

Child and Adolescent Oral Health

Dental Health in Summit County

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Executive Summary

Improper oral care is often an unintentional lifestyle that can lead to a variety of health issues. Lacking access to oral health care services is a problem faced by many, which can lead to adverse economic and health consequences. Tooth decay is one of the earliest indicators of inadequate oral health care in children. By utilizing a preventative approach that offers fluoride tablets to elementary children in fluoride-deficient communities, the prevalence of oral cavities can be combated.

Problem Statement

Tooth decay is one of the most predominant issues in the United States.

- One out of every five children ages 5 to 11 has at least one untreated decayed tooth (CDC, 2016).

Contributing factors include:

- Low income families are more likely to have tooth decay problems especially between ages 5 and 19 (CDC, 2016).

- 66.3 percent of students at Spring Hill Elementary in Summit County live at 130 percent of the federal poverty line (StartClass Report on Spring Hill Elementary in Akron, Ohio).

- Current fluoride levels within Springfield Township are less than .5 mg per liter, deficient to the standard.

The Akron Dental Society and Summit County of Public Health are currently intervening through programs such as a Dental Van and a Dental Sealant program that aid students with oral hygiene.

Recommendation

The proposed plan:

- Early preventative intervention towards local communities disproportionately affected by oral health issues
- Vouchers for free daily fluoride tablets distributed in Spring Hill Elementary
- Education about the importance of fluoride and oral health
- Yearly dental check ups and evaluations

Alternative Proposals may include:

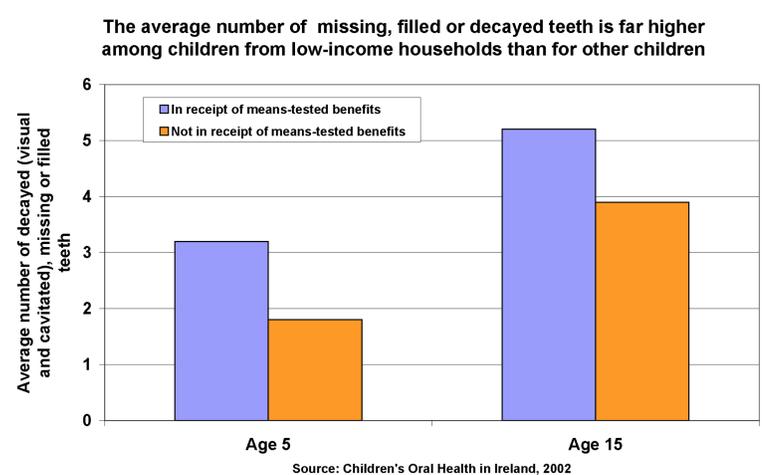
- Education
- Local clinic start-up
- Free dental check ups

Contact Information

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Conclusion

Using a school-based evaluation program that allows elementary children to receive a prescription and voucher for free fluoride tablets can dramatically help improve oral health among children. Encouraging healthy hygiene and the importance of receiving dental care will work to reduce dental caries, preventing serious oral health problems in the future.



References

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- Fluoride Supplements. (2017). Retrieved July 04, 2017, from <http://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/fluoride-supplement>