Innovations in Oral Health for the Underserved of Santa Clara County

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Outline

- Healthier, Earlier? Current state of Oral Health for American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children
  - Caries (tooth decay) is the #1 chronic disease in all children
- Determinants of Health: Access, Availability, Quality
- Caries Balance and Imbalance
- Whole Child Care – Quality & Integrative
- Virtual Dental Home – Access & Availability
- Triple Aim → Quadruple Aim
Healthier, Earlier? Current Oral Health of AI/AN

Percentage of Children

Age in Years

1 2 3 4 5

18.10% 39.40% 59.90% 69.40% 75.60%

Determinants of Health
Current State of Dentistry

Dentistry, with its surgical tradition, commonly approaches dental caries as...

- **acute surgical problem** requiring restoration and repair rather than

- **chronic medical disease process** requiring individually-tailored management of etiologic factors, “Chronic Disease Management”

*Caries is a preventable disease!*
Caries Balance and Imbalance

Disease Indicators:
- White spots
- Restorations < 3 years
- Enamel lesions
- Cavities/dentin

Risk Factors:
- Bad bacteria
- Absence of saliva
- Dietary habits (poor)

Protective Factors:
- Saliva & sealants
- Antibacterials
- Fluoride
- Effective diet

Caries Progression

Healthy pH

Low pH

No Caries
Whole Child Care at IHCSCV

• All children with a high caries risk assessment are scheduled with a dietitian at Indian Health Center-Pediatric Center

• Treatment provided holistically and in a comfortable environment with parent(s) present in operatory room
Pediatric Dental Office
Virtual Dental Home

- VDH is a community-based oral health delivery system in which people receive dental diagnostic, preventive, and early intervention services in community settings beyond “the 4-walls” of a dental office
- Reduces geographical barriers of care by delivery at schools, Head Start sites, low-income community centers, nursing homes, WIC centers, etc
  - Primary Target: Expectant mothers and children
- Placement of Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR) by a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)
- Referral for treatment or case management intervention to our Pediatric Dental Office and/or our Dietitian
Triple Aim → Quadruple Aim

- Improved Dental Team Experiences
- Improved Patient Outcomes
- Lower Cost of Care
- Improved Patient Experiences
Healthier, Earlier & Improving Patient Outcomes

- Whole Child Care:
  - High caries risk assessed patients have case management intervention with a dietitian
- Virtual Dental Home:
  - Improves access and availability of high quality oral health care
  - Expectant Mothers and Children
- Quadruple aim:
  - Improvement of dental team experiences, improves patient outcomes, which improves patient experiences, and reduces cost of care continuously
Q&A