

***Medical-Dental Collaboration  
at the Community Level:  
Welcoming Pregnant Women***



Steve Geiermann DDS  
February 5, 2021

# Why is Oral Health Important?...a case study

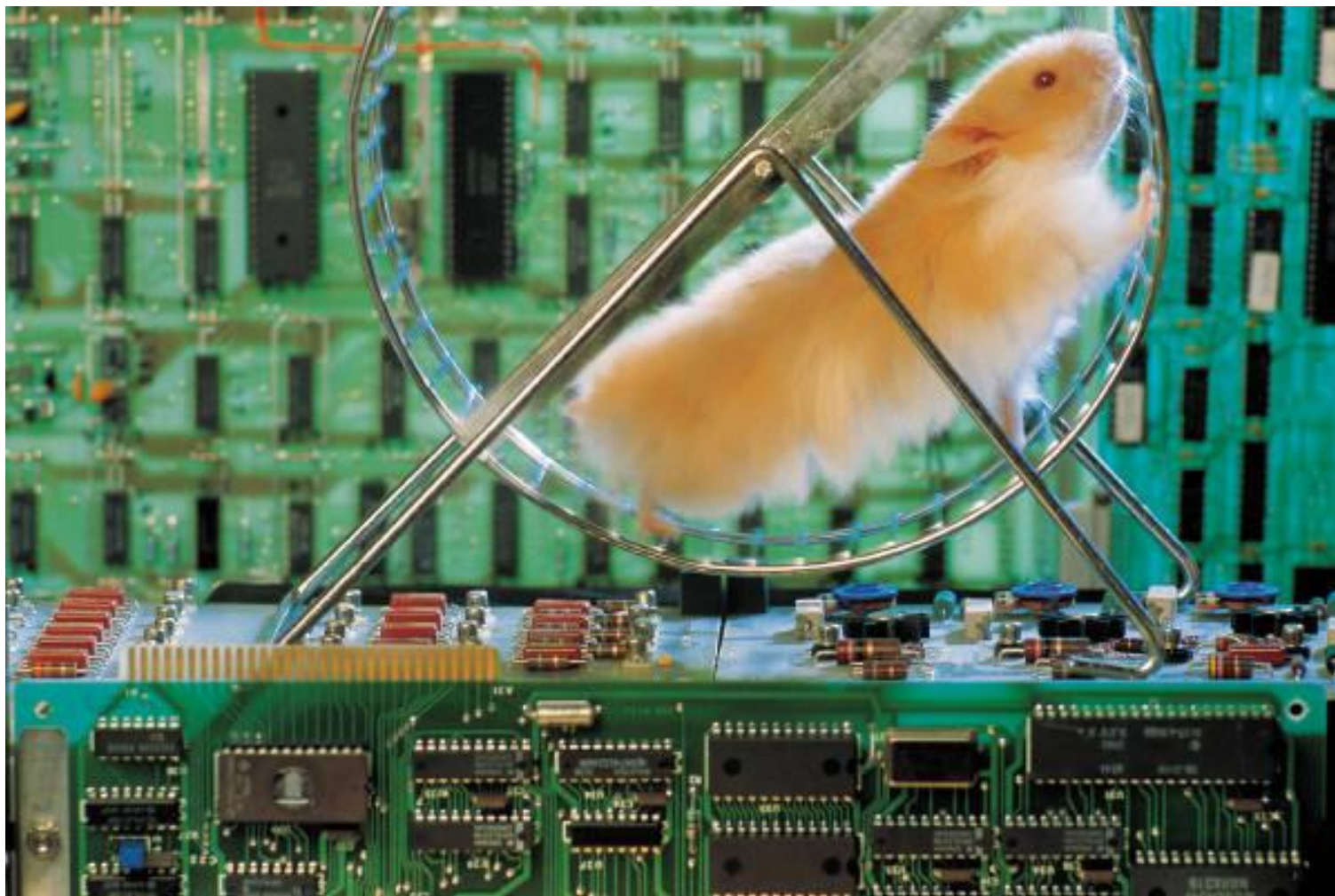


“Wet behind the ears” and idealistic!



