

Report on Children's Oral Health in Santa Barbara County

Coordinated efforts to address the unmet dental needs of the county's children have been underway since 1992.

Santa Barbara County Children's Oral Health Collaborative was formed by a broad range of stakeholders and leaders in the field of children's oral health.

Vision

Every Santa Barbara County child will have access to quality oral health services to prevent and treat dental disease and advance their overall health and development.

Mission

Improve the oral health of our community's children through the coordination and execution of comprehensive oral health prevention, identification and restorative treatment programs and services.

Call to Action



Children's Oral Health Collaborative



Santa Barbara County

Why it matters:

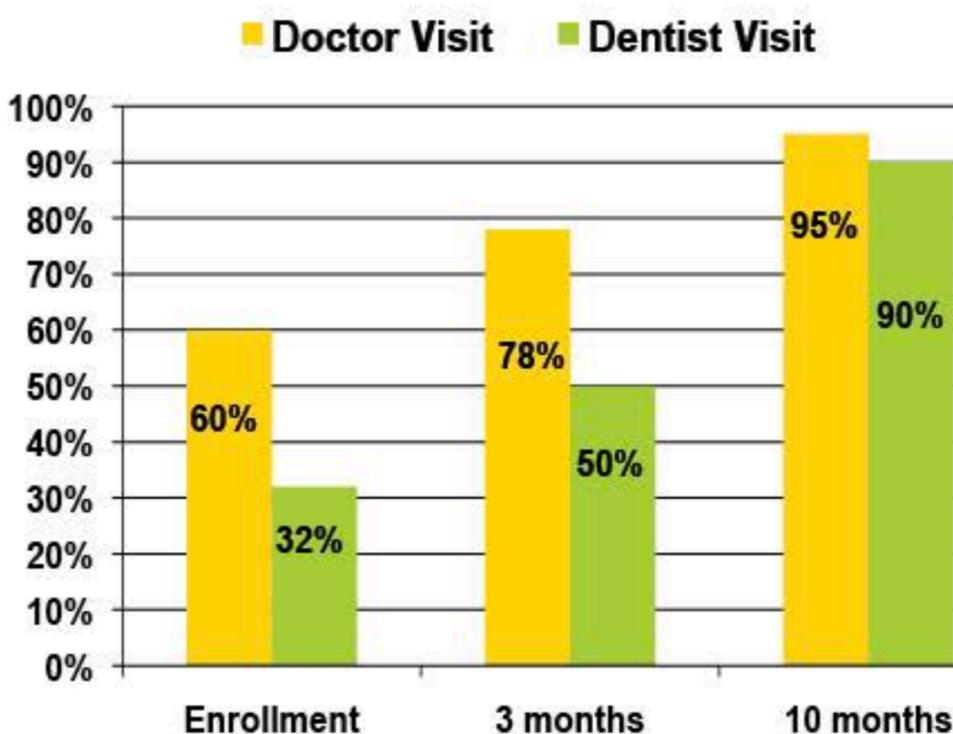
When children's oral health suffers,
so does their overall health.

- According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, tooth decay is the most common preventable illness affecting U.S. children today.
- According to the Children Now Policy Brief (Feb. 2011), California children's oral health is among the worst in the nation.
- Tooth decay can contribute to a wide range of problems, including poor nutrition, subnormal growth and unnecessary pain.



- Oral health disease can cause significant pain, loss of school days, and can lead to infections and death.
- According to the 2005 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), a third of all children in southern California have never visited the dentist.

