

NewsBites

Dental Newsletter for High Schools & Colleges

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Useful Information Adolescent Dental

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0800 825 583

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Henderson

District Health Board

Web Sites :

Counties Manukau DHB

www.cmdhb.org.nz

Waitemata DHB

www.waitematadhb.govt.nz

Auckland DHB

www.adhb.govt.nz



Word of Mouth

Welcome to our 5th annual adolescent oral health newsletter.

2009 was a very busy year for the Auckland Regional Dental Service which witnessed the introduction of the new electronic database system. This new electronic system amongst other functions enables us to ensure that all Year 8 children who are enrolled with the School Dental Service have the opportunity to select an adolescent oral health provider if they wish.

We are always looking for ways to improve our service and to improve access to oral health services. We again increased the number of schools that have an annual visit from a mobile provider and we have also seen an increase in the number of dentists willing to provide the service to adolescents.

We are seeing a gradual increase in the number of children visiting a dentist for treatment. In 2008 the treatment level was 57% (55,663) an increase from the previous years 54% (51,116), and we are expecting a further increase in utilisation for 2009. However there are 96,325 eligible adolescents in the Auckland Region so we have a long way to go yet.

If your school would like some more information about the adolescent dental service please contact us on 0800 TALK TEETH.



Year 8 Dental Transfer to Adolescent Dental Service Process

Over the past few years the adolescent coordination service has been trying to improve the transfer process for children in Year 8. Children who attend the school dental service have to physically transfer over to the adolescent dental service which is provided by private contractors through mobile dental services and static practices in the community from when they start in Year 9. It was evident that a large number of children, although attending their school dental clinic, were not continuing their free dental care with an adolescent oral health provider when moving to secondary school.

Last year was our first year to completely transfer the Year 8 children electronically with our new Titanium school dental service database. Although we had the usual teething problems associated with most new database systems we successfully transferred 98% of the children over to the adolescent service. The remaining 2% chose to take their own option for continued oral health care. Our new electronic process allows us to send directly home to the parents all the information they require to continue their children's oral health treatment under the publicly funded system.

A special acknowledgement has to be made to all school dental staff and schools for their efforts in helping to achieve this 98% transfer rate.



TIPS FOR HEALTHY TEETH

Teenagers go through lots of changes – starting high school, starting work, leaving home and growing up. Oral health and looking after teeth is even more important during these years. Teenagers should be encouraged to continue with regular dental check-ups, which are free up to their 18th birthday. They should carry on brushing twice a day; the most important time to brush is at night.

Teenagers should wear a mouth guard when playing sport to protect their teeth and gums. If a tooth is damaged or lost see a dental professional straight away. If a tooth is knocked out, put it back into the socket if you can. If you can't, keep the tooth moist by putting it into the child's mouth next to their cheek, or in a cup of milk. Take the tooth and the child to your dentist as quickly as possible – the dentist may be able to save the child's tooth.

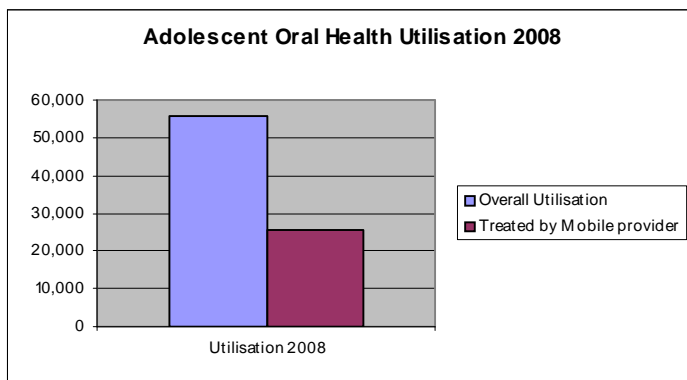
If you are aware of any children at your school who are not enrolled with a dentist or if you require any information about adolescent oral health please call us

MOBILE DENTAL SERVICE

The adolescent oral health mobile services that attend high schools and colleges in our region are continuing to make a significant difference to the oral health of adolescents.

The oral health mobile providers now attend 58 high schools and colleges in the Auckland region providing on site oral health care to the regions adolescents.

In 2008 the utilisation rate for adolescent oral health was 57.4% (55,663), the percentage treated by a mobile provider was 46% (25,681) of that total.



We would encourage schools who don't have a mobile oral health provider to consider allowing the service on site, as it is apparent that this is the most effective way of ensuring that the adolescents are receiving the oral health care that they are entitled to.

If you are interested in receiving the services of an on site oral health provider or you require further information about our service please contact us on 0800 TALK TEETH/0800 825 583.

Alternatively children should attend one of the contracting dentists in the community for their free annual dental care. If you do not have a list of these contracting dentists please call us .

LET'S TALK TEETH

You may have noticed that the adolescent oral health service has a new 0800 number, 0800 TALK TEETH/0800 825 583. This number is part of the oral health initiative set out by the Ministry of Health to provide continuous oral health care from 0-17 years. This 0800 number is for the school dental service and the adolescent oral health service

Our old 0800 ITS FREE number will gradually be phased out but we can still be contacted in the meantime on this number. We will be using the new number and the new promotional pictures on all our future correspondence and promotional materials.

For more information check the new website dedicated to children's oral health at www.talkteeth.co.nz



Call 0800 TALK TEETH
for all your adolescent
dental service enquiries

All eligible children are entitled to free dental care up to their 18th birthday. Not all dentists in Auckland provide the free service so it is important that adolescents attend the clinic of a contracting dentist or a mobile dental provider. To locate a contracting dentist please call us on **0800 TALK TEETH/ 0800 825 583**