

National Oral Health Conference April 27, 2008



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*The best way to
find yourself is to
lose yourself in
the service of
others.*

Gandhi



Historical Perspective Data Collection





2003 Healthy Smiles for a Head Start Survey

*Healthy Smiles
for a
Healthy Head Start*
2003 Oral Health Survey

A collage of seven black and white photographs of children. The photos show various children in different settings, some smiling, some wearing a hard hat, and some in a classroom.

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health

- 456 children screened
- Mean age = 4.4
- 24% - untreated cavities
- 22% - early childhood cavities
- 48% - cavity experience (treated/untreated)
- 24% - early treatment needs
- 3% - urgent treatment needs



The Head Start Connection:

In 2006 Dental Hygienists were certified as Medicaid providers, able to bill for their full scope of preventive services.

Currently there are 55 PH RDH's Medicaid certified

In 2007 those RDH's billed Medicaid in excess of \$315,000



The Head Start Connection:

- In 2006 Wisconsin statutes were re-defined opening up practice settings for dental hygienists to provide full scope of preventive services without supervision, as an employee or independent contractor:
- Public and private schools
- Schools for the education of DDS or RDH
- Local Health Departments



Regional Oral Health Consultants

- Funding through HRSA in 2003 placed PH RDH's in all 5 public health regions throughout the state.
- Allowed for direct collaboration with Head Start agencies.



Regional Oral Health Consultants



- Implemented fluoride varnish programs
- Assist in case management/referral
- Engage local dental community in combined efforts
- Training staff



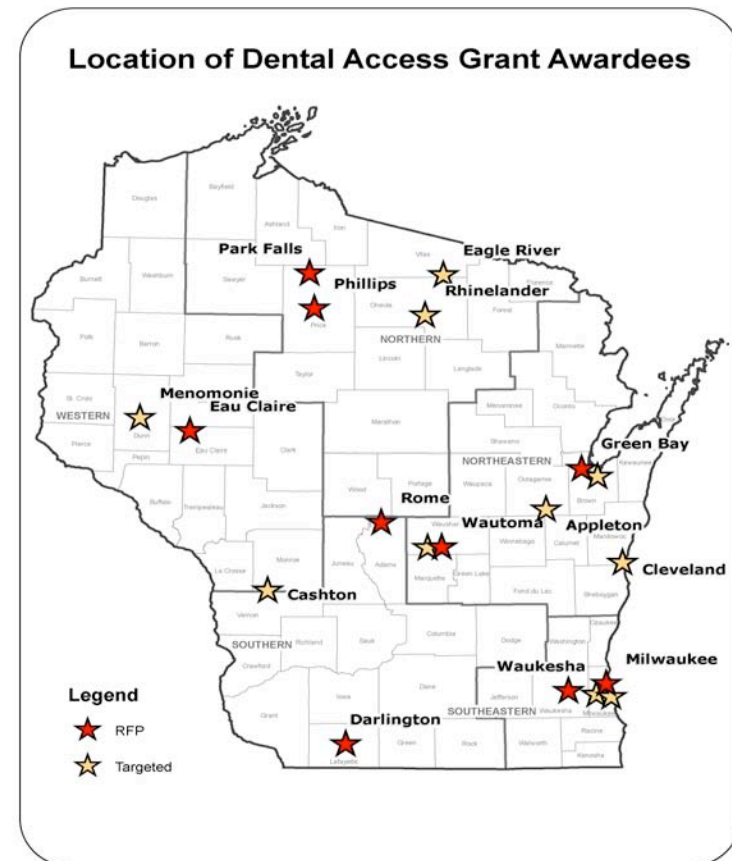
Statewide Initiatives

- Development and dissemination of Head Start Fluoride Guidance document to assist agencies in implementing projects and engage community dental health providers
- Oral Health Program works closely with WI State Head Start Association



Clinical Infrastructure/Capacity

- 2007; State of Wisconsin awarded \$4.2 million in one time "Dental Access Grants" to 17 projects across the state.





Clinical Infrastructure/Capacity

- 9 out of the 17 awardees have dedicated projects specifically targeting Head Start and/or school-based preventive programs.





The Disconnect: Our Struggle

- Declining dental provider population
 - 4342 licensed DDS (3356 in state, 986 out of state)
 - 4806 licensed RDH (4179 in state, 627 out of state)
- Poor Medicaid reimbursement, about 31% of U&C
- # of FQHC's/capacity, only 12 with any dental component



Our Successes

- Strengthening infrastructure
- Engaging communities
- Interdisciplinary collaborations
- Continued DPH program support
- Oral Health established as statewide priority; broad based support



Final Thought!

- "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has"

Margaret Mead