



## RESEARCH UPDATE

# AAP presents research on oral health, well-child visits

from the **AAP Department of Research**

Findings from several AAP studies were presented at the Child Health Services Research Special Interest Meeting on June 2 and the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting June 3-5, both in Orlando. The Academy was a co-supporter of the Child Health Services Research Special Interest Meeting.

### Oral health care assessment



In a presentation of results from the 2006 Annual Survey of Graduating Residents, one in three graduating residents (35%) reported having received no oral health training during residency. Among those who did receive some oral health training, three-quarters had fewer than three hours.

More than three-quarters were confident that they had a “very good or excellent” ability to inform parents of the effects of juice and carbonated beverages and sleeping with a bottle, although they were less confident

that they could perform oral health assessment tasks such as identifying plaque (23%) or enamel demineralization (14%).

Over half (53%) indicated interest in a continuing medical education course in pediatric oral health.

### Unmet needs within well-child care



In a platform presentation on “New Directions for Well-Child Care: Implications for Quality, Content and Policy,” parents’ opinions were shared regarding topics not discussed during a pediatrician visit that would have been helpful to them. Such missed opportunities were especially high among Spanish-speaking Hispanic parents, who said they would have been interested in discussing developmentally related issues such as toilet training, guidance and discipline, and child care. The authors noted the importance of understanding the substantial heterogeneity among U.S. families.

This presentation used data from the

National Survey of Early Childhood Health, with parent interviews in Spanish and English.

### Improving survey response rates



The Academy relies on input from its members in developing policies, and one of the ways it does this is through the Periodic Survey of Fellows and the Annual Survey of Graduating Residents. As pediatricians experience increasing demands on their time and attention, response rates have decreased in recent years.

Between 1998 and 2006, the Academy tested several different survey techniques to see which produce the best response rates among Fellows and graduating residents.

The authors found that offering a modest financial incentive (a \$1 or \$2 bill), sending the survey by certified mail and allowing responses either on paper or on the Internet all may increase response rates.