Federally Qualified Health Center Strategies to Reach Out to Head Start Programs

National Center on Health
Donna Altschul, R.D.H.
National Primary Oral Health Conference
November 12, 2013
Denver, CO
Hawaiian Islands
Island of Hawaii
FQHCs on Big Island
Circle of Care

West Hawaii Community Health Center

Kohala Family Health Center

Hamakua Health Center

Bay Clinic, Inc.
S = Satellite Sites

80 Miles
Hawaii’s Children and Tooth Decay

- Children in Hawaii have some of the worst oral health conditions in the nation
- Untreated dental caries rates and ECC rates are much higher than the national average
Why Is That?

- Lack of community water fluoridation
- Lack of access to dental providers in rural communities
- Lack of dentists accepting Medicaid and/or young children
- High intake of sugary foods and drinks
Access to Care for Keiki on the West Side of Hawaii

Keiki and Hapai Annual Dental Screenings

Office of Social Ministry Dental Van
Local Community Support
Our Oral Health Champions!

- Office of Family Services
- Head Start, Early Head Start
- Perinatal Consortium
- Office of Social Ministry
- Community Case Management Corporation
- West Hawaii Dental Hygienist Association
- WIC
- County Council Representatives
- Hawaii Island Oral Health Coalition
- March of Dimes
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Access to Care!
Local Early Head Start and Head Start Programs

• Referral to our health center for dental home
• Coordinate dental appointments for Early Head Start and Head Start participants
• Provide oral health education, and support needs
• In collaboration with the perinatal consortium, distribute newborn oral health information packets and toothbrushes to new moms in the hospital, and put oral health messages on Hele-On Buses (mass transportation in Hawaii)
Hawaii Head Start Dental Home Initiative
WHCHC Keiki Dental Program
Our Vision: A Generation of Children with No Decay

- Creative scheduling is always an option to engage children enrolled in Head Start
- Dental Home Initiative—73% of infants and children from birth through age 5 seen in medical program have a dental home
- Network with day care sites and local pediatricians about importance of oral health
WHCHC Keiki Dental Program

Our Vision: A Generation of Children with No Decay

- Collaborate with WIC, and see children in the WIC site one-half day a month
- Participate in the Hawaii Island Oral Health Coalition
- Sue Smith, R.D.H., Head Start Dental Hygienist Liaison
- Rotation site for the Lutheran Pediatric Dental Residency Program
West Hawaii Community Health Center
Infants/Toddlers Seen by Age

The diagram shows the number of infants and toddlers seen by age and year from 2008-2009 to 2012-2013. The data is presented for ages 1 to 5, with a bar for each age group and year.
State Support for Oral Health

• State Innovation Initiative—Health Transformation
• State Oral Health Public Health Infrastructure
• Hawaii Island Oral Health Task Force
Contact Information

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