Horror Story
Preventing Early Childhood Cavities

In the mouths of babes.

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- First cavity—6 years old.
- Total lifetime caries x 2.
- One postpartum root canal.
- I have nothing else to disclose
Kids with happy healthy teeth grow into happy healthy adults.
Listeners, please feel these emotions, in this order.

• Shock
• Dread
• Resolution
• Hope
• Why feel shocked about cavities?
What is happening in the mouths of babes in SF? (2013-2014)

Children in some SF neighborhoods have experienced 2-3x more caries

Chinatown
North Beach
Nob Hill/Russian Hill/Polk
Tenderloin
South of Market
Bayview/Hunter’s Point
Visitation Valley
Excelsior
Portola
What are we doing about it?

SF Children’s Oral Health Collaborative

Overarching strategic priority areas

- **Access**: Increase access to oral health care services for San Francisco children and pregnant women.
- **Integration**: Integrate oral health with overall health.
- **Coordination**: Increase awareness and practice of optimal children’s oral health behaviors among diverse communities.
- **Evaluation**: Develop and establish an ongoing oral health population-based surveillance system to address the oral health of San Francisco children.
Communities taking care of their own:

The Chinatown Children’s Oral Health Taskforce

– NICOS and Chinatown Public Health Centers
– Created independently
– Cultural and language specific community intervention at elementary schools, preschools, and community health fairs.
– Volunteer based
The trends despite our efforts

SF Children’s Oral Health Collaborative started in 2014

Our goal is a Cavity-Free SF.
SFUSD kindergarteners caries experience by ethnicity, 2007–2016

Data source: SFDPH-SFUSD-SFDS Kindergarten Oral Health Screening Program, August 2016.
DREAD

Why am I scared?
Kids with happy healthy teeth grow into happy healthy adults.
I am afraid of decay in the mouths of babes, because it is *preventable* and *Parents are not afraid enough*. 
The dirty truth

Pathology of plaque and bacteria on teeth

From Amarilis San Vicente, DDS, MS, CPH
The Mouth-Body Connection

From Amarilis San Vicente, DDS, MS, CPH
RESOLUTE

What can WE do to make things right?

Do.
Or do not.
There is no try.
YODA
The *Perfect* beginning

Healthy gummy pre-dental baby

Healthy toddler teeth.
Three ways to act now in the home

Prevention, Prevention, Prevention
The Professionals
The Dental Home
The Medical Home
The first Barrier to pop into your mind?

No Time--
I am willing but the schedule is NOT.
Workflow Preservation

• Greeting
• HPI
• ROS
• PE-screen for cavities and paint FV
• Assessment
• Plan
Oral Health Messages and Fluoride Varnish

All it takes is...

a few comments about valuing and preserving oral health and...

60 seconds to paint fluoride on to the teeth!

You can make a difference in your patient’s life
Fluoride Varnish

99188

Resolve to act now
in your homes, offices, cities, communities.
Feeling **HOPEFUL**: the Aloha Babies
Thank you to-

• Conference on Healthcare for the Chinese in North America and Chinese Hospital.
• SF COH Team—30+ people who are DOING.
• Chinatown Children’s Oral Health Taskforce
Kids with happy healthy teeth grow into happy healthy adults.