

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM SURVEY- Other Public Health Prevention

Contact Information

Nancy J. Rublee, RDH, CDHC, Price County Public Health Hygienist
Price County Health Department
Phone: 715-339-3054 Fax: 715-339-3057
nancy.rublee@co.price.wi.us
Price County Health Department, 104 S. Eyder Ave., Phillips, WI 54555

Short Title: Rural Local Public Health's Non-Traditional Dental Home that spans a life time

Program Location: Phillips, Wisconsin, USA

Objectives and Goals:

Overarching goals: 1) Eliminate health disparities, 2) promote and protect health for all and 3) transform Price County's public health system to increase dental access to those who lack access.

Objectives:

- 1) Increase access to primary and preventive health services
- 2) Develop protocols and case management model
- 3) Integrate electronic data and information systems
- 4) Coordinate with state and other local public health systems
- 5) Develop a sufficient and competent workforce

Methods:

Grass root efforts beginning with assessment, program development and evaluation

Program Length:

Began in September of 2000 – until present

Number of target population reached by effort:

In 2008 1,780 children, high risk pregnant women, DD/ID adults and elderly residents were served with oral health services.

Demographic Info:

Price County has 15,822 residents. This rural county is a federally designated Medical, Dental and Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. County residents experience both geographic and economic barriers to health services, with 15.3% of children under 18 at or below the poverty level. Price County is the 5th largest land mass county in Wisconsin and has no public transportation.

Overall Cost:

\$40,000.00 per year.

Funding Sources:

20% Federal

31% State

11% Local (in-kind)

38% Other, please explain: Grants/ Medicaid reimbursement percentages are NOT estimates

Outcomes:

In May of 2000 the Price County Health Department conducted a needs assessment in the Prentice and Phillips School Districts and found that 33% of the children screened had untreated decay needs and only 30% of the children screened had preventive dental sealants.

In 2005 the Price County Health Department conducted a third grade oral health survey after the initiation of Price County Seal A Smile. The *Price County 2005 Make Your Smile Count Survey* findings show **22.9 percent** of third grade children have untreated decay (the national *Healthy People 2010* goal is to decrease the proportion of children with untreated decay to 21 percent). In terms of dental sealants Price County has exceeded the national *Healthy People 2010* objective of fifty (50%) percent with **91.5 percent** of third grade children having preventive dental sealants.

Did you make any estimates regarding costs deferred, outbreaks averted or deaths prevented?

Price County Seal a Smile has calculated societal monetary savings in averted dental disease for the 1,503 children that received dental sealants. Over a nine-year period \$136.24 will be saved per child. Therefore the Price County Seal-a-Smile has saved societal costs totaling \$204,768.72 in arresting a preventable disease. The parents and caregivers of the 1,503 children have been saved \$228,510.00 in sealant placement costs (average private practice cost of one sealant in Price County is \$30.00).

Additional Information:

Services provided by the Price County Health Department include a dietary fluoride supplement program, a school-based fluoride mouth rinse program in areas with non-fluoridated water systems, a Prenatal Care Coordination Oral Health program, a school-based dental sealant program, an early childhood caries prevention program, oral health program for the elderly intellectually disabled adults and mentally disabled adults, targeted case management and referral that assure services for those individuals with identified dental needs.

- Price County worked with the Department of Health and Family Services to develop *Seal A Smile* Agency Protocols and Policy. These policies are now widely distributed to all of the local health departments in the State of Wisconsin, as well as nationally.

- Price County has delivered technical support at the national level and to more than 45 Wisconsin counties in the state.
- The Price County Public Health Hygienist has been a member of the Department of Health and Family Services **Seal A Smile Advisory** team for the past four years.
- Price County worked directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2004 in the development of the SEALS software program. Acknowledgment appears within the manual.
- Price County was contracted as the Northern Region Data Collection Consultant for the state-wide Department of Health and Family Services *2001-2002 Make Your Smile Count* Survey.
- In 2003, Nancy Rublee, Price County Public Health Hygienist was asked by the Department of Health and Family Services to serve the northern region as host for the state wide Head Start Oral Health Forum in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.
- Price County has been a member of the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition (WOHC) since its inception

Future Plans:

The Price County Health Department is committed to continuing the oral health programs until we can assure services through other systems changes. Difficult economic times are threatening the demise of preventive programming. This includes deep federal, state and local funding cuts. There simply are not enough public health dollars benchmarked at the local level where the “rubber hits the road”.