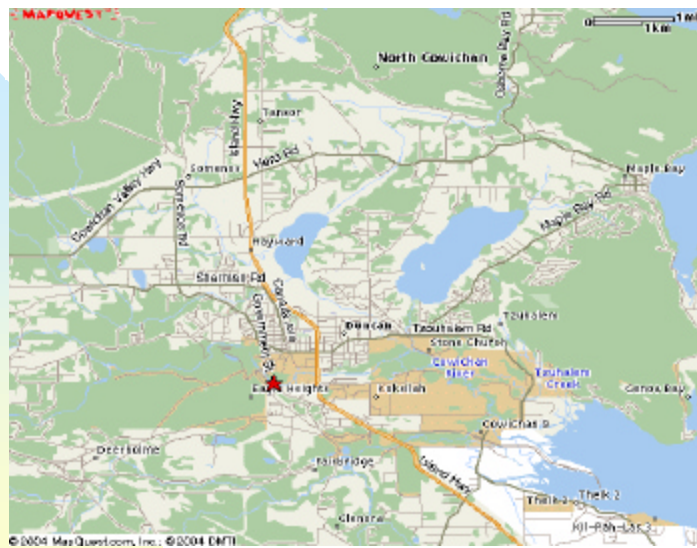


A Community Based Dental Health Program for Aboriginal Families

Sherry Saunderson, RDH
Tsewultun Health Centre
 Cowichan Tribes
 Duncan, B.C..





TSEWULTUN HEALTH CENTRE



COWICHAN TRIBES



Tsewultun Health Centre, Cowichan Tribes



Half the population is now under 25 years





A five year old child with severe dental disease

January 1998.

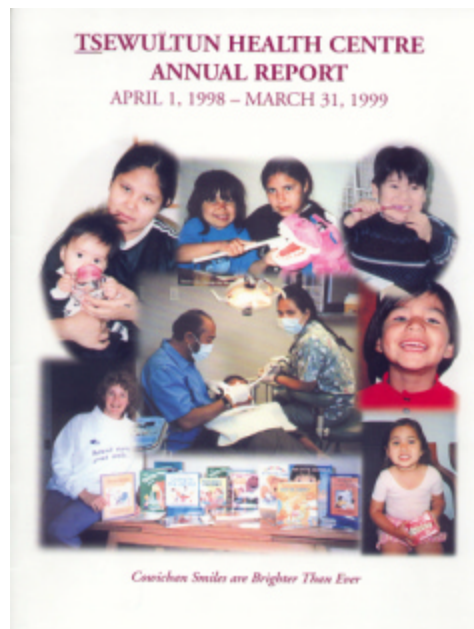
23 year old father of two infants





Non Status, no citizenship, no funds





Differences in Delivery:

- For profit business venture
- operatories are income centers
- limited to allowable procedures dictated by NIHB dental plan
- fees paid lower than dental fee guide
- dentist centered
- no funding for prevention, health promotion & education
- maximum treatment done for efficiency "time is money"
- little time for client relationship building
- cultural insensitivity, lack of understanding of factors that impact clients health outcomes
- intimidating environment, racist attitudes, uncomfortable in formal setting.
- Community based, under same roof as other health services
- no billable procedures, non-profit
- not limited or restricted by dental plans
- culturally sensitive dental care offered, holistic, relationship based. Trust important.
- Treatment tailored to their personal needs, situation
- client centered, family oriented
- not constrained by rules, time and reliance on gov't fee to provide dental care.
- Responsive to clients needs, innovative. Referrals out to dentists for major work.
- Non-judgmental, gentle, caring

Early contact for prevention





Videos for the message on ECC.





School visits



Fluoride Tablets and Varnishes



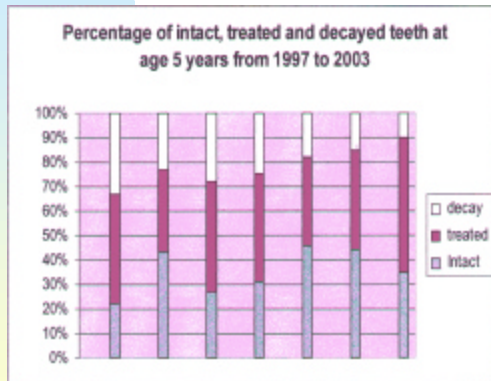
Mall Days



Challenges



Successes



- Pre-Kindergarten screening data since 1997
- anterior decay reduced from 79% to 56%
- untreated decay reduced from 33% to 15%

We have fun with our clients -
Hallowe'en 2003





Our program is small steps, long term, with a ripple effect in the community. The investment today will reap significant rewards in the future.