

MCHD Dental Outreach Summary 2016-17 School Year

The Superior District Dental Society (SDDS) purchased ‘Transport a Tooth’ kits for our area schools. If a tooth is “knocked out” it is placed in the kit’s solution. The student and the kit are taken to the dentist ASAP. The solution helps preserve the tooth so it may be placed into the student’s mouth. A local pharmacy makes the kits at cost for the program. The *Marquette County Health Department* (MCHD) “Dental Outreach Program” delivers the kits along with directions and phone contacts for replacement kits to all area schools. **The kits are due to expire in June 2018. (The kits have a two-year expiration date.)**

Six (6) out of eight (8) eligible Marquette County schools participated in the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program (FMP) for the 2016-17 school year. Out of 6 participating schools, **1,650** students could have rinsed weekly, and **1,046** actually did for a **63%** participation rate! (Cherry Creek Elementary School in Marquette, Michigan is still not participating in the program. Republic-Michigamme Schools did not participate.) Those schools participating: Aspen Ridge Elementary; Wells Township; Powell Township; Lakeview Elementary; Birchview Elementary; and Gilbert Elementary. Elementary schools located in areas with non-fluoridated water supplies are eligible. (*Schools that have children living in areas with fluoridated water supplies and have a significant amount of students in the free/reduce breakfast/lunch programs and busing children from townships with non-fluoride supplies; school of choice students; are also eligible.*) **The FMP is free to all students who return a signed parental consent allowing them to participate.** The students rinse once a week, for one minute (with fluoride) throughout the school year. Supplies and training are provided to the schools by the MCHD’s Dental Hygienist. Parent volunteers, teachers, aides, and school nurses are trained to implement the program. The program, training, and supplies are provided to the schools free also! The program is a wonderful addition to daily oral hygiene habits and regular dental visits. The FMP not meant to replace brushing, flossing, or trips to the dentist. With financial help from *My Community Dental Centers* (MCDC), the MCHD will once again provide Marquette County elementary schools with the FMP for the 2016-17 school year.

Marquette Dental Clinic/MCDC contact information, toothbrushes, and prevention pamphlets have been distributed to our two hospitals for their ‘newborn parent packets’ in an effort to **prevent Early Childhood Caries (ECC).** On average, both hospitals combined deliver approximately **800 newborn infants.**

The MCHD continues to participate in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services dental program initiated in 2012 called Varnish! Michigan-Babies Too! **The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) sees eligible families/mothers and infants to age 1 year. The Women, Infant, Children Program (WIC) see eligible families/mothers and children ages 6 months to 5 years old.** Children enrolled in both programs are eligible for an oral screening (once every 6 months) and fluoride varnish application (up to 4 times a year) during MIHP home visits and WIC appointments. This program along with education provided to the caregivers is a wonderful adjunct to ECC prevention efforts. The SDDS helped the MCHD with a list of area dentists including phone contacts, to give to families we work with. These dentists provide services to children enrolled in Healthy Kids and MChild. **Since 2012, 697 oral screening and fluoride varnish treatments have been applied!**


The MCHD’s Dental Hygienist visits area kindergarten classrooms to teach good oral health habits to students in a ‘game-like’ atmosphere. Marquette Dental Clinic information, prevention materials, toothbrushes, and stickers were given to all students. Approximately **654 kindergarten students and teachers** enjoyed a visit from the Dental Hygienist this school year.

Marquette Dental Clinic information and toothbrushes are distributed during health fairs, the annual community baby shower, and other area events and agencies. This year, approximately **600 people received dental information and toothbrushes** through a variety of community outreach services.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation (BCBSMF) awarded the MCHD with **\$50,000** to fund the next phase of the OHG. Beginning in June 2016, this project will be funded for a two-year period. The Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) also awarded the MCHD with additional **\$5,000** in matching funds for the project. “Phase II” of the OHG will continue the dental prevention outreach work that has already been started across the U.P. The components include:

- *Assisting additional U.P. elementary schools in establishing and sustaining school fluoride rinse programs.**
- *Training additional primary care physician (PCP) offices in providing oral screenings and the fluoride varnish applications to high risk children ages 6-months to 3-years of age since PCP offices typically see babies, toddlers, and very young children before the dentist does.**
- *Assisting eligible families in linking with state insurance programs such as MICHild and Healthy Kids to make dental services affordable.**
- *Evaluating the impact of the U.P. Wide Smiles Initiative on the oral health of children.**

The MCHD was chosen to be included as a highlighted news story in the 2016 BCBSMF’s Annual Report:



PREVENTATIVE SERVICES
MARQUETTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Nationally, the standard for a child's first dentist visit is before his or her first birthday. But in the Upper Peninsula, many children don't have the luxury of seeing a dentist as often as they should – or even before age eighteen. Children in the U.P. are at a much higher risk of dental disease and tooth decay due to limited access to fluoridated water and topical fluorides, widespread poverty, and a shortage of dentists in their area. These factors, as well as limited understanding of basic oral health information, continue the harmful trend of poor oral health among children, leading to other health issues.



The MCHD continues their work on the second year of the BCBSMF grant. We are continuing to gather dental data from U.P. Dentists and the State of Michigan’s Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Division – so we can measure the impact of the U.P. Wide Smiles efforts.

