



4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Oral Health Conference  
September 11, 2009  
"Improving Rural Oral Health Through  
Innovative Programs"

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## VERMONT

**Initiative:** Tooth Tutor Dental Access Program

**Purpose:** To identify children without access to regular dental healthcare, and to connect them with a local dental home. This program seeks to focus resources where they are needed most: children who have not been to the dentist for over a year, and may face barriers to accessing care even when dental insurance is available.

- ◆ **Key Features:** Hygienists placed in schools, preschools, and Head Start programs connect children with local dentists. It is important that the Tooth Tutor has a connection with the local community. It is also critical that schools are initially funded in order to see the benefits of the program.
- ◆ **Outcome:** Roughly two thirds of children identified in the target group are placed in dental homes, leading to rates as high as 93% of children in tooth tutor schools with a dental home.
- ◆ **Next Steps/Future Direction:** Continue to expand the program into other settings.