

ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN WOMEN WITHIN RURAL EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton,
Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties (Region 9)

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WomenNC

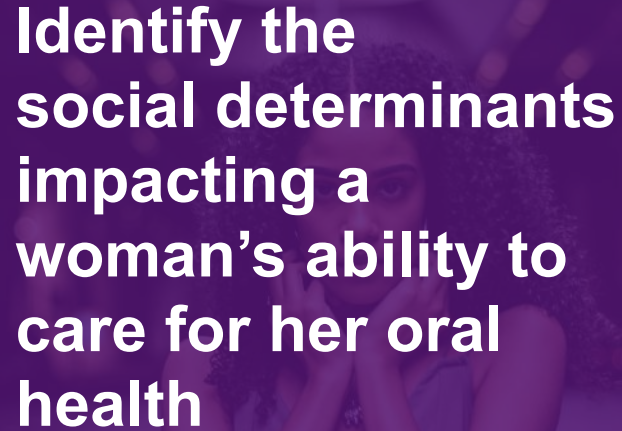
CSW64 / BEIJING + 25

Femtor: Dr. Margaret Gichane, RTI Global Gender Center

Research Objectives



Identify oral health disparities in Eastern N.C.



Identify the social determinants impacting a woman's ability to care for her oral health

(e.g., socioeconomic status, transportation, education, and access to healthcare services)

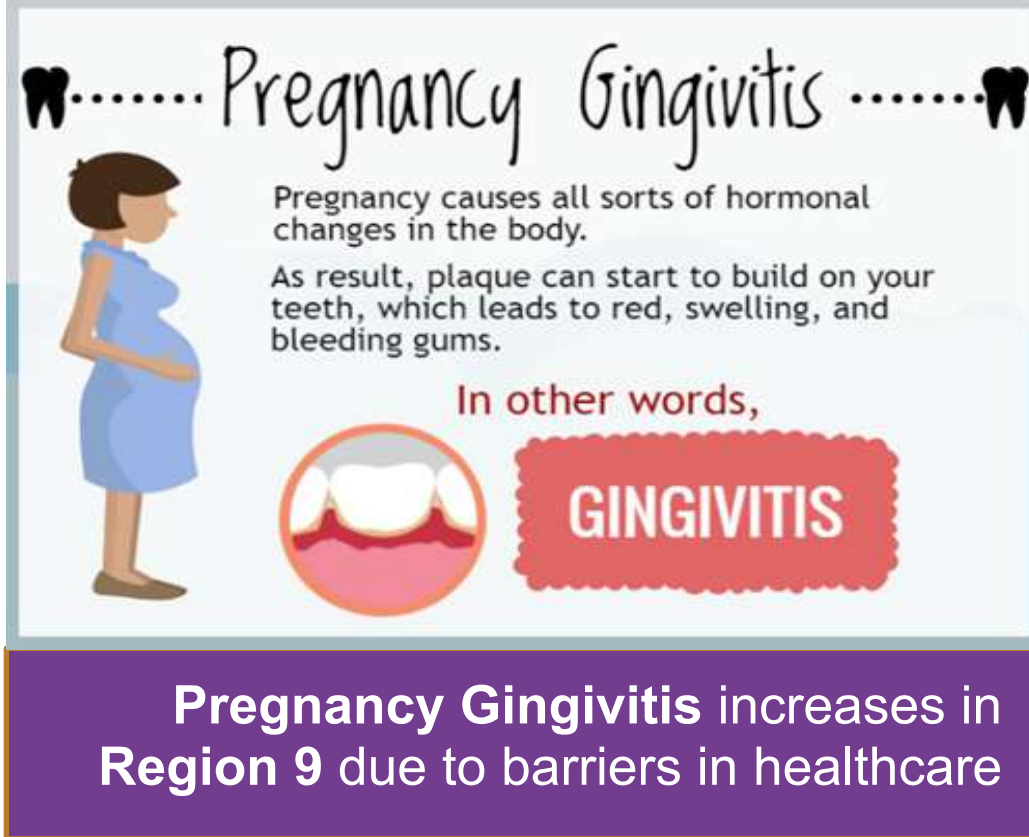


Identify policy solutions to reduce oral health disparities among pregnant women

Introduction

Poor oral health in pregnant women can predispose their children to similar complications:

