IDAHO Children’s Health Project

The Idaho Children’s Health Project (ICHP), provides medical, dental and behavioral health care to low income, uninsured and medically underserved children and their families in rural communities throughout South Central Idaho.

The ICHP’s patient population is comprised of low-income, uninsured families during the school year, and expands to include migrant seasonal farm workers during the summer months. Many of these patients have limited access to health care, frequently due to lack of public transportation in the area. Given the rural location, some patients are as far as an hour away from a care facility. In addition to a lack of transportation, many patients, including migrant workers and their families, experience language and cultural barriers to health care. The ICHP provides services at a combination of fixed site clinics and on the mobile dental clinic.

Serving Communities in Need
The age composition of the ICHP’s patient population is: 22% pediatric (ages 0-11), 15% adolescent (ages 12-19), and 63% adult (20 years of age and older). The gender breakdown is 42% male and 58% female. Seventy-one percent of ICHP’s patients identify as Hispanic/Latino and 28% as Caucasian (non-Hispanic). 47% of ICHP’s patients are uninsured, 33% have Medicaid and 19% have private health insurance.

Available Services
• Comprehensive primary care, including well child/adult examinations
• Management of acute and chronic illnesses
• Screenings, including vision and hearing testing
• Family planning services
• Health and nutrition education behavioral health services
• Psychiatric and developmental testing
• Counseling services
• Medication management
• Comprehensive oral health care
• Screenings and dental exams
• Digital x-rays
• Oral health education
• Specialist referrals

Program Sites
The ICHP travels throughout South Central Idaho, providing services at FHS fixed clinic sites, several public schools and Head Start Programs. These sites are located in Twin Falls, Buhl, Jerome, Fairfield, Burley, and Kimberly. For the American Dental Association’s Give Kids a Smile program, the ICHP visits schools in Twin Falls.

Home Institution/Affiliation:
Family Health Services/St. Luke’s Hospital and the University of Utah Health Sciences Center

Year Established:
June 2004

STAFF
Dental Director:
Adam Hodges, DDS

Dentist:
Tyler Elison, DDS

Dental Hygienists:
Gary Horn
Jamie Halford

Dental Assistants:
LaChelle Gilbert
Kim Leija

Social Worker:
Kristina Tapia, LCSW

Physician:
Matthew Duersch

Driver:
Steve Graham