

Brief for UM Research Participants Site

Children's' Oral Health Initiative

Too many young First Nations and Inuit children are affected by an aggressive form of tooth decay, called Severe Early Childhood Caries (**S-ECC**). Severe tooth decay negatively impacts a child's overall health and well-being. It causes pain and infection, affects growth and development and often requires that children go to hospital for treatment of their cavities under general anesthesia.

In 2004, Health Canada launched the Children's Oral Health Initiative (**COHI**) in many First Nations and Inuit communities to prevent early childhood tooth decay and promote good oral health. There have been significant government investments into COHI over the past fifteen years yet there is no real evidence of COHI's impact on improving the lives of children. Therefore, our Indigenous and non-Indigenous research team is collaborating to evaluate COHI. Our team is working with Indigenous communities in Manitoba.

We are looking to interview COHI staff and parents of young children and community members about their experiences with COHI. We will explore COHI's value and impact on children's dental health. What aspects of COHI are working, what is not working and what could be done to further benefit children and families.

Study contact: Dr. Grace Kyoon Achan

Email: Grace.KyoonAchan@umanitoba.ca

Phone: (204) 789-3346

Location: 510-715 John Buhler Research Center

End date: June 30, 2020