→ **affecting future generations**



The infographic features a central illustration of a pregnant woman in a blue dress. To her right, the title 'Pregnancy Gingivitis' is written in a large, handwritten-style font, flanked by two tooth icons. Below the title, there are two paragraphs of text explaining the condition. A circular inset shows a close-up of a tooth with red, swollen gums. To the right of this inset is a red, scalloped-edged box containing the word 'GINGIVITIS' in white capital letters. At the bottom of the infographic, a purple banner contains the text 'Pregnancy Gingivitis increases in Region 9 due to barriers in healthcare' in white font.

Pregnancy Gingivitis

Pregnancy causes all sorts of hormonal changes in the body.

As result, plaque can start to build on your teeth, which leads to red, swelling, and bleeding gums.

In other words,

GINGIVITIS

Pregnancy Gingivitis increases in Region 9 due to barriers in healthcare

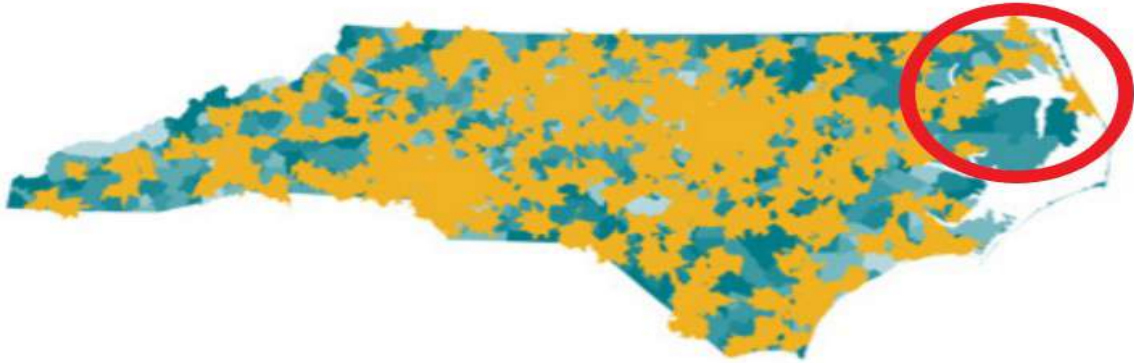
LITERATURE REVIEW

- Primary & Secondary Sources
- Focus: Region 9 Disparities
- Medicaid & Non-Medicaid Dental Offices → *Transportation & Distance*
- Number of Dentists → *Provider to Patient Ratios*
- Public Fluoridated Water Supply → *Environmental Barriers*
- Fluoride Mouth Rinse Programs → *Access to Oral Health Education*



Findings

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF MEDICAID DENTISTS



- 15-MINUTE TRAVEL TIME TO MEDICAID OFFICE
- Region 9



Sources: NC Department of Health and Human Services Office of Rural Health, "North Carolina Counties Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas SFY 2018 & Based on the ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of the 2015 ADA office database and 2011-2015 American Community Survey.



Findings



87%

of the Region 9 population served by public water systems **do not** receive fluoridated water



96%

of qualified Region 9 schools **do not** participate in a Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program

Policy Recommendations

1. Develop a **Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program for pregnant women** at their OB/GYN office in Region 9, Eastern North Carolina.

When: At a woman's first prenatal visit, a medical provider instructs, demonstrates, and guides a woman in practicing a fluoride rinse.

2. Conduct **regional educational programming and training for women and medical professionals** (OB/GYNs) to become knowledgeable about oral health during pregnancy.