



Baby Those Baby Teeth!

On the Northern Valley Indian Health
MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Mobile Dental Clinic (MDC)?** The MDC is a full service dental clinic on wheels. First 5 commissions in Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties collectively awarded a grant of \$375,000 to Northern Valley Indian Health in August 2008 to purchase this full service mobile dental clinic. Northern Valley Indian Health (NVIH) operates the facility in all three counties.
2. **Who can be seen on the MDC?** When the MDC is parked in Butte County, only Butte County residents can be seen on the MDC. Since it is funded by First 5, the target population is children under age 6 and pregnant women who are not currently under the care of a dentist. The MDC staff specializes in working with infants and young children. Parents are encouraged to make appointments for infants as young as 6 months. The philosophy of MDC staff is, "The first year or the first tooth, that's the time for the first dental visit"!
3. **Can the MDC be a "dental home"?** Yes. The child-friendly staff onboard the MDC consists of two dentists, a hygienist, a dental assistant, a Spanish translator (other languages are translated via a phone service) and staff who schedule appointments. Despite the fact that the MDC is "mobile", residents of Butte County can be seen on the MDC no matter where it is parked in Butte County. Children and pregnant women who are seen on the MDC become patients of NVIH and can also be seen at their clinic in Chico on East Avenue. In case of emergency, patients of the MDC can be seen wherever it is parked.
4. **What services are offered on the MDC?** The MDC gently provides a full range of services including dental exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, sealants, extractions, crowns, fillings and pediatric root canals. Trained staff educates parents on infant oral health, so that parents can *baby their child's baby teeth!* If a child needs in office sedation, the family is referred to the NVIH clinic in Chico or Willows. If a child needs oral surgery, the family is referred to an oral surgeon either in Butte County or in Sacramento. First 5 Butte County funds a hospital dentistry program at Feather River Hospital where MDC patients receive priority.
5. **What about insurance?** All insurance is accepted on the MDC including Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. There is a Certified Application Assistant onboard the MDC to help families apply for insurance. The MDC needs to sustain itself, through billable patient visits but is able to treat some patients in the target population who are not insured.
6. **When will the MDC be in Butte County?** The MDC travels throughout Butte County approximately 160 days a year. For information on where it will be and to schedule an appointment please contact the MDC at (530) 520-6913.

Northern Valley Indian Health Mobile Dental Clinic
(530) 520-6913

Funding Sponsor:

