

Iredell County Selected to Participate in Children's Dental Survey

RALEIGH — Iredell County has been selected to participate in a statewide children's dental survey. The survey is being conducted in randomly selected public school classrooms in grades K-12 across the state to help determine the extent of childhood dental disease in North Carolina. Although often not thought of as a disease, tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, and affects some

groups of children more than others. The National Institutes of Health says 80 percent of dental disease is found in just 20 percent of all children. The National Maternal and Child Health Resource Center has found that children from families with low incomes miss nearly 12 times as many school days because of dental problems as those from families with higher incomes.

The school dental health survey includes both written questionnaires and dental examinations of children's teeth. Parents of children in the selected classrooms will be asked to give consent for their children's participation and to answer some questions related to children's dental decay. Children in fourth grade and above will also complete a questionnaire and be asked to allow a dentist to examine

their teeth and mouth.

During the clinical exam, licensed public health dentists will record the number of fillings, cavities and sealants each child has. They will also note tooth appearance, dental trauma, symptoms of dental disease, and orthodontic treatment. Exam results will be sent home to the parents.

Partially funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the survey is being conducted by the Oral Health Section of the North Carolina Division of Public Health and the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC). Locally, Pam Collins, dental public health hygienist, is overseeing

the survey. "Although there are some agencies in Iredell County treating low income adults and children, many of our citizens still suffer from severe pain due to untreated dental disease," said Collins.

"We want to prevent dental disease in children and to educate the public about how important good oral health is to their general health. The results of this survey will help us evaluate and improve community, school and state efforts to reduce childhood tooth decay," Collins said.

For more information about the school dental health survey in Iredell County, contact dental public health hygienist Pam Collins at 704-878-5440.



MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 607 attended Rendezvous 2003 at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds along with over 3,000 other boy scouts. Members attending were, front row, left to right, Stuart Payne, Justin Sharpe, Preston Ritchie and Cody Lazenby. Second row, Travis Burnette, Mitchell Owens, Patrick Messina, Robby Sherwood. Third row, Adam McCann, Trey Mayberry and John Gaspard. Back row, Bruce Ritchie, Committee Chairman; Junior Sherrill, Scoutmaster; and Chris Lazenby.

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