

**Child Health Investment Partnership of Roanoke Valley, Virginia
Begin with a Grin Program (2004-2012)**

CHIP of Roanoke Valley's *Begin with a Grin* in-home dental varnish and oral health education program is designed to reduce access barriers to early oral health care for at-risk low income children in the Roanoke Valley and prevent dental disease in demographic witnessing epidemic rates of early childhood tooth decay.

1. CHIP nursing staff have been able to provide in-home oral health education for caregivers, and fluoride varnish applications and dental care coordination for over 1900 children during the past five years.

2. In addition to in-home teaching and preventive varnish applications, CHIP of Roanoke Valley has offered twice yearly, all day Dental Fairs for the last 5 years to further promote oral health. This venue provides a child/family friendly environment designed to enhance understanding of oral health education and reinforce the importance of early dental screening. Parents bring their children to this event where strategies are used to help desensitize child participants to dental exams and varnish applications. The dental fairs are supported by pediatric dentists (from the Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Dentistry under the leadership of Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse) who perform calibrated screenings of CHIP children for caries incidence and presenting oral health issues, and referral to area dentists. The data from these screenings is being collated for analysis of efficacy.

3. CHIP has continued to focus on identification and establishment of dental homes in the Roanoke area for CHIP children (75% rate as of Fiscal Year 2012).

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<u>CHIP of Roanoke Valley Dental Varnishes</u>	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	Total for 5 years
# of children receiving dental varnishes	352	407	439	384	371	1953
# of fluoride dental varnishes provided	456	531	578	528	489	2582