



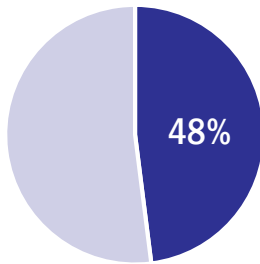
# ALASKA NEWBORNS DESERVE A HEALTHY START

Coach all of your prenatal patients to see a dentist during their pregnancy

Periodontal disease has been associated with preterm birth and low birth weight infants. Mothers can pass cavity-causing bacteria to newborns, increasing her child's risk for tooth decay.

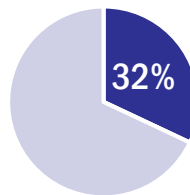
## IN ALASKA, DURING PREGNANCY,

Less than half of mothers have their teeth cleaned.

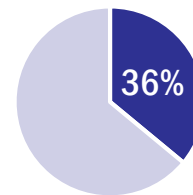


Data source: Alaska PRAMS 2016 data

Barely a third of younger mothers and mothers using Medicaid have their teeth cleaned.



Only 32% of women younger than 25 years have their teeth cleaned.



Only 36% of women using Medicaid have their teeth cleaned.



Regular dental work including cleanings, x-rays, and fillings are safe during pregnancy.

- Mary Williard, DDS, Director, Dept of Oral Health Promotion, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

## START THE CONVERSATION...

Ask your patients early in their pregnancy:

- Do you have swollen or bleeding gums, a toothache, problems eating or chewing food, or other problems in your mouth?
- When was your last dental visit?
- Do you need help finding a dentist?

**...THEN MAKE REFERRALS AS NEEDED.**



For more information and resources, visit <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/oralhealth/>