

Contrasting Coverage of Oral Health and Nutrition in Regulations for Child Care Centers among US States and Washington DC

Linda M Kaste, DDS, MS, PhD, Diplomate ABDPH
University of Illinois at Chicago COD and SPH

Shahrbanoo Fadavi, DDS, MS, Diplomate ABPD
University of Illinois at Chicago COD

Juhee Kim, ScD
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Applied Health Sciences

NOHC, April 13, 2011, Pittsburgh, PA

Background

- By age 5, about 75% of US children use some form of regular non-parental child care
- About 25% of children under age 5 use formal child care such as child care centers and nursery/preschool

Objective

- To contrast US states and Washington DC child care center regulations on oral health and nutrition topics related to early childhood caries

Methods

- State regulations from National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education
– nrckids.org/STATES/state.htm
- Review between January and April 2010
- More details in Kim, J et al in-press *Pediatric Dentistry*

Methods (cont.)

Standards for Regulations came from:
Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 2nd Edition, 2002.

nrckids.org/CFOC/

Oral Health (8 - CFOC)

1. Frequency of toothbrush use, targeting "at least daily"
2. Toothbrushes be labeled / identified / assigned to each child
3. Proper storage of toothbrushes
4. Toothbrush available for each child
5. Maintaining bristled toothbrush
6. Toothpaste available
(pea-sized amount that is not placed directly from a shared tube to the toothbrush)
7. Children have oral health screenings
(could be before entering or during attendance)
8. Have a dental care contact for each child on file

Nutrition (11 - CFOC)

Infants

1. No cow's milk before 12 months of age
2. Breast milk supported or breastfeeding at child care facility encouraged
3. No mixing formula with solid or liquid food in a bottle
4. No bottle propping allowed at any time
5. Cannot carry or sleep with a bottle
6. No solid food given before 6 months

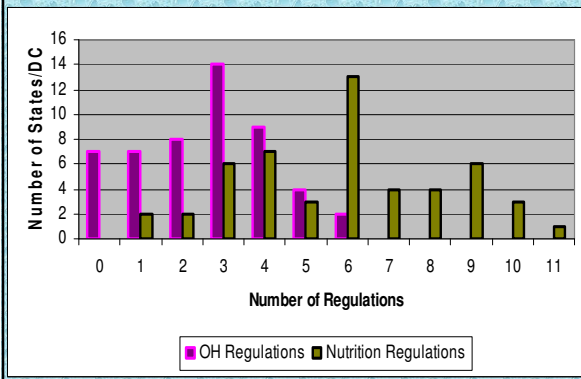
Children

1. Eating frequency
2. Fruits and vegetable intake
3. Drinking water freely available
4. Only 100% fruit juice served
5. Sugar-sweetened beverages not allowed (not in 2002 but to be in upcoming edition)

Results

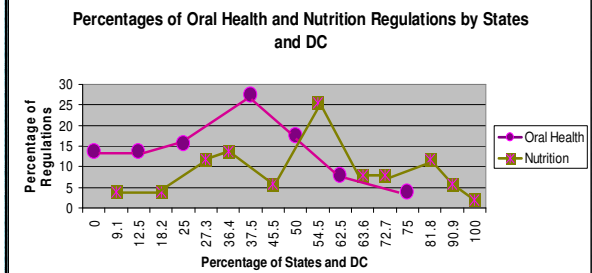
- Basics in Kim, J et al *Pediatric Dentistry*, in-press
- Association with characteristics of state dental directors, presented at 2011 AADR/IADR
- Focus here on the contrast of oral health and nutrition coverage

Oral Health and Nutrition Regs in Child Care Centers
Number of Regulations Covered by States and DC



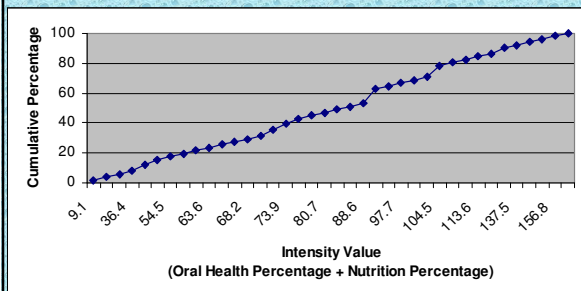
Oral Health and Nutrition Regs in Child Care Centers

Distribution of Percentage of Topics Covered
Note: Oral Health has 0% and does not go higher than 75%



Oral Health and Nutrition Regs in Child Care Centers

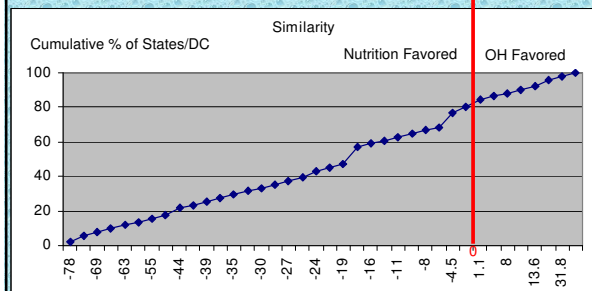
Intensity of Coverage = OH% + Nutrition%

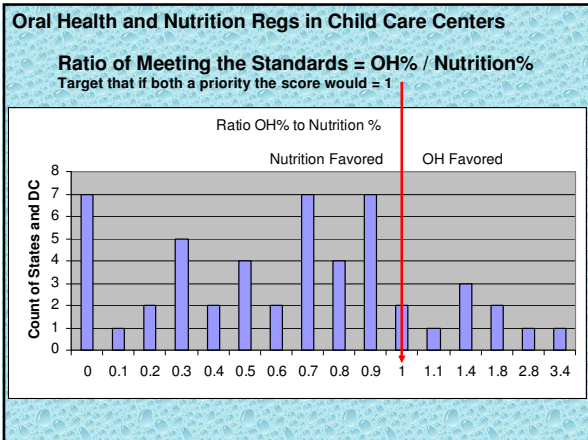


Oral Health and Nutrition Regs in Child Care Centers

Similarity = OH% - Nutrition%

Target that if both a priority the score would = 0





- ## Conclusions
- There is room for improvement regarding the coverage of both oral health and nutrition in the state/DCs regulations for child care centers
 - In general, there is better coverage of nutrition than the oral health topics
 - Both nutrition and oral health regulations should be explored further as potential points of intervention towards prevention of early childhood caries via child care centers