

INNOVATION Awards 2013

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A Midwifery Initiated Dental Service: An Australian First Healthy Living

Introduction

The Midwifery-Initiated Oral Health Dental Service (MIOH-DS) promotes healthy living during pregnancy through early intervention that improves the oral hygiene, knowledge and quality of life of disadvantaged pregnant women.

Aim

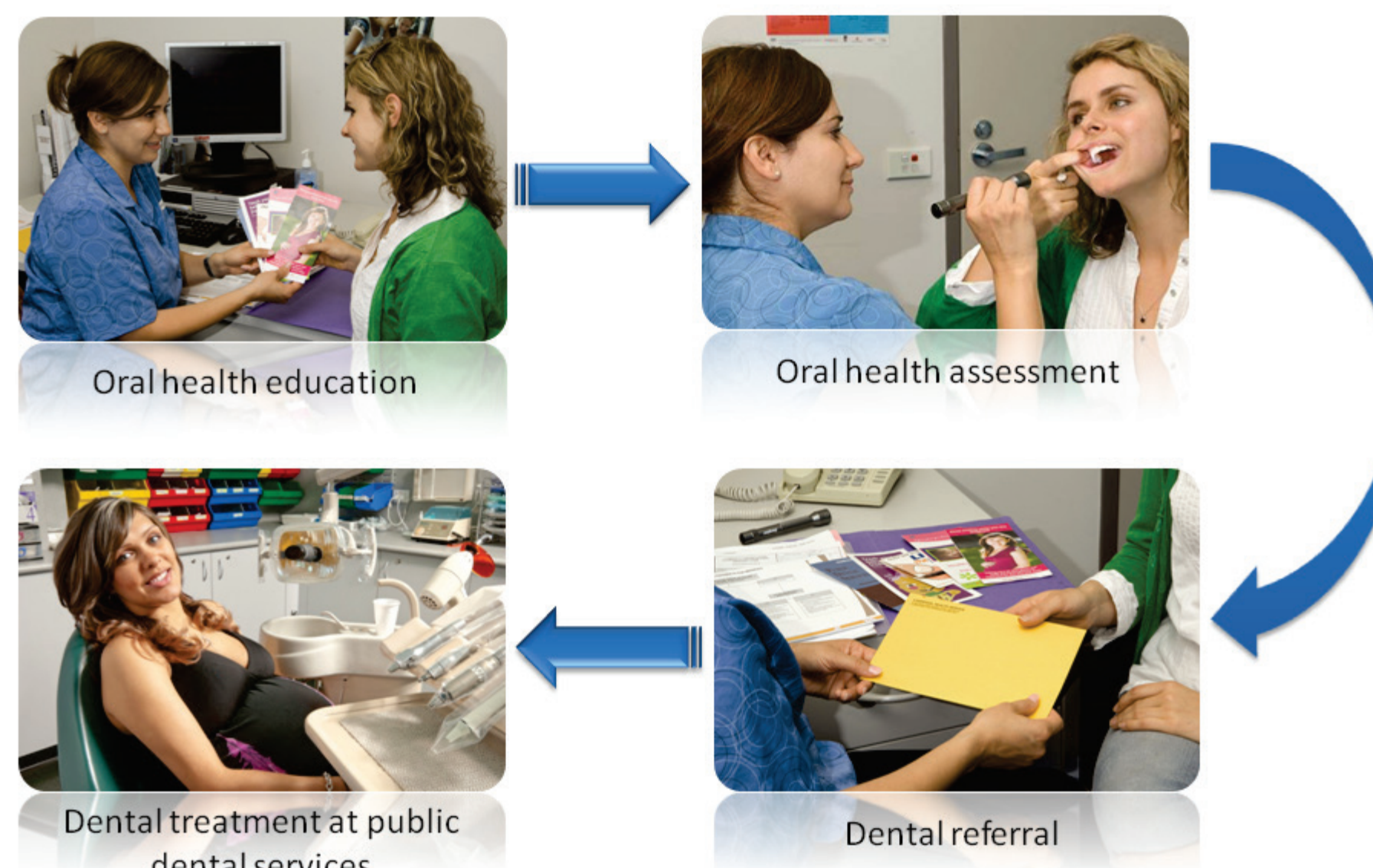
To improve uptake of dental services by 30%, oral health knowledge/status and quality of life of pregnant women in SWS by training midwives and improving access to affordable dental services.



Oral assessment by midwife

Method

A MIOH-DS randomised controlled trial was conducted at Campbelltown Hospital. This pilot was evaluated using pre/post survey, dental assessment and feedback forms. The intervention trained midwives to promote maternal oral health, incorporated oral health guidelines into midwifery practice and referred at-risk women to appropriate and affordable dental services.



