

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™
Mississippi Chapter



Pediatric Oral Health Initiatives in Mississippi

The oral health status of children in Mississippi is of great concern. During the 2004-2005 school year, 7 in 10 third-grade children in public education had experience with tooth decay, and 1 in 10 or almost 3,800 children had urgent need for dental care due to pain or infection. In a sample taken in the Mississippi Delta, 49% of children surveyed had visible tooth decay.

The MS Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, with funding from the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation, is working toward improving the oral health of children in the MS Delta. The following agencies are working together to improve children's oral health:

Mississippi Dental Association
Mississippi State Department of Health
Children's Defense Fund/SPARK Project
Mississippi Head Start Association
Mississippi Action for Progress Head Start
Mississippi Area Health Education Center
Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center, Children and Family Unit
Mississippi Oral Health Community Alliance

Targeted, specific projects are being conducted in Head Start centers, clinics, and other venues where young children are found.

In addition, this project is working to provide Mississippi pediatricians with enhanced education on conducting oral health risk assessments during children's well-child clinic visits through training, educational materials, and other opportunities. In addition, we are working with our partners to research and provide a more adequate snapshot of the oral health of Mississippi's children. Finally, the MS Oral Health Community Alliance, an organization to address oral health statewide, has been established with the support of this project.

For more information about this project, contact the MS Chapter AAP at (601) 605-6425 or email: msaap@integrity.com.

This project made possible by a generous grant from the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation (DTAF). The DTAF is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the mission of promoting Access to Oral Health Care by funding research projects, resources for professional standards and productivity, and most importantly outreach and education for communities at risk. Learn more about DTAF by visiting

<http://www.dtafoundation.org>.