

Oral Health

Smile Survey 2005- Adams County, WA May 3, 2007

Statewide Smile Survey History:

The smile survey idea began in Washington State in the mid 1990's in response to the need to obtain more information about the oral health needs of our populations. As a result the smile survey was created and today is known as the basic screening survey tool for oral health. It is recommended by the CDC and ASTDD. In our state the first smile survey was administered in 1996, the second in 2000 and the third in 2005. In 2005 22 counties, including Adams County, conducted their own smile survey (reference: WA State DOH, Oral Health Program)



Summary of Adams County Smile Survey:

In October of 2005, the Adams County Public Health Department-Oral Health Program conducted an oral health survey consistent with the state wide 2005 Washington State Smile Survey. The 2005 Washington



State Smile Survey screens second and third grade elementary students and students enrolled in Head Start and EECAP programs. For the local elementary schools, all county public Elementary Schools participated in the survey except Washtucna Elementary school. 302 elementary students were screened during the first

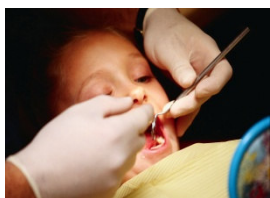
week in October 2006. No students in Head Start/EECAP programs were screened.


Dr. Howard Blessing, a calibrated examiner for Washington State screened the children using gloves, masks, a disposable mirror, and a light source. Data were reported on a standardized form provided by Washington State Department of Health-Maternal and Child Health Program. The data was entered into the CDC/EPI Info database and analyzed by Dr. Blessing.



Key Findings

Adams County has a statistically significant higher percentage of non-white 2nd and 3rd grade students screened than in the state.



- Dental decay appears to be a significant public health problem for Adams County children
 54% of elementary school children have decay experience (cavities and/or fillings)

- More than two-thirds of elementary school children screened in Adams County do not have dental sealants, a well accepted clinical intervention to prevent tooth decay on molar teeth.
- Adams County has met the Healthy People 2010 objective for reducing the prevalence of untreated tooth decay among elementary school children.

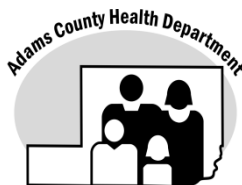
Additional Points of Interest



- In Washington State there are significant oral health disparities with minority, low-income, and non-English speaking children having the highest level of dental disease and the lowest level of dental sealants.
- In Adams County, unlike Washington State, non-Hispanic elementary school children screened had a significant lower prevalence of sealants on permanent molars than their counterparts screened in Washington State in 2005. However, there was no significant difference for Hispanic elementary school children screened in Adams County for sealants on permanent molars.
- In Adams County, unlike Washington State, non-White elementary school children screened had a significant lower prevalence of untreated decay than their counterparts screened in Washington State in 2005.
- In Adams County, even though the elementary school children have a lower rate of untreated dental decay and caries experience than found in Washington State, the prevalence of sealants found on permanent molars is significantly lower than what was found in the 2005 Washington State Smile Survey. Ironically, the rate is lower in non-Hispanic elementary school children than in those Hispanic children screened.

Conclusion

- Adams County has already met the Healthy People 2010 Objective for untreated decay in elementary school children.
- Adams County has not met the Healthy People 2010 Objectives for Sealants on Permanent Molars and Caries Experience for elementary school children
- Adams County data shows only 50% of Medicaid eligible children utilizing dental service.



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