

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is pleased to announce the release of two new resources: a special supplement to the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* [[Link to http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.2017.77.issue-S1/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.2017.77.issue-S1/issuetoc)] and *Healthy Futures: Engaging the Oral Health Community in Childhood Obesity Prevention National Conference—Executive Summary*. [[Link to https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/RWJF-HF-ExecSumm.pdf](https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/RWJF-HF-ExecSumm.pdf)]

Childhood obesity is a major public health problem in the United States. An association between childhood obesity and dental caries, the most prevalent disease of childhood, has been suggested. One explanation for the association between childhood obesity and dental caries is based on the rationale that frequent consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and foods are common risk factors.

To address concerns about these two critical health issues: childhood obesity and dental caries, the Healthy Futures: Engaging the Oral Health Community in Childhood Obesity Prevention National Conference was convened with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). The conference was coordinated by OHRC, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the American Dental Association, the American Dental Hygienists' Association, and the Santa Fe Group and held November 3–4, 2016, at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The aim of the conference was to increase awareness of evidence-based recommendations; identify strategies; and promote collaboration efforts that oral health professionals, oral-health-related organizations, and others can employ to prevent obesity in children under age 12.

Healthy Futures: Engaging the Oral Health Community in Childhood Obesity Prevention National Conference—Executive Summary [[Link to https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/RWJF-HF-ExecSumm.pdf](https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/RWJF-HF-ExecSumm.pdf)] describes RWJF efforts and provides an overview of the conference, the conference agenda, and key findings. It also presents a list of proposed strategies in the following areas: research, dental students' education and training, oral health professionals' continuing education and training, advocacy/policy, consumer-based education interventions, interprofessional collaboration, and reimbursement.

The Journal of Public Health Dentistry (volume 31, supplement 1) includes nine articles prepared for the conference that identified through systematic reviews or scoping reviews the state of the science related to preventing childhood obesity and reducing children's consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and strategies that oral health professionals and organizations can employ to prevent childhood obesity. The articles examine (1) the state of the science related to preventing childhood obesity, (2) the state of the science related to reducing children's consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages or sugar-containing beverages, and (3) strategies that could be employed by oral health professionals and organizations and others to prevent childhood obesity. An introduction and a conference summary and recommendation are also included.

Both of these resources were supported by RWJF.