FROM MDH Oral Health Program:

Early childhood caries (ECC), more commonly known as baby bottle tooth decay, is an infectious disease that can begin as early as the teeth begin to emerge (around 6 months or so), often progresses rapidly, and can cause severe pain to the child. ECC is the single most common chronic childhood disease, 5 times more common than asthma, 4 times more common than early childhood obesity, and 20 times more common than diabetes. Studies show that more than one-third of children have dental caries by the time they reach kindergarten. And while ECC affects children in all racial and socioeconomic groups the prevalence is higher in children of low-income families. Untreated ECC can affect speech and communication, eating and nutrition status, sleeping, learning, playing and quality of life, even into adulthood. Many children with ECC require costly, restorative treatment, sometimes costing $2,000 to $5,000 per child per year. The good news, however, is that ECC is nearly 100% preventable with early intervention.

The Early Dental Disease Prevention Initiative (EDDPI) was enacted by the legislature in 2015. EDDPI is a community-centered initiative based on the notion that prevention of early dental disease starts prenatally and that prevention is most effective in the first three years of life.

EDDPI wants to partner with WIC

We know that WIC serves many families at high risk for ECC, and that WIC addresses the importance of dental care during pregnancy, and for infants and young children. EDDPI wants to partner with WIC, to develop materials that will best meet the needs of the young families WIC serves. To do so, we want your input. Come visit our exhibit at the WIC Conference!

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