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Objective: The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Dental Health (NYSDOH, BDH) operates and maintains oral health programs in order to sustain optimal levels of oral health statewide, as well as, provides data to inform the public and policymakers. The New York State Oral Health Coalition (NYSOHC) uses the data to promote oral health. The objective of this project was to support the NYSOHC Public Policy Standing Committee by researching and composing a policy recommendation paper on Medicaid reimbursement for the application of fluoride varnish to underserved children in pediatricians' offices.

Methods: The Children's Dental Health Project/ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Policy Tool was reviewed and the necessary components for the recommendation were established. Once priorities were set, searches of online NYSDOH databases and BDH materials were conducted and correspondence with experts in the field was maintained to obtain scientific evidence on the issue. The paper was then composed, following the guidelines of the Policy Tool and including a discussion of the public health relevance of the issue, an analysis of the current policy and recommendations for change.

Results: The Public Policy Standing Committee of NYSOHC is currently examining this policy recommendation paper for its impact.

Conclusions: The use and publication of the paper will help to support Medicaid reimbursement for pediatricians providing fluoride varnish to underserved children, which will lower the prevalence of dental caries among this population and help to incorporate oral health into overall health.