



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Oral Health Program Comes to Brattleboro Health Department Office



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BRATTLEBORO – The Vermont Department of Health’s Brattleboro Office is expanding its resources to improve oral health with the November hiring of dental hygienist Susan Rand, RDH. Rand is an experienced dental hygienist with deep roots in the community. She most recently worked at Early Education Services as a Tooth Tutor, where she helped connect families with dental homes. She also volunteers with United Way of Windham County on their dental health initiatives.

Rand will initially focus on education and oral health assessments for the Brattleboro Office’s WIC participants – pregnant women and children through age 4. “Our emphasis on pregnant women and young children is because dental decay is actually infectious. Strep mutans bacteria can be passed from mother to baby. The earlier the child’s mouth is colonized, the higher the risk of decay. Oral health is important for the mother’s own health also,” said Prudence MacKinney, district director of the Health Department’s Brattleboro Office.

Rand is the fifth dental hygienist to be added statewide to district health offices as part of an effort to address serious oral health problems through prevention, education and links to treatment. The program is aimed at integrating oral health with overall health and wellness – linking dentists, Ob-Gyns, pediatricians, family physicians, Head Start, child care facilities and local district public health resources.

The public health dental hygiene positions make good financial sense. Over \$2 million is spent in Vermont each year for hospital-based care for children under the age of 6. Public health dental hygienists focus on prevention and working with local dentists for improved access, thereby saving tax payer money and reducing pain and suffering.

To learn more about the work of the Vermont Department of Health **Oral Health Program**. For information on the Health Department’s **Brattleboro Office**, call (802) 257-2882, or join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vdhbrattleboro](http://www.facebook.com/vdhbrattleboro).

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