# Disease burden overwhelming...





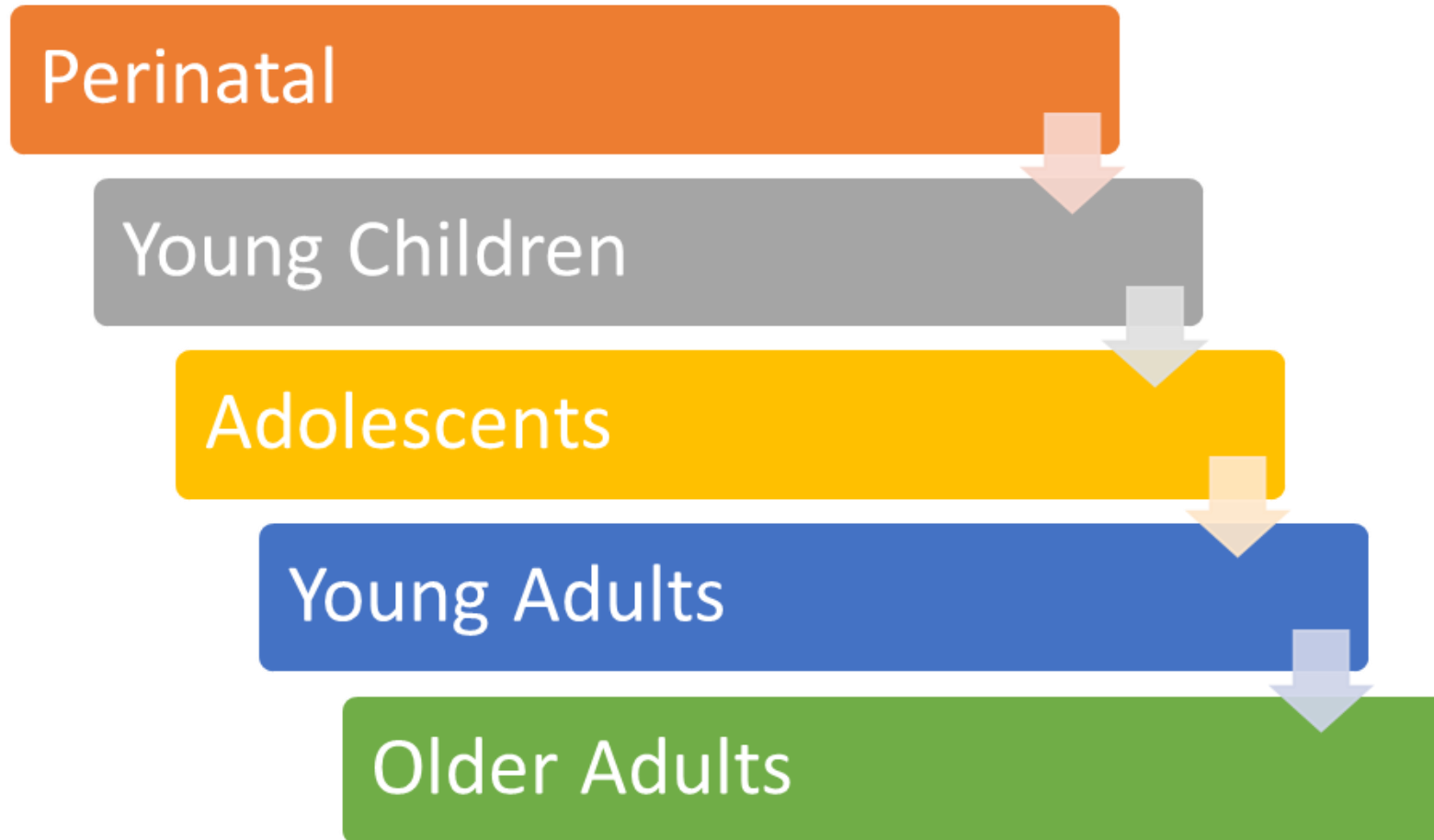
**“Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”**

Albert Einstein

# Prevention matters...individually and community-wide



# Working across the lifespan



# Practical Goals across the Lifespan...

- Every individual will have access to the benefits of fluoride.
- Every pregnant woman will have a healthy mouth.
- Every child will be caries-free upon entering kindergarten.