Health and dental insurance increase access to services



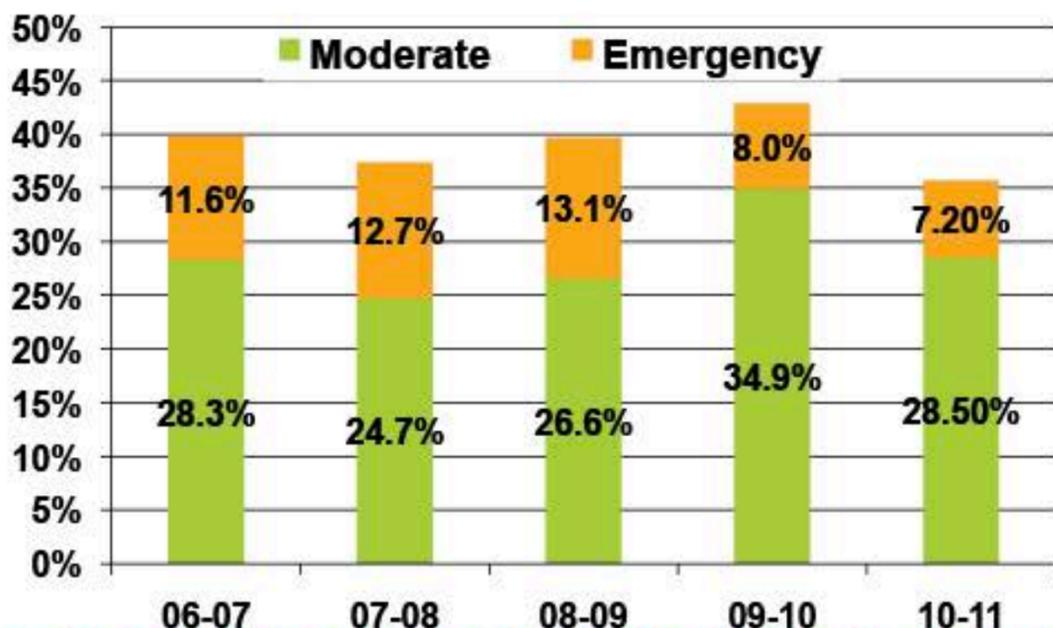
Child visited a doctor in the past year

- 60% at enrollment
- 78% at 3 month interview
- 95% at 12 month re-enrollment

Child visited a dentist within 6 months

- 32% at enrollment
- 50% at 3 month interview
- 90% at 12 month re-enrollment

Tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood



State Preschool Children with Untreated Decay

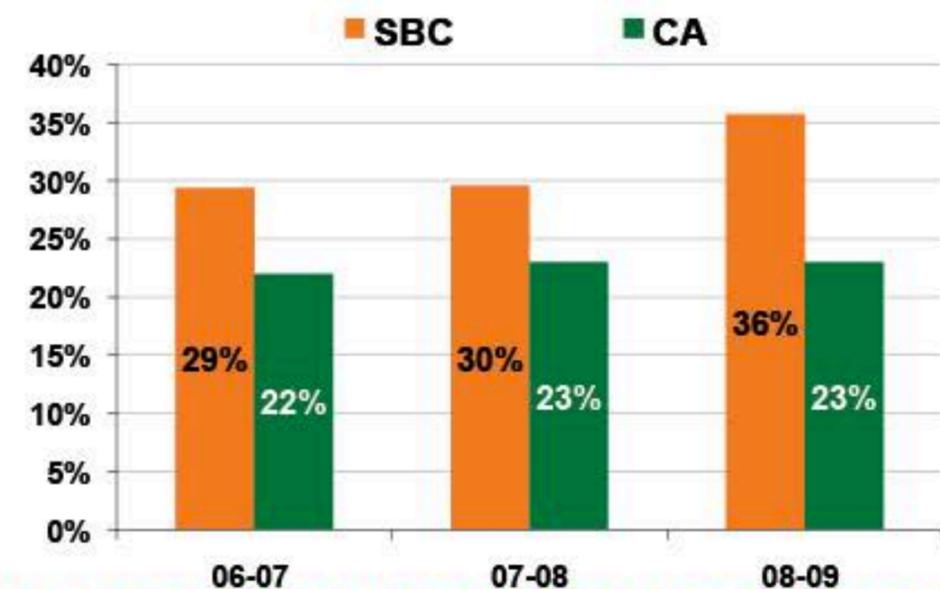
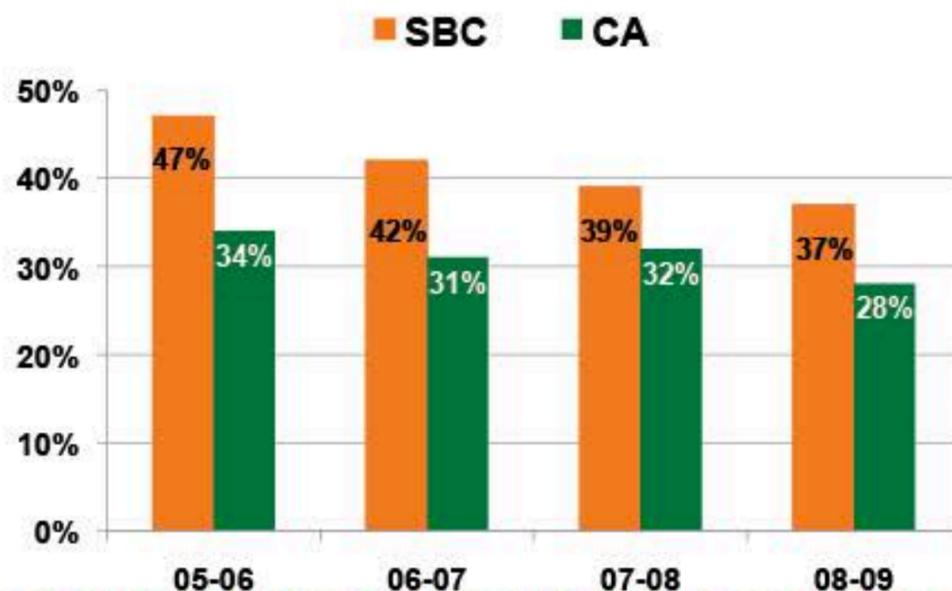
Dental disease affects nearly 40% of pre-school age children in Santa Barbara County.

