

**TITLE:** Impact of AllCare Health's First Tooth Training on Children's Receipt of Oral Health Assessments, Fluoride Varnishes, and Other Dental Services

**AUTHOR(S):** Jannate Ahmed, Hannah Cohen-Cline, Megan Holtorf, Sarah Bartelmann Center for Outcomes Research and Education, Providence Health & Services

**PRESENTER(S):** Jannate Ahmed

**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Evaluators, researchers, policy makers, health plans, primary care providers, social service providers and program developers.

**ABSTRACT:** Early childhood caries are a significant public health concern, and a common chronic conditions in children. First Tooth, an oral health integration program, addresses this concern by training medical and social services providers to incorporate oral health services into existing infant and child services. This study evaluated the impact of First Tooth training in AllCare Health member children up to 19 years of age in Southwest Oregon. Cases were children who saw a trained medical provider, and controls were children who did not. We calculated prevalence of oral health assessments among cases, and developed regression models to examine the impact of First Tooth training on receipt of fluoride varnishes and dental services. The percentage of cases receiving oral health assessments increased over time (from 0% to 7%). Cases were significantly more likely to receive fluoride varnishes (RR: 1.66 for younger children; RR: 1.20 for older children) and dental services (RR: 1.14 for younger children; RR: 1.07 for older children) than controls. Our findings suggest that the program had a positive impact on children's receipt of oral and dental health services. Policy-makers and healthcare providers should focus on similar oral health integration efforts that may potentially reduce early childhood caries.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** CCOs and other health and social service providers can identify best practices and considerations for implementing similar oral health integration efforts.

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