

DENTAL PROGRAM

2022 - 2023
ANNUAL REPORT



Children's
FRIEND



Presenting the 2022-2023 Annual Dental Program Report

As we celebrate a decade of partnership with Samuels Sinclair Dental Center (Samuels) at Rhode Island Hospital, we reflect on the importance of supporting good oral health for young children. This continued collaboration contributes to a healthy start for the infants, toddlers, and preschoolers we serve.

Regular dental care is vital for health outcomes that can benefit children for years to come. Together with Samuels, we raise awareness of the importance of comprehensive, accessible, coordinated, family dental care. When children and their families establish a dental home where they can receive regular care from a licensed dentist, they are more likely to develop a lifetime of good oral health.

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, children living in poverty are twice as likely to suffer tooth decay, and their dental diseases are more than twice as likely to go untreated as their more affluent peers.

Because of our long-term partnership with Samuels, we have been able to track progress toward a systemic shift in dental access for the families we serve, 90 percent of whom live at or below the federal poverty level. We are thrilled to report that more of our families are making dental arrangements with private dentists each year, and most of our families have established dental homes.

We are grateful for the outstanding leadership of all those who make the comprehensive Dental Program at Children's Friend a reality. I want to thank Samuels, the Policy Council, the Board of Directors, our talented team of Health Project Coordinators, Teachers, and Nurses, and David Caprio, President and Chief Executive Officer. Thank you for making early oral health a priority for children. Together, we are creating a healthier future for those we serve.

We hope you enjoy reading our 2022-2023 Dental Program Report.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Brannon

Lindsey Brannon
Health and Nursing Manager
Children's Friend



Promoting good oral health habits from the start



Providing age-appropriate health education is essential to our curriculum at Children's Friend. Children who practice good oral hygiene can reduce their chances of developing problems later in life, such as plaque, gum disease, and cavities. Good dental health has also been linked to lower rates of heart disease. We help children and their families to establish healthy habits early, including providing access to dental care providers through Samuels.

Our program was back to "normal" this year for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant that our screenings, hygiene, and fluoride treatments could proceed as scheduled. The dental team was back in full force, with appropriate precautions as needed.

We continue to include information on good oral hygiene habits in our family health and nutrition newsletters. We regularly encourage all families to have their children seen by their dentists, even our infants and toddlers. If children do not have dentists, they can establish care at Samuels' office. Our team helps interested families secure dental appointments.

We are pleased that by working together, we met the educational and individual oral health needs of our children and families.



Meet our Amazing Nursing Team!

Friendship Center

Lindsey Brannon

King and Hartford Center

Donna Hulstyn

Althea, Dorcas, and Partnership Sites

Katy Killilea

Berkshire and Kizirian Center

Peggy King

Heritage Park and Dean Center

Carissa Kennedy

Dexter and Carter Center

Brittany Pratt

Key Accomplishments and Continued Progress



Head Start

- 143 children received a dental screening
- 84 children received a dental cleaning



Early Head Start

- 9 children received a dental screening
- 3 children received a dental cleaning

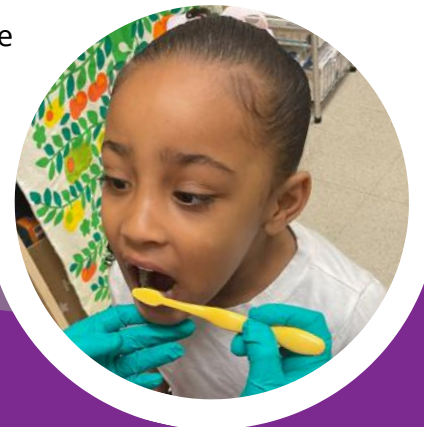


Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships

- 9 children received a dental screening
- 14 children received a dental cleaning

From The Good News File

- Samuels is back in our centers and can see all children for the first time since Covid.
- Oral health and teeth brushing are continually promoted in the classroom.



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