

Cavity Free Future Thailand

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Background and Purpose: In Thailand, the prevalence of dental caries in children are 52% in 3 years old, 78.5% in 5 years old and 52% in permanent teeth among 12 year olds children (National oral health survey 2012), most of decay teeth are un-treated. Moreover, the result from oral health status and risk factors surveillance survey (2015) showed that caries prevalence in young children age 18 months, 3 years and 12 years are 13%, 56% and 52% respectively. Tooth decay is still a major health problem among Thai children. A Cavity Free Future Thailand aims to reduce caries prevalence in 3, 5, 12 year olds children to 40% in the year 2020.

Materials/Methods: The multi-site community lab of 3 years (2018-2020) will be carried out in 4 regions throughout Thailand. Main activities will be; 1) Capacity Building among dental personnel 2) Strengthen prevention and early intervention programs 3) Enhance oral health data systems 4) Increase access to care among target groups and 5) Integrated and coordinated oral health in general health. Key messages such as; “Good teeth begins at first tooth” and “eat play hugs storytelling and oral hygiene” will be promoted in children age 0-5 years. In school children key message “Save Our Sixth” by promote toothbrushing 2 2 2 (Brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day for at least 2 minutes and avoid eat or drink after brush 2 hours) will be promoted. The mechanism of strengthen the oral health promotion and prevention, to improve self-care, professional care and community care will be implemented.

Summary: Dental caries is a multi-factorial disease and there is a strong belief that environmental factors and social determinants are most important. The effective measure to tackle with dental caries may depend up on the area context. The multi-site studies in community setting that determine a practical, evaluate effectiveness of intervention and employ large network of participation is needed. The result from this study may help to develop an effective community model for scaling up throughout Thailand tackles with Early Childhood Caries.