(Source: SBCEO Health Linkages Dental Screening Data)

Head Start Children with Untreated Decay

Children screened in Santa Barbara County's Head Start Program have a higher rate of untreated decay than the State average of those in California's Head Start Programs.

(Source: CAC Children's Services Screening Data)



Kindergarten Children with Untreated Decay % Untreated Decay reported - Comparison County/State

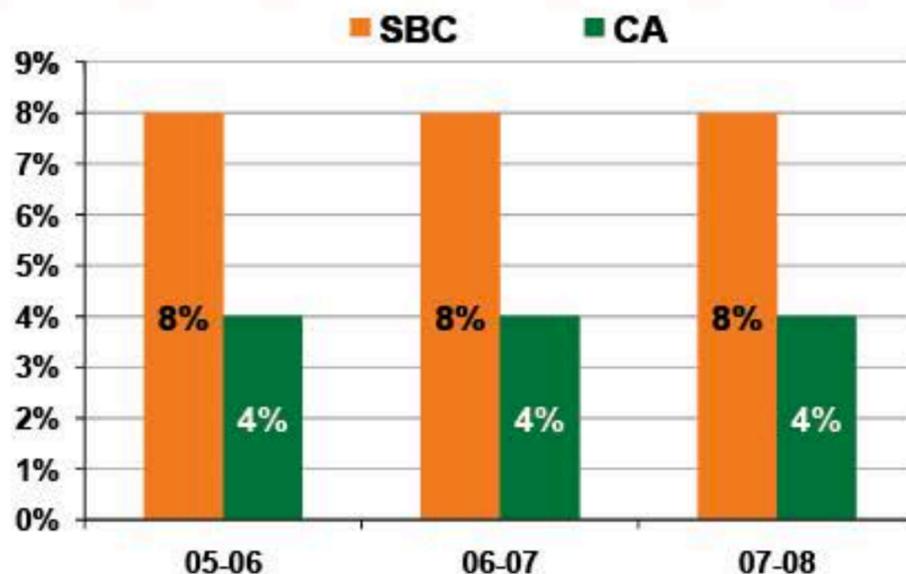
Kindergarten students in Santa Barbara County show a higher rate of untreated dental disease than the State average.

