

## *MCHD Dental Outreach Summary 2017-18 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.)**

Seven (7) out of eight (8) eligible Marquette County schools participated in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Fluoride Mouthrinse Program (FMP) for the 2017-18 school year. Out of 7 participating schools, **1,634** students could have rinsed weekly, and **1,060** actually did for a **64%** participation rate! (Cherry Creek Elementary School in Marquette, Michigan is still not participating in the program.) Those schools participating: Republic-Michigamme School; 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 2018-19 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 **800-900 newborn infants**.

The MCHD continues to participate in the MDHHS 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 Dental and MICHild. **Since 2012, 767 oral screening and fluoride varnish treatments have been applied!** This program not meant to replace brushing, flossing, or trips to the dentist.

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 **824 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 **920 people received dental information and toothbrushes** through a variety of community outreach services.

## **Update on “UP Wide Smiles Oral Health Initiative Phase I & II” Oral Health Grants**

The MCHD and the other 5 U.P. Health Departments were recipients of two Oral Health Grants (OHG), *U.P. Wide Smiles Oral Health Initiative Phase I & II*. The OHG were from the Superior Health Foundation (SHF) in 2014 and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation (BCBSMF) along with the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) in 2016. The MCHD was the fiduciary and the coordinator for the OHG.

Prior to the OHG, there were only 11 U.P. elementary schools participating in the MDHHS *School Fluoride Mouthrinse Program*. Through the program, students obtain parental consent and rinse with fluoride once a week for one minute throughout the school year. At the present time, we have 37 schools participating in the program! This program is successful because teachers, aides, nurses, and volunteers work every week to make sure the students are able to rinse with the fluoride, which is provided free to the schools.

Another success is all 6 U.P. Health Departments’ WIC and MIHP nurses have been trained to provide oral screenings and “fluoride varnish” to high risk children ages 6 months to 5 years of age during WIC appointments and MIHP home visits. The MDHHS program called *Varnish! Michigan-Babies Too!* provides medical providers such as nurses, doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants with training and free varnish for their clients. Although the varnish is free, the agencies can still bill for services. Prior to the OHG, only 3 of the 6 U.P. Health Departments participated in the program. New staff will continue to be trained.

Oral screenings and fluoride varnish for young children are also recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for pediatric and primary care physician offices (PCP). With the OHG, we were able to provide trainings to PCP through *Smiles for Life* and *Varnish! Michigan-Babies Too!* Prior to the OHG, zero offices were providing this services. To date U.P. wide, 17 offices have been trained/committed and 8 others are interested in the training. With the AAP Periodicity Schedule updated to include fluoride varnish for young children, we should see much more commitment to the program in the next few years. A barrier to this particular program is turn-over of staff at PCP and also the sale and purchase of health agencies and companies, such as Aspirus in the west end of the U.P. A huge victory was the recent training at UP Health Systems in Marquette. This has brought on more interest in fluoride varnish with other UP Health Systems offices across the U.P.

Several dental offices (DDS) across the U.P. are willing to see young children that are enrolled in *Healthy Kids Dental* (HKD). To date, there are 44 U.P. DDS that see high risk children for dental treatment and to establish a “dental home.” Prior to the OHG, there were no collaboratively written lists of U.P. DDS to distribute to families/children in need of dental treatment and care.

We have begun evaluating the impact of the OHG on the oral health of U.P. children with the cooperation of dental information and statistics from local U.P. DDS doing hospital-based dental treatment and the MDHHS. We are now able to collect data on hospital-based dental treatment, age of first caries experience, and dental claims for restorative work on high risk, young children from all counties of the U.P.

### **Prior to UP Wide Smiles OHG**

11 U.P. Elementary Schools rinsing with Fluoride Mouthrinse  
3 U.P. Health Departments’ WIC/MIPH utilizing Fluoride Varnish  
0 U.P. Pediatric/PCP offices providing Fluoride Varnish  
? U.P. DDS seeing HKD children for dental treatment/care

### **With UP Wide Smiles OHG**

37 schools currently participating  
All 6 Health Dpts participating  
17 offices trained/committed  
44 U.P. DDS seeing HKD children

