

DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
Administrative Memo # 9-2011

To: All Children and Family Services Staff

From: Edward H. Matney, Policy Section Administrator 
Division of Children and Family Services

Approved by: Todd L. Reckling, Director 
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Date: June 30, 2011

RE: Dental Health Resources

Effective: Immediately

Duration: Until Revised

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Purpose:

A child's dental health is directly related to the child's physical health well-being. In order to assist staff to assure that dental health care needs of children in DHHS custody are given appropriate attention, this memo provides information regarding the existing programs and resources statewide available for provisions of dental care for children who are in the custody of DHHS. The memo includes a brief description of each program or resource, and how to access the program. To access more in depth descriptions of the programs, please use the links in the memo.

Programs and Resources:

Office of Oral Health and Dentistry:

The Department of Health and Human Services has formed the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry as a part of the Public Health Division of DHHS. For specific information about how this office could help locate dental care for a youth in the Department's custody please call 402-471-0166 or visit their website at:
<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/dental/>

The Office of Oral Health and Dentistry also provides educational materials for parents, case workers, or other professionals regarding dental health for children. For educational training materials supplied by the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry please visit their website at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/dental/catalog.htm>.

Oral Health Access for Young Children/Fluoride Varnish:

In March 2011, DHHS teamed up with federally qualified health centers in Nebraska and Nebraska local public health departments to provide basic dental care to children under the age of eight who were enrolled with WIC and Head Start Programs.

Fluoride Varnish is a Medicaid approved procedure that can be applied both at a medical or dental office. This procedure entails a resin being painted on a child's teeth to help make the enamel stronger and more resistant to dental decay. Fluoride Varnish is safe because it creates a coating over the tooth and is not swallowed.

Since Fluoride Varnish is a Medicaid approved service, it can be administered in a medical or dental office. Case workers should be exploring this option for any child in the Department's custody. Fluoride Varnish treatment has been proven to prevent up to 45 percent of dental decay.

For more information regarding the Oral Health Access for Young Children or for information regarding Fluoride Varnish please call the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry at 402-471-0166 or visit the website at:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/dental/resources/index.htm>

Heat Start/Toothbrush Initiative:

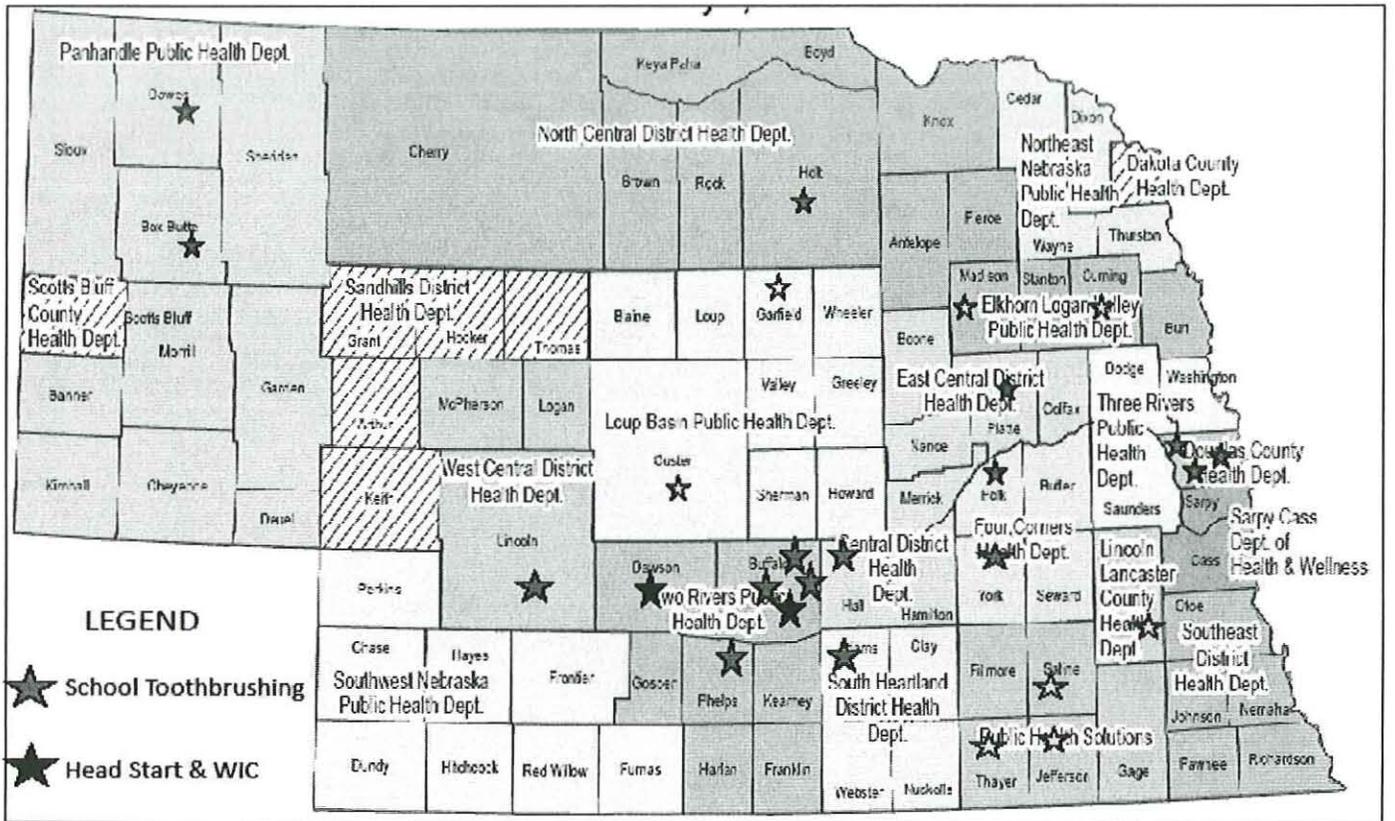
Children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start are required to have an annual dental examination. In the years 2009-2010, 99% of the children enrolled in Head Start had an annual dental examination. The Office of Oral Health continues ongoing efforts to coordinate with Head Start and other public entities to provide dental care for all children.

The Office of Oral Health and Dentistry launched a program called "Take Home Toothbrush" which provided 6,600 children across the state with a tooth brush. This program was created to reduce the prevalence of dental cavities and other oral problems in low-income youth by sending home toothbrushes and toothpaste quarterly to Head Start enrollees.

For more information regarding the Toothbrush Initiative please call the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry at 402-471-0166.

Location of Services:

The following is a map that depicts the locations across the State where the services listed above are located. If you are having difficulty finding a dentist to meet a child's need, please contact the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry or visit their website.



- ★ Head Start
- ★ WIC

Nebraska Oral Health Access For Children