(Source: CDA Kindergarten Assessment Data)

Elementary School Children with Dental Emergencies

There are twice as many elementary school aged children in Santa Barbara County with dental emergencies than the State average.

(Source: Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program Dental Screening Data)





Goal One

Prevent Dental Disease in Children

Indicator: Number of children in targeted pre-and elementary school programs with dental disease.

Strategies

1. Increase community awareness through coordinated messaging and parent education.
2. Provide oral health and nutrition education and tooth brushing support for pre and elementary school programs.
3. Train and support medical providers to perform oral health assessments, provide anticipatory guidance and apply fluoride varnish.
4. Provide school and community-based sealant programs.
5. Assist parents to access routine care for their children per medical and dental guidelines.
6. Assist pregnant women in accessing dental care.

What we do:

- Develop and coordinate Oral Health key messages for children 0-5.
- Provide parent education for pre-school and WIC clients twice a year.
- Support daily tooth brushing and oral health education in all Head Start Programs, State subsidized pre-schools, and targeted kindergarten programs.
- Provide fluoride varnish applications for all Head Start Programs, State subsidized pre-schools, targeted kindergarten, and WIC clients.
- Support and provide school site education projects.
- Plan, coordinate and conduct oral health assessments and fluoride varnish (FV trainings) for CHDP Medical providers & staff.
- Public Health Department MCAH Field Nurses inform pregnant and parenting women about appropriate oral health care and assist with accessing dental services.
- Obstetricians inform pregnant women about appropriate oral health care.
- WEB home visitors provide parents of newborns with oral health promotion information.

What we need

- ✦ More school-based sealant programs
- ✦ More oral health education
- ✦ More connections with obstetricians

Our Partners

- ✦ Community Action Commission (CAC) Children's Services/Head Start Program
- ✦ Santa Barbara County Public Health Children's Health and Disability Program (CHDP); Women, Infants, and Children; and Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Field Nurses
- ✦ Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) Health Linkages, Welcome Every Baby
- ✦ Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics Eastside Family Dental Clinic
- ✦ CenCal Health
- ✦ Assistance League of SB
- ✦ Direct Relief International
- ✦ Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHCC)
- ✦ School districts, Pre and Elementary schools
- ✦ Medical and dental providers
- ✦ Santa Ynez Tribal Health Clinic
- ✦ First 5 Santa Barbara County



Goal Two

Establish county-wide structure to identify and track current dental needs

Indicator: Number of comparable and accurate data sources available.

Strategies

1. Coordinate and partner to ensure oral health screenings take place for targeted pre and elementary school populations.
2. Obtain data on county children's dental referrals, e.g. CHDP PM160, CAC, Head Start, Migrant Ed, State pre-schools.
3. Collect and report Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (AB1433).
4. Monitor and evaluate the incidence of dental disease.



What we do:

- Develop standardized screening procedures and tools.
- Distribute, educate, and secure participation by targeted pre and elementary schools.
- DARTS collect school district data.
- Gather data from the CHDP database of PM160 results.
- SBCEO collects aggregate kindergarten oral health assessment data from each school district.
- Collect and analyze screening data from State pre schools, CAC Head Start Program, Migrant Ed, CHDP, Kindergarten assessment, and elementary schools.

Our Partners

- ✦ Santa Barbara County Children's Oral Health Collaborative (SBCCOHC)
- ✦ Oral Health Executive Committee (OHEC)
- ✦ Dental Access Resource Team (DARTS)
- ✦ SBC Public Health Department (CHDP)
- ✦ School Districts Pre and Elementary Schools
- ✦ SBCEO Health Linkages Program
- ✦ CAC, Children's Services/Head Start Program

What we need

- ✦ Consistent forms and reporting system
- ✦ Assistance with evaluation
- ✦ Support from schools



Goal Three

Increase access to dental treatment

Indicator: Number of children identified with dental disease who complete treatment.

