

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING TO INCREASE HEALTH LITERACY: ORAL HEALTH

LISTENING TO MOMS

- Only **20.6%** of women (n=7/34) reported seeing the dentist during the first **13** weeks of their pregnancy.
- **58.8%** (n=20/34) of women reported not seeing a dentist during their entire pregnancy.

MARYLAND MODEL OF HEALTH LITERACY

- Almost all respondents (**97.9%**, n=754/770) reported awareness of fluoride, but only **57.8%** (n=445) knew its purpose, to prevent cavities.
- Those with lower levels of education were less likely to have a dental appointment in the past **12 months**.

PATIENT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Fluoruro + Selladores = No Caries



FLUORIDE PREVENTS CAVITIES



PROVIDER KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

MARYLAND DENTISTS' KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO ORAL CANCER PREVENTION & EARLY DETECTION

- Only **7%** (n=12/1169) of dentists strongly agreed that their knowledge of oral cancers was current.
- Results suggest dentists may not have strong knowledge about signs, symptoms, and risk factors for oral cancers.

HEALTH LITERACY ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS OF COMMUNITY-BASED DENTAL CLINICS IN MD

- Clinic forms rated with SMOG readability formula were generally above 8th grade level, included jargon, and used small fonts.
- **1/3** of assessed oral health print materials were rated not suitable or adequate.

HEALTH LITERACY ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS OF COMMUNITY-BASED DENTAL CLINICS IN MD

- In a survey of **60 dentists** on their routine use of recommended communication techniques:
- Only **29%** reported regularly using teach back method, **80%** speak slowly, and **87%** limit to **2 or 3 concepts** at a time.

HEALTH LITERACY TECHNIQUES