



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

CATAWBA COUNTY TO RENOVATE DENTAL PRACTICE

HICKORY, NC—Starting January 9, 2012, Catawba County Public Health (CCPH) will undergo renovations to expand its dental practice to more than double the space. The expansion will allow CCPH to provide routine dental services, such as cleanings, fillings, sealants, and extractions, to an additional 1,500 children and young adults.

During the renovation, the current dental practice will remain open and operate under current hours.

Renovations will enhance the patient experience with the following:

- Improved patient confidentiality through separate patient check-in/check-out areas and a private consultation area
- Double the waiting room space, and dental operatory rooms from 3 to 6
- Updated dental equipment, including digital and panoramic x-rays
- Electronic scheduling and patient records
- An education station, which offers tooth brushing sinks

In 2010, 44% of Catawba County children ages 0-21 receiving Medicaid did not have access to dental services. Only 38% of children ages 1-5 received dental service compared to 45% statewide.

“Prevention of dental disease is our number one goal. It’s important for children to start receiving routine dental care early, so that they can begin to build a foundation of positive oral care experiences,” said Kelly Isenhour, assistant health director. “We are excited about the opportunity to improve our ability to provide more access to care, and continue to prevent dental disease in Catawba County children.”

Over the past 17 years, the CCPH Dental practice has served approximately 1,500 children ages 1-21 and has provided nearly 10,000 dental services to children each year.

The CCPH Dental practice, in collaboration with dental providers, NC oral health sections, and other local organizations, has been a key partner in the prevention of dental decay in Catawba County children. Data shows that 62% of fifth grade Catawba County children have sealants as compared to 44% statewide. Between 2004 and 2009, dental decay among Catawba County kindergarten children has decreased 42% as compared to a 26% decrease statewide.

Located in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.



“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”
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