

SLO County Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan

Developed by SLO County Children's Oral Health Coalition

Increased Access to Preventive Services

- **Goal 1:** All children in SLO County will have access to oral disease prevention programs
 - Provide age-appropriate topical fluoride to high-risk children in SLO County
 - Implement school-based dental sealant programs
 - Encourage communities and/or water districts to fluoridate
- **Goal 2:** All parents in SLO County will have the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent tooth decay in young children
 - Encourage all health care providers to include oral health education and anticipatory guidance in information provided to parents of young children
 - Encourage social service, education and public health programs to include oral health education and anticipatory guidance in information provided to parents of young children
 - Implement a county-wide public education and awareness campaign
 - Develop a program to assure that high-risk pregnant women receive dental care

Increased Access to Dental Care

- **Goal 3:** All children in SLO County will have access to dental screenings and referral for dental care starting at 12 months of age
 - Using American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines encourage all health care providers to conduct comprehensive dental assessments at well-child visits and refer children to a dental home
 - Encourage public health programs to include dental screenings & referral services as part of the package of services provided to high-risk clients
 - Encourage safety net dental clinics to provide basic dental services to high-risk children 0-5
- **Goal 4:** All children in SLO County will have access to basic dental care.
 - Strengthen and support the dental care safety net
 - Assure that all qualifying low-income children have dental coverage
 - Advocate for increased funding for publicly supported dental coverage
 - Advocate for increased participation in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families & Healthy Kids by local dentists
- **Goal 5:** All children in SLO County will have access to necessary specialty dental care.
 - Develop a support network of dental specialists willing and able to provide care to high-risk children.

Development of Oral Health Coordination Infrastructure

- **Goal 6:** Public policy in SLO County will include oral health as an essential component of community health
 - Develop and sustain an oral health coordinator position within the public health department
 - Maintain and support community oral health partnerships, coalitions and initiatives
 - Maintain public and policymaker awareness of the importance of access to dental care as a public policy issue
 - Develop an oral health communication strategy
 - Develop regional partnerships with Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties