



Dental Home by Age 1: Following Professional Recommendations



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Background / MCH Relationship

- ◆ American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Guidelines: Establish dental home by 12 months of age
- ◆ Past estimate: Only 2% of caregivers initiate dental care for their child by 12 months of age
- ◆ Advantages to early dental home establishment¹:
 - Caries risk assessment
 - Anticipatory guidance
 - ✓ Trauma
 - ✓ Diet
 - ✓ Oral Hygiene
 - Minimize potential dental fear
 - Minimize cost of care for high risk patients

Specific Aims

- ◆ Estimate compliance to professional guidelines
- ◆ Investigate factors related to dental care initiation by 12 month of age
- ◆ Variables of interest:
 - Demographic (Child & Caregiver)
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Caregiver Psychosocial Characteristics
 - Dental Behavior
 - Perceived Seriousness of Dental Disease
 - Dental Fatalism
 - Dental Anxiety
 - Caregiver knowledge of professional guideline
 - Dental Care Access (recommendation received, difficulty finding care provider, etc.)

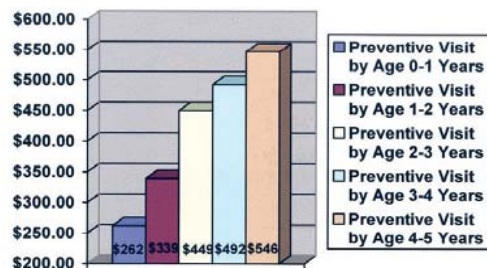


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Current Literature

What is known:

- ◆ 0.25-2.0% of children establish dental care by 12 months of age^{2,3}
- ◆ Establishment by 12 months of age results in lower overall cost of care compared to later establishment of dental care³
- ◆ Dental caries has increased over the last 20 years in children ages 2-5 years old⁴
- ◆ Lower socioeconomic groups experience more dental disease⁴
- ◆ Many dental and medical care providers don't know or don't agree with current recommendations⁵
- ◆ Several behavioral characteristics have been associated with dentally-related outcomes⁶



Overall dental costs through 5 years of age

Where's the gap:

- ◆ No research relating behavioral characteristics to dental care establishment and utilization
- ◆ No research relating detailed sociodemographic characteristics of caregiver or child to age at first dental visit

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Proposal

Study Design: Retrospective cohort study

Setting: Private pediatric dentistry specialty clinic serving mixed insurance patient base

Method: Self-administered caregiver survey of children under 6 years of age; delivered by mail

Goal: Identify possible factors associated with dental care utilization behavior that have not previously been investigated

Public Health Implications

Identifying potential barriers to early dental care establishment may allow for targeted intervention to increase the number of children who establish a dental care home by 12 months of age. Since dental caries prevalence has increased in young children over the last twenty years, increasing the number of children that visit the dentist early in life may result in increased preventive care and oral health promotion, thus decreasing dental disease.

References

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