

# Whatcom County Oral Health Coalition

## Goals and Strategies for 2011-2013

### GOAL 1: Prevent Dental Decay Among Children

*Focus: Low income children age 0-5*

#### Initiative: Take Prevention Where Kids Are

Strategy	Why this strategy?
<p>Implement preventive oral health services into preschools, child care, WIC, and other early childhood programs.</p> <p>Services to include oral health screening, cleaning, fluoride varnishes, oral health education, and referrals as needed; explore sealant programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42% of Whatcom County children already had decay when they enter kindergarten (treated and untreated).*</li> <li>• 43% of Head Start children had decay experience, and 28% had <b>untreated</b> decay. This is more than double the 2010 state percentage of 13% and is well below the Healthy People 2020 goal of 21% for preschoolers.*</li> <li>• Less than half (43.8%) of Whatcom County children age 0-5 with Medicaid see a dentist regularly.**</li> <li>• Builds on and complements the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) Program.</li> </ul>

### GOAL 2: Meet Dental Needs Among Adults

*Focus: Pregnant Women*

#### Initiative: Healthy Smiles from the Start

Strategy	Why this strategy?
<p>Address women's dental needs during pregnancy by engaging prenatal providers to screen, educate, and refer pregnant women for dental treatment.</p> <p>Prenatal providers to include a wide range of medical and social services, including WIC, OB-GYNs, family practice doctors, midwives, Planned Parenthood, childbirth classes, DSHS, and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mothers' oral health directly impacts babies' oral health, due to communicable nature of dental disease.</li> <li>• Women are more likely to seek and complete health care (including dental care) during pregnancy.</li> <li>• Medicaid coverage for dental care has been re-instituted for pregnant women (7/1/11).</li> <li>• Maintains momentum for OHC's Prenatal Medical-Dental Initiative 2010.</li> </ul>

\* 2010 Smile Survey: <http://www.happyteeth.org/documents/Whatcom2010SmileSurvey.pdf>

\*\* HRSA data 2009.

