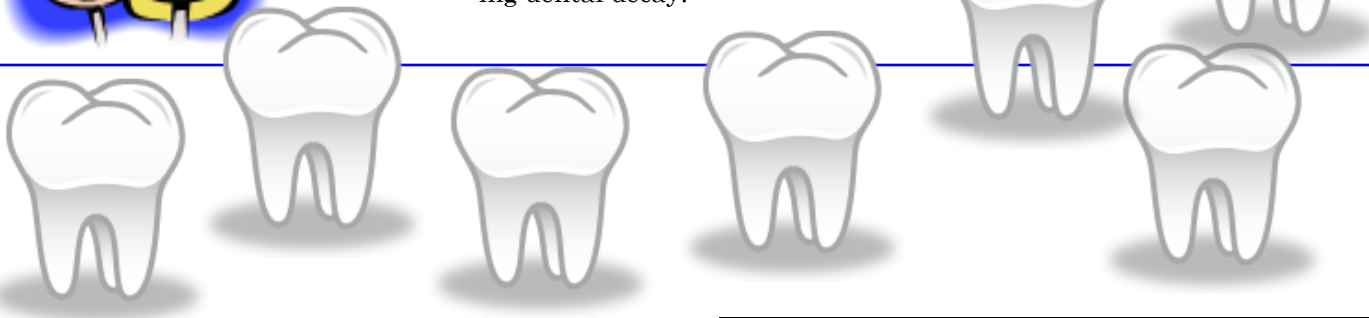
The Dane County Fluoride Supplement Program has undergone some recent changes. With Ellie Nienmeier's retirement from Public Health in June, Fuechou Thao has been operating the program. He is doing a great job and continues to provide fluoride supplements to about one thousand children throughout Dane County. Beginning in January, we will be piloting a modification of the program that will allow children with MA coverage to get their supplements directly from their own pharmacy instead of waiting for mail delivery from PHMDC. By streamlining this process our funding will go further enabling the program to serve more families.

The families we serve have either private wells or live in the village of Dane. Before entering our program they will have had their water tested to determine the amount, if any, of fluoride in their drinking water. Extensive studies over the past 50 years have established that individuals whose drinking water is fluoridated show a definite reduction in dental caries.

When used appropriately, fluoride is a safe and effective agent that can be used to prevent and control dental caries. Fluoride is needed regularly throughout life to protect teeth against tooth decay. Our goal is to reduce the incidence of dental caries in children throughout Dane County by assuring that a sufficient amount of fluoride is accessible to everyone. Water fluoridation is the number one preventive advantage in reducing dental decay.



Fuechou Thao
Fluoride Supplement Program
Administrator



←Maureen Oostdik:
 Dental Coordinator for Public Health Madison & Dane County

Genaro Villareal: →
 Children's Dental Health Program
 Spanish Interpreter

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 Public Health Dental Hygienist



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Dental Screenings and Referrals for Refugees

Public Health Madison and Dane County is well known for the excellent services provided for refugees, immigrants and asylees living in Dane County. Our Refugee Team PHNs are exceptional!

One of the many screening services we provide is a dental screening. In the past year the largest number of refugees have been Bhutanese from the camps in Nepal. Most of them have never had any type of dental experience. Their treatment needs are often very extensive and the amount of case management required to help them complete their treatment is



more than any one agency can handle. We are fortunate to have four resources in our community to refer these clients. The children who are under the age of 10 years are referred to a pediatric dental clinic. Madison College Dental Hy-

giene Clinic has been taking about 10 new Nepali referrals each semester. Max Pohle Dental Clinic cares for our clients with special needs and Access Community Health Center Dental Clinic has a standing appointment slot for one new Nepali-speaking client each week. These gracious providers are wonderful to work with and provide quality care for these people. We make every attempt to avoid overwhelming our resources, so the queue for care is prioritized carefully and evaluated often.

Oral Health Coalition of Dane County



ORAL HEALTH COALITION OF DANE COUNTY

The past 2 years have been a growth period for the Oral Health Coalition of Dane County (OHCDC). Although a small group of community partners has been meeting for several years, the Coalition became official in February of 2010. The OHCDC is the result of community partners wanting to increase awareness of oral health issues.

The mission of the OHCDC is to: **Improve oral health through prevention, education and increased access to dental care for community members of all ages in Dane County.** The number of Coalition members has been growing and sub-committees have been formed. The Education, Advocacy and Data Committees are working with their identified goals to:

- Collect data to identify unmet oral health needs in the community . [A

report (including Hospital ED information and treatment for dental pain) is expected early spring 2012.]

- Provide and promote community-wide oral health education and prevention messages. [Posters relating to sugar drinks were developed and distributed to all Dane County Schools!]
- Engage local decision makers in oral health issues on local, regional and state levels. [Letters were sent this month to all Dane County legislators to introduce the Coalition and invite their participation.]
- Continue with Coalition infrastructure building.

The Coalition's Executive Committee consists of :

- President—Nan Peterson, RN, MS
- Vice President—Stan Brysh, DDS
- Secretary— Maureen Oostdik, RDH

The Coalition meets four times a year. Subcommittees meet between quarterly meetings to accomplish duties and short-term goals.

Some of the community partners repre-

sented on the Coalition are Public Health Madison & Dane County, Meriter Health Services, Salvation Army/ Riverplace Dental , Madison Metropolitan School District , Access Community Health Center, American Family Children's Hospital, Madison College, Give Kids a Smile, GHC, Dane County Parent Council, Children's Health Alliance of WI, University of WI Medical Foundation/Unity, United Way, Porchlight/ PATH Reach Out, WI Dept. of Health Services-Oral Health Program, Aids Network and UW CITR -Collaborative Center for Health Equity.

This collaboration has a great deal of work ahead, but now Dane County has one more arrow in their quiver, advocating for oral health as an integral part of overall health.



HAS IT BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU'VE BEEN TO THE DENTIST? ©SmartPractices®