# Practical Goals across the Lifespan...

- Every person with a chronic disease, such as diabetes or HIV, will receive oral health care as an integral part of their disease management.
- Every senior will have access to dentures or other replacement options.



AMERICAN  
HORROR STORY

**DENTAL**

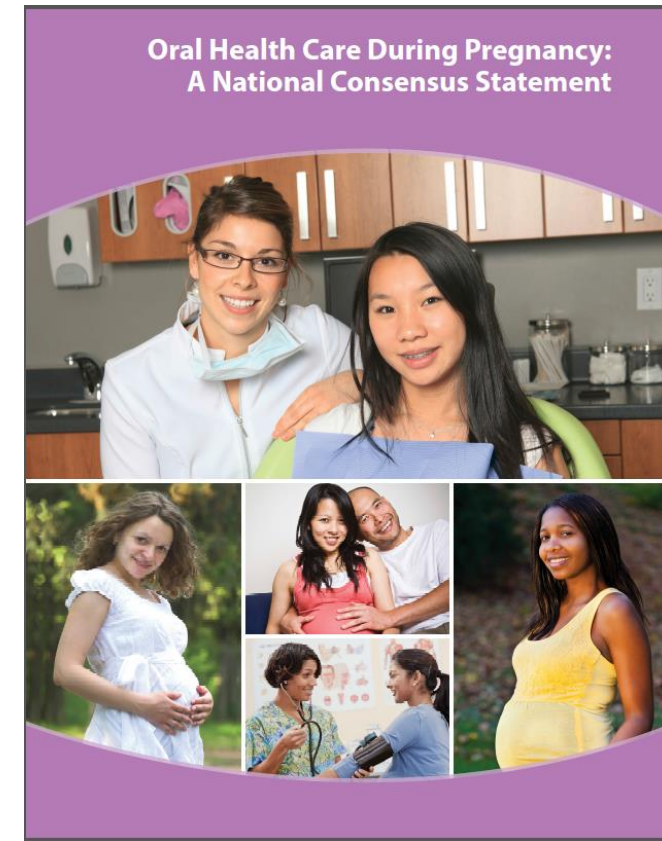


# Perinatal Oral Health Consensus Statement

## Collaboration among:

- American Dental Association
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Federal Government

[https://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/consensus\\_statement.php](https://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/consensus_statement.php)



# Importance of Oral Health During Pregnancy

**Resolved**, that the ADA urge all pregnant women and women of child-bearing age to have a regular dental examination, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the ADA acknowledges that preventive, diagnostic and restorative dental treatment is safe throughout pregnancy and is effective in improving and maintaining the oral health of the mother and her child.

**2014 ADA House of Delegates**

# Activity Updates on Oral Health during Pregnancy



## Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES  
May 2018

Since the release of the landmark publication *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement* in 2012, federal agencies and national, state, and local organizations have continued to launch programs, advance policy, produce resources, and provide education and training to ensure that health professionals and pregnant women are aware of the importance and safety of receiving oral health care during pregnancy. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to improve oral health for pregnant women and their children. This document is the seventh in a series of updates to highlight activities to promote oral health during pregnancy. Past issues of *Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Update on Activities* are available [online](#).



## Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Update on Activities May 2017

Since the release of the landmark publication *Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement* in 2012, federal agencies and national, state, and local organizations have continued to launch programs, advance policy, produce resources, and provide education and training to ensure that health professionals as well as pregnant women are aware of the importance and safety of receiving oral health care during pregnancy. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to improve oral health for pregnant women and their children. This document is the sixth in a series of updates to highlight activities to promote oral health during pregnancy. Past issues of *Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Update on Activities* are available [online](#).

### Programs and Policy

In 2013, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) launched the Perinatal and Infant Oral

Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to reduce the prevalence of oral disease in pregnant women and infants through improved access to high-quality oral health care (i.e., preventive services, restorative treatment, education) and increased use of oral health services.



