



Barriers and Facilitators:

Integrating Oral Health Into The Medical Home

Susan Cote, RDH, MS, Michelle Henshaw, DDS, MPH, Kevin Ryan, BS, Corinna Culler, RDH, DrPH
 MaineHealth – Community Health Improvement, Health Policy and Health Services Research Boston
 University Goldman School of Dental Medicine



SADIE AND HARRY DAVIS
 FOUNDATION

Objective: Phase One of the From the First Tooth initiative provided funding to diverse healthcare organizations throughout Maine in order to embed the delivery of oral health assessments, fluoride varnish and parent counseling for children aged 0-3 within the medical home. These sites represented diverse practices in urban and rural areas: including a pediatric residency, independent pediatric practice, hospital-based practice, family medicine, Federally Qualified Health Center, and WIC (Women Infants and Children). The purpose of this paper is to report the reported barriers and facilitators to the adoption of oral health services by healthcare organization in order to facilitate the successful replication into additional sites.

Methods: A learning session was convened in year 2 of the initiative to solicit candid insights from stakeholders regarding the challenges and successes encountered by partnering healthcare organizations when implementing oral health activities. The discussions were recorded, transcribed, and then independently read and coded for themes by three individuals. From these results, a coding rubric was established and used in a second coding of the data. This process was completed individually by each analyst in order to foster inter-reliability. Once completed, the analysts established a fixed set of codes which were used to finally classify the data.

Results: Over 24 months, 6 diverse medical care organizations provided oral health services to 3029 children, ranging from 6 months to 42 months at different sites. The most common barriers reported were related to training staff; such as recommendations to have peer to peer education, i.e. doctor to doctor, staff turnover in the small rural sites, and more information needed on fluoride benefits, different types of fluoride and benefits of incorporating into the medical home. Other barriers to overcome are; incorporating oral health activities into clinic workflow, ensuring appropriate documentation, and individual practice characteristics such as whether it's a pediatric practice or family medicine where they may only see a small number of children. The most common facilitators were having someone who took a leadership role or acted as a champion in the practice. Building on existing infrastructure and having well defined staff roles facilitated the adoption of the services. Also, providing ongoing support to problem solve and feedback/data to the providers on the impact and outcome of the program.

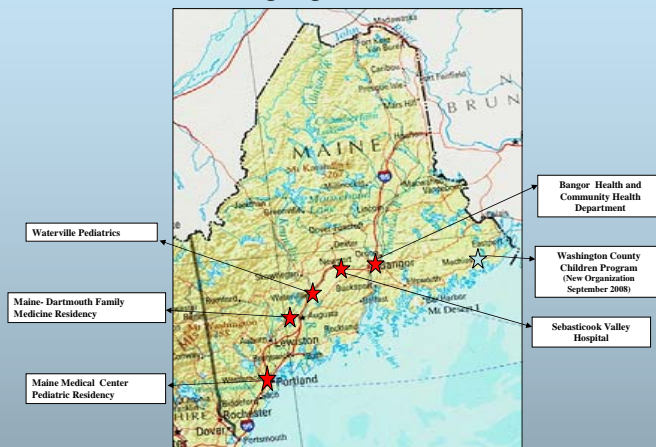
Conclusion: Challenges exist regarding the provision of oral health services in pediatric health care practices. This research provides important information and lessons learned during initial implementation of services in diverse pediatric settings that will facilitate the adoption of these services by other practices in Maine as From The First Tooth expands statewide.



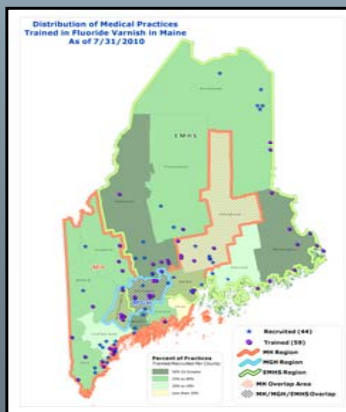
COMMON FACILITATORS	COMMON BARRIERS
- Leadership/champion	- Training
- On-going support	- Workflow
- Building on existing infra-structure	- Documentation
- Well defined staff roles	- Practice characteristics

Coding rubric was established and used in a second coding of the data. This process was completed individually by each analyst in order to foster inter-reliability. Once completed, the analysts established a fixed set of codes which were used to finally classify the data.

Distribution of Phase One Partnering Organizations in Maine

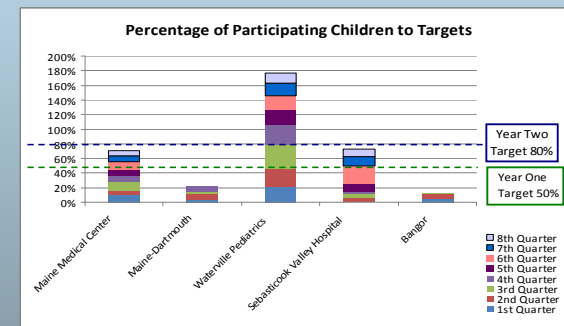


2010 Statewide Expansion



From The First Tooth is an initiative of MaineHealth funded by the Sadie and Harry Davis Foundation in partnership with EMHS and MaineGeneral Health and Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine Center for Research to Evaluate and Eliminate Dental Disparities

www.fromthefirsttooth.org



From the First Tooth Phase One Partnering Organizations

Partnering Organizations	Specialty	Type	Providers	Number of Sites	Number Providers Trained	Number Children Served
Maine Medical Center Pediatric Clinic	Pediatrics	Medical Center, On-site, Urban	Pediatric Residency Program	2	24	557
Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency	Family Medicine	Medical Center, Off-site, Urban and Rural	Family Medicine Residency Program	3	86	96
Waterville Pediatrics	Pediatrics	Private Practices, Urban and Rural	Pediatric Medical Providers Dental Hygienist On-Site as Consultant	2	15	1780
Sebasticook Valley Hospital	Family Medicine	Community Hospital- Owned Practices, Off-site, Rural	Family Medicine Providers with Community Dental Hygienist as Consultant	2	15	111
Bangor Health and Community Services Department	Social Service	Women, Infant and Children Programs, Serving 2 Counties, Urban and Rural	Dental Hygienist	8	1	272
Washington County Children Program	Family Medicine	Health Centers and FQHC, Rural	Family Medicine Providers with Community Dental Hygienists as Consultants	7	60	213