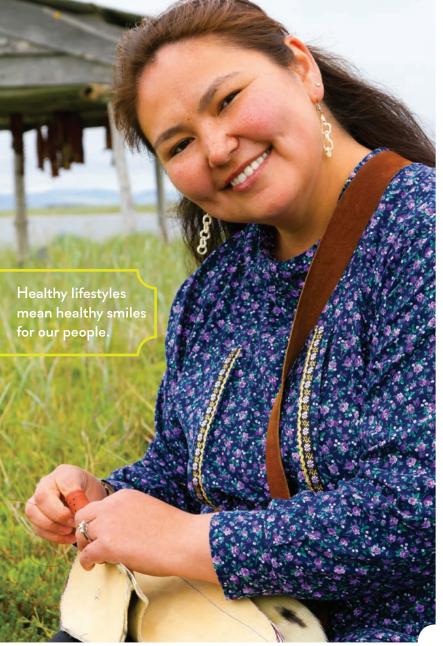
SPRING 2013

CESTING TOTAL COLUMN AND THE STATE OF THE ST



Yahgheli ch'Tsizlan

OUR MOUTHS

laska Native people have something to smile about. A diet of traditional foods and a lifestyle filled with healthy activities have led to excellent oral health and beautiful smiles.

Our people have beautiful smiles, but our oral health isn't as strong as it once was. In fact, in some areas of Alaska, oral health is a serious issue for our people and is also hurting our overall health. Poor food and beverage choices, tobacco use, and a lack of access to regular dental care have led to these oral health problems. Now, more than 90 percent of Alaska Native children ages 4-5 have dental cavities and a third of adults ages 33-44 have gum disease.

The good news is that we can achieve better oral health easily if we simply take care of our teeth and gums by brushing, flossing, drinking clean water with flouride, and visiting a dental professional. We can make our oral health even better if we make wiser food and beverage choices.

By practicing and incorporating more of our traditional ways-hunting, fishing, gathering and growing our food-we will naturally eat fewer highsugar, high-fat foods and eat more high-protein, lowsugar foods. Now that's something to smile about!

.....

"BE STRONG in Mind, Body, and Spirit."

- Southeast Alaska Native value

MORE THAN YOUR MOUTH: Oral Health Affects Your Overall Health

Studies have shown links between poor oral for your teeth and gums and making healthy health and conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, and low birth weights. The good news is that oral health is easy to maintain. Caring

food choices are simple first steps, followed by regularly visiting your local Dental Health Aide Therapists or dental professional.



TOOTH CARE FROM A PRO: Kate Kohl, Yukon-Kuskokwim Region DHAT



Kate Kohl, a Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) who works for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Emmonak, helps her patients improve their oral health through a series of questions, suggestions and demonstrations.

"If my patients want a suggestion on

DHATs provide basic dental care in rural Alaska and can perform teeth cleanings, place sealants to prevent cavities, and provide general oral health education.

how they can improve their oral health, I will show them using my hands, drawing pictures or using a 'big mouth' model," said Kohl. "I will then demonstrate on their teeth so they can feel and see good technique."

DHATs in rural Alaska can perform teeth cleanings, place sealants to prevent cavities, and provide general oral health education.

"When I'm working with children, I show them the plaque and tell them there are bugs that eat sugar and the food we eat that sits on our teeth," said Kohl. "I explain that after the bugs eat, they have to use the bathroom and that makes holes in our teeth. The children usually say something like 'yucky' or

make a disgusted face. There are many methods to teaching and I try many things until my patients understand."

LEARN MORE:

To connect with your local DHAT or for more information about oral health, visit the following sites:

ANTHC Dental Health Aide
Program: ph-dental.org/depac/

State of Alaska Public Health-Oral Health: dhss.alaska.gov/ dph/wcfh/Pages/oralhealth/ default.aspx

American Dental Association: ada.org

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry: aapd.org





"Care and provision for the family."

- Athabascan Value

"Gather knowledge and wisdom."

- Saint Lawrence Island Yup'ik Value

••••••

About We are Getting Healthier

Formerly known as Hot Topics in Alaska Native Health, "We are Getting Healthier" is the English translation of the Athabascan phrase "Ch'tsiizlan Yehgheli." Thank you to Athabascan Elder Helen Dick for providing this translation.

WHAT WE PUT IN OUR MOUTHS

What we put in our mouths affects our teeth and our bodies. Know the facts! Protect your mouth and yourself by eating more healthy foods like whole grains and fewer unhealthy foods like processed and refined foods.

Choose more choose I of these choose less

Blueberries are high in Vitamin C and fiber



Traditional foods are often higher in protein and lower in sugars



enamel

Processed snack foods are often high in simple carbohydrates, sugars and fats

Candy is high in sugar that can turn into fat



Gum and mints that are high in sugar contribute to cavities



Cheese, beans and nuts protect tooth enamel and neutralize acids



xylitol can help prevent cavities



Whole grains like brown rice, oatmeal and whole grain bread and pasta reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes





Refined grains like white rice, white bread and pasta have no dietary fiber and include synthetic vitamins

Heathier Recipe: Whale Scaloppini



For centuries, whales were hunted for their valuable oil and fine-grained meat. Today, Alaska Native people in northern coastal regions continue to harvest whales as sources of food and fuel.

INGREDIENTS:

2-3 oz. portions of whale meat, cut $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup canned diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1/4 cup apple juice
- 1/4 cup mixed vegetables, drained
- 1/4 cup white beans, with juice
- 1/4 cup canned spinach

INSTRUCTIONS:

Combine flour, salt and paprika in small bowl. Dredge meat into this mixture, coating both sides, and set aside. Add oil to sauté pan and place on medium heat. When oil is hot, sear whale meat for 1-2 minutes, then flip and sear for one more minute. Add tomatoes and apple juice to pan and cook for 30 seconds. Stir in mixed vegetables, beans and spinach and cook down to desired consistency. To serve, place meat on plate and pour mixture from pan over.

