

# Integrating Oral Care into Primary Care:

## Maternity: Teeth for Two

**Maternity: Teeth for Two (MT42)** is an integration initiative developed to improve the oral health of Oregon's pregnant women and their children by educating prenatal primary care physicians and caregivers on methods of integrating oral health into prenatal care.

The curriculum provides information for pregnant women and the medical workforce on the importance of oral health during pregnancy. It is targeted toward prenatal providers, dental professionals, WIC staff, community health workers, and anyone who provides education and/or care for expecting mothers.



Oral health and control of oral disease are crucial aspects of a woman's health, yet are often overlooked during pregnancy by both the expecting mother and her healthcare provider. In 2010, the Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS) found that 49% of pregnant women did not go see a dentist at any point during their pregnancy. Good oral health improves overall health and well-being of women during pregnancy and contributes to the oral health of their children.

Dental caries is the single most common chronic disease in children, but is preventable and treatable. Being proactive about oral health care in the first years of life can make a significant difference. Science shows that the origin of oral health disease can start in utero. Bacteria from the mother can be transmitted to her baby and lead to increased risk of early-childhood caries. Oral health care is safe throughout pregnancy and is important to the health of the mother and child.

Based on our experience and the evidence of previous efforts in Oregon, an informed healthcare delivery system has the potential to impact tens of thousands of mothers, parents, caregivers, and our youngest, most vulnerable Oregonians.

**Maternity: Teeth for Two** includes:

- 1 hour long training for providers and staff on methods of integrating oral health preventative services into current services
- Maternity Oral Health Integration Guide, including navigation tools
- Culturally appropriate handouts, exam/waiting room posters and anticipatory guidance that can be shared with parents and caregivers
- Continued support and technical assistance from the Oregon Oral Health Coalition (OrOHC) on systems-based implementation, workflow and clinical instruction



**Maternity: Teeth for Two** is one of OrOHC's three oral health initiatives to integrate oral health into primary care across the lifespan. Other resources available are **First Tooth** and **Oral Health and Chronic Disease**.

To learn more about MT42 and OrOHC's other initiatives visit [orohc.org](http://orohc.org)

To host **Maternity: Teeth for Two** at your site contact OrOHC at [orohcinfo@ocdc.net](mailto:orohcinfo@ocdc.net)