Strategies

1. Provide referral and case management for children identified with untreated dental disease.
2. Identify uninsured children and enroll them in health insurance.
3. Build capacity by recruiting providers willing to treat underserved children.
4. Leverage funding to strengthen and support the dental care safety net (treatment funds for uninsured or underinsured children) and free clinics.
5. Maintain and secure funding for prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

Our Partners

- ✦ Family Resource Centers
- ✦ SBCEO Health Linkages
- ✦ CAC, Children's Services/Head Start Program
- ✦ CenCal Health
- ✦ Direct Relief international
- ✦ Children's Health Initiative SBC (CHISB)
- ✦ Santa Barbara County Public Health (CHDP)
- ✦ Santa Barbara Ventura County Dental Society (SBVCDS)
- ✦ DARTS
- ✦ Central Coast Dental Society
- ✦ Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Care Foundation (SBVCD CF)
- ✦ Cornelia Moore
- ✦ Dental Providers
- ✦ First 5 Santa Barbara County
- ✦ Cottage Health System
- ✦ Foundations
- ✦ Elected Officials
- ✦ Hospitals/Clinics

What we do:

- Notify parents of school site screening results and provide with information for assistance including case management.
- CHDP sends follow up letter to families of children identified during CHDP exams for any child identified with code 4 or 5 dental disease on PM160.
- Recruit more dentists to treat children with Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Healthy Kids.
- Recruit new and support existing pediatric dentists who will see very young children with disabilities or special needs.
- Coordinate and conduct three free dental clinics per year.
- Build capacity for dental treatment with sedation and oral surgery in our Mid-County and South County regions.
- Submit letters of request, funding proposals, and/or make funding presentations to appropriate funders.
- Develop fundraising opportunities with dentists in the two county regions through the Santa Barbara Ventura and Central Coast Dental Societies.

What we need

- ✦ Sustained funding for dental treatment for uninsured or underinsured children
- ✦ Mobile Dental Clinic
- ✦ More case management
- ✦ Cohesive county-wide system for referrals



Goal Four

Engage and Sustain Community Support for Childhood Oral Health

Indicator: The amount of public and private funding, and in-kind support available for oral health system of care.

Strategies

1. Work with policy makers to include oral health as a public health priority in Santa Barbara County
2. Engage community leaders, funders, and policy makers to work in partnership with the SBC Children's Oral Health Collaborative
3. Advocate for community policy to enhance oral health services for children.



Our Partners

- ✦ Santa Barbara County Oral Health Collaborative (SBCCOHC)
- ✦ CAC, Children's Services/Head Start Program
- ✦ SBCEO Health Linkages Program
- ✦ CenCal Health
- ✦ Direct Relief International
- ✦ Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHCCC)
- ✦ Santa Barbara Neighborhood Eastside Dental Clinic
- ✦ SBC Public Health CHDP, WIC, and PHN
- ✦ Cornelia Moore
- ✦ Pre and Elementary schools
- ✦ Dental providers
- ✦ Elected Officials
- ✦ Dental Societies
- ✦ KIDS Network

What we do:

- Inform public policy makers of children's oral health concerns.
- Develop measurements to monitor goals.
- Research funding opportunities and develop proposals to fund priorities.
- Make presentations to community groups and organizations.
- Work with regional Dental Societies to garner support for strategies.

What we need

✦ Speakers Bureau

✦ More key stakeholders

✦ More champions

For more information, contact:

Santa Barbara County Children's Oral Health Collaborative

Georgene Lowe, RN, OHEC Chair, SBCEO Health Linkages

glowe@sbceo.org

(805) 964-4710, ext. 4455

Elizabeth Layne, DDS, MSD, MBA, OHEC Vice Chair, SBVDCF

bettylayne@earthlink.net

(805) 643-3762



**Children's
Oral Health
Collaborative**



Santa Barbara County