Families practice habits such as twice-daily tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste, limiting sugars and drinking fluoridated tap water.

Head Start/Early Head Start and WIC staff provide oral health education, in-class tooth brushing and facilitate access to care.

Community health workers help parents choose healthy behaviors and access needed services.

Community organizations facilitate wrap-around services and education.

Ob-gyns encourage women to seek dental care during pregnancy.

Medical professionals provide oral health risk assessments, guidance and as-needed fluoride varnish and referrals to dental professionals.

Dental professionals treat pregnant women and children 0–5, especially those at highest risk.

Electronic health records connect a patient’s medical and dental records to coordinate care.

Policymakers prioritize cost-effective strategies, oral health outcomes and affordable coverage.

Advocates inform policy decisions and educate the public.

Medicaid officials ensure that covered children receive all necessary services.

Academic researchers analyze data and advance innovative approaches.

Municipal water supply has added fluoride to help prevent cavities.

A Coordinated System to End Cavities

The most cost-effective prevention begins with pregnant women and children ages 0–5.