

Increasing Access to Pediatric Dental Care

The IHCRC Dental Hygienist wanted to increase the number of pediatric patients who utilize our dental clinic. Increasing access to dental care would improve children's dental health and reduce future serious dental issues. The Hygienist performs dental screenings for pediatric patients at well child exams. At this time the child and their parent/guardian are encouraged to establish a dental appointment. During a three month period in 2020, only 10% of children without a dental home chose to establish care here. In 2021, the Hygienist established a new procedure for recruiting children to establishing dental care at IHCRC. After the well-child visit screening, a phone call was made to the family, explaining the benefit of getting regular dental care and establishing a dental home. This resulted in 49% of the pediatric patients without a dental home choosing to establish care here. This surpassed our goal of 30%. Anyone who is interested in pediatric dental care can contact the Dental department at 918-588-1900.