Hopi Health Care Center
Polacca, AZ

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Challenges and Barriers to Care

• Diet and oral hygiene
• Limited access to specialty services
• Parents with uncontrolled dental disease
• Complex family structures
• Geographic isolation
PI Projects and ECC Initiative

- More visits for children through age 2
  - 140% increase in exams
  - 300% increase in treatment completion
- Fluoride treatments at every visit
- More glass ionomer sealants
- More interim therapeutic restorations (295% increase)
Despite All This...

• Most children have caries experience by age 5
• We continue to see extremely advanced levels of disease in young children
• So...
• We agreed to become an IHS beta site for the Warm Springs Model
Obtained Multiple Levels of Approval

- IHS HQ Division of Oral Health
- Facility Dental Director
- Facility Chief Medical Officer
- Facility CEO
- Facility IT Coordinator
- Community education
WE CONTINUE TO DO ALL OF THE PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES, but...

- When primary prevention fails
  - Discuss the non-operative option with parents of children through age 6
  - Get written informed consent
  - Recommend a protocol of applications of SN/FV at 0 – 2 – 4 – 8 – 12 weeks
  - Schedule follow-up exams at 3 – 6 – 9 – 12 months
  - We will use the same database and tracking system used by Warm Springs and the other sites
Silver Nitrate: Another Tool in the Toolkit

• Began following the Warm Springs protocol in July
• We offer it to parents whose children age 0-6 have active caries that is asymptomatic
• Some still choose traditional care
• Only a handful patients in treatment at this time
• Parents happy with another option
• No outcome data but no adverse effects recorded
Thank you