

NCDHHS CELEBRATES

25 Years of Healthy Smiles

through the Into the Mouths of Babes (IMB) program



What it does:

17.7% Reduction in Tooth Decay

The Into the Mouths of Babes for medical providers program has allowed health care teams across the state to deliver preventive oral health and dental services to Medicaid-insured patients under the age of 3.5 years for over two decades. Services provided may decrease a child's risk for tooth decay (cavities) and include an oral evaluation, caregiver education, and a fluoride varnish application. Thank you to all our partners for their contributions to the program's success!

Why it's important:

- Tooth decay is the **most common chronic disease** among children.
- **Baby teeth are important** for eating, speaking and growing.
- **Untreated tooth decay can lead to painful infections** and can affect a child's ability to eat, sleep, learn, play, and grow.



What you can do:

Parent/Caregiver

- Ask your child's health care team about fluoride varnish
- Take your child to the dentist by age one
- Support good oral health and nutrition practices at home

Medical and Dental Providers

- Offer preventive oral health and dental services
- Support the dental home by age 1
- Help connect parents to care



Learn more about the Into the Mouths of Babes fluoride varnish program by visiting www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/oral-health/partners-providers/mouths-babes-imb.

Visit Tooth Talk (www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/toothtalk) to learn more about the best ways to take care of young children's teeth.

To find a Medicaid or Health Choice dental provider in your area, visit the NCDHHS Division of Health Benefits (DHB) website (<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/find-doctor/medicaid-dental-providers>).

Find the right dental home for children with special needs using this helpful guide (www.ncdhhs.gov/dentalhomechecklist-engpdf/open).



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