MIOH-DS Program

Conclusion

A large number of women have dental health problems during pregnancy and do not seek dental care. Midwives emphasised the importance of oral health. The pilot MIOH-DS has increased the uptake of dental services and improved pregnant women's quality of life related to oral health. A large multicentre trial is underway.

Acknowledgements

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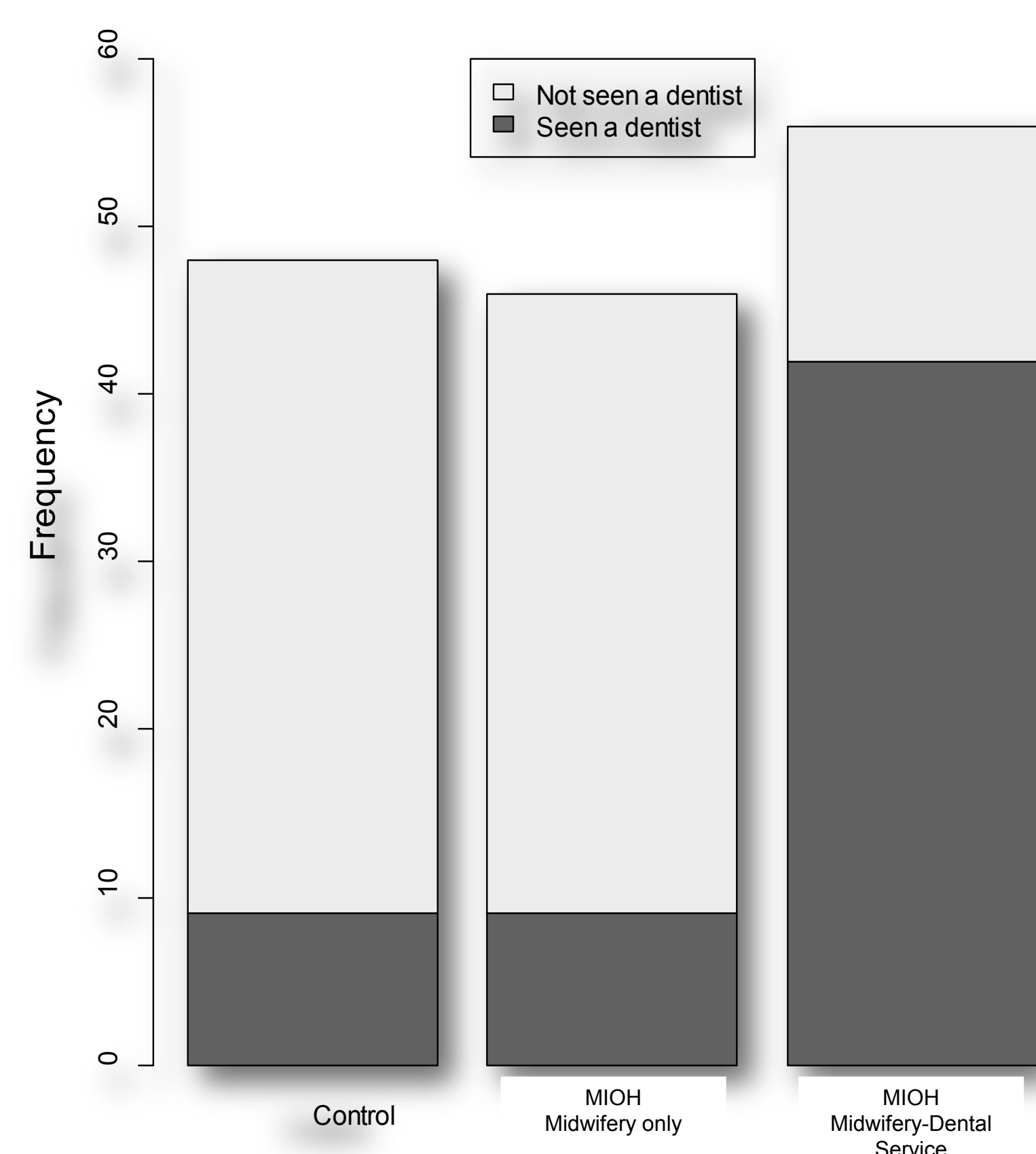


Results

Results show significant improvement in the uptake of dental services (>50%), oral hygiene and quality of life among women in the program. The MIOH-DS initiative received NHMRC funding. It is being expanded into Victoria and included in the NSW Oral Health strategic plan.

These results highlight the benefits of the MIOH-DS and its relevance to key performance measures in NSW.

Figure 1: Update of dental services among three groups of pregnant women



Pregnancy oral health brochures



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