[https://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/consensus\\_statement.php](https://www.mchoralhealth.org/materials/consensus_statement.php)

# CATOOH

## (Chapter Advocacy Training on Oral Health)

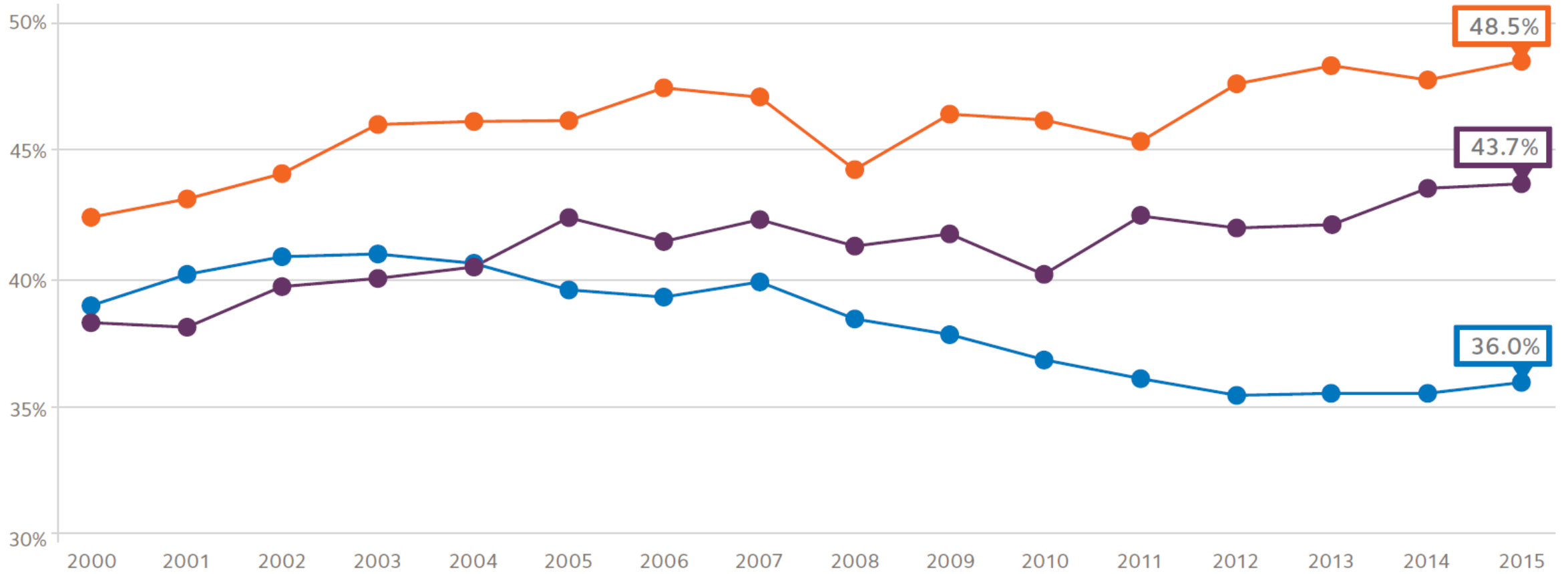
- Collaboration between ADA Foundation and American Academy of Pediatrics
- Train the Trainer across all 50 states
  - Caries Risk Assessment
  - Anticipatory Guidance
  - Fluoride Varnish as appropriate
  - Referral to a dentist



<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Oral-Health/Pages/Chapter-Oral-Health-Advocates.aspx>

# PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WHO VISITED A GENERAL DENTIST IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

● CHILDREN ● ADULTS ● SENIORS





# Leverage the Medical Visit



# The Importance of Case Management:



# Who are Community Health Workers?

- Frontline workers
- Trusted members of the community
- People with unique understanding of the population served

*CHWs build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through outreach, community education, informal counseling and advocacy.*



# What a CHW does for the TEAM...

- Case management and care coordination
- Bridge between the community and providers/clinics
- Convey patient backgrounds, constraints and preferences to providers in a culturally appropriate way
- **Identifies client barriers** including transportation, housing, and literacy, **then addresses them!**
- Improves continuity of care
- Provides a comforting smile...



# Self-description of a CHW...



# Who are Community Dental Health Coordinators?

- Dental “community health workers” who perform case management, care coordination, patient navigation, outreach, individual/community education and selective preventive services
- Some are already members of the oral health team, such as hygienists and dental assistants; while others come with defined case management skills.



**Community Dental Health  
Coordinator (CDHC)**





# Questions



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