

Connecticut Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Project Update



Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council
Women and Children's Health Committee

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT

Monday, June 10 2019

Presenter: Luis Miguel Ayala

Dental Health Care Specialist – Greater Hartford Region

Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Project

- Before 2009, dental utilization by perinatal women and infants in the HUSKY Health (Medicaid/CHIP) program in Connecticut was low.
- Increase the dental utilization of perinatal women
- Increase the dental utilization of infants
- Increase the number of children < four years who receive an oral assessment and/or an application of fluoride varnish by a pediatric health care provider
- Establish and maintain a Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Work Group as an advisory committee to the Project

Project Activities

- Develop materials for perinatal women, parents of infants, Obstetricians and Gynecologists (OB/GYN), pediatric Primary Care Physicians (PCP) and community agency staff
- Ensure the adequacy of the dental network for perinatal women
- Outreach to OB/GYNs
- Outreach to Pediatric PCPs
- Outreach to community agencies
- Measurement of outcomes using claims and enrollment data
- Coordination of perinatal and infant oral health stakeholders

Timeline

- CTDHP began as the HUSKY Health dental program in August 2008
- Work on perinatal and infant outreach began in late 2009
- Fluoride varnish became a billable service in 2009
- A pilot test and intensive community outreach model was conducted in 2011
- Outreach to OB/GYN and pediatric primary care physicians began in 2012
- In September 2013, DSS and CTDHP were awarded a Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement grant for a four-year period (extended until March 2018)

Collaborative Partners

Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Work Group

- Connecticut Oral Health Initiative
- CT Chapter, American Academy Pediatrics
- CT Department of Public Health, MCH
- Milford Board of Health
- Branford Early Childhood Collaborative
- The Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial
- CT DPH, Office of Oral Health
- Hartford Hospital
- Southwestern AHEC Inc.
- March of Dimes
- Community Health Center, Inc. Medical Dept.
- Center for Women's Health and Midwifery
- UCONN Health
- Stamford Hospital
- Greater Hartford Legal Aid
- Staywell Health Center
- Southwest Community Health Center, Inc.
- Mansfield OB/GYN Associates
- Connecticut State Dental Association

Outreach Activities

- Variety of outreach materials have been developed
- Oral Health Kit – contain a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss & an educational flyer – envelope with CTDHP contact information
- Several versions –
 - Perinatal women
 - Caregivers of infants



Outreach Activities

- Infant oral health kits are distributed at pediatric PCP offices
- Community agency sites
- OB/GYN offices
- Referral Pad-
 - Designed to look like a prescription pad
 - Intended for use by medical providers

The image displays two versions of a referral pad, one in English and one in Spanish, designed to look like a prescription pad. Both pads are for the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership, featuring a large 'R' logo and contact information for Donna L. Balaski, DMD. The English version includes fields for 'Client Name' and 'Client ID', and the Spanish version includes fields for 'Nombre del Cliente' and 'ID# del Cliente'. Both pads provide instructions on how to schedule a dental appointment and call 855-CT-DENTAL for help finding a dentist. The English version also includes a small logo for the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership. The Spanish version includes a small logo for the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership and a small logo for the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership.

English Version:

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership
HUSKY Health
P.O. Box 486
Farmington, CT 06032
855-283-3682
Donna L. Balaski, DMD

Client Name: _____
Client ID: _____

**Patient should schedule
a Dental Appointment
immediately**

**Call 855-CT-DENTAL
for help in
finding a dentist
M-F 8AM-5PM**

☐ Label Refill: 1 2 3 4 5 PRN 92

Spanish Version:

Connecticut Dental Health Partnership
HUSKY Health
P.O. Box 486
Farmington, CT 06032
855-283-3682
Donna L. Balaski, DMD

Nombre del Cliente: _____
ID# del Cliente: _____

**El paciente debe hacer una
Cita Dental inmediatamente**

**Llame al
855-CT-DENTAL
para ayudarlo a
encontrar un dentista
Lunes a Viernes 8AM a 5PM**

☐ Label Refill: 1 2 3 4 5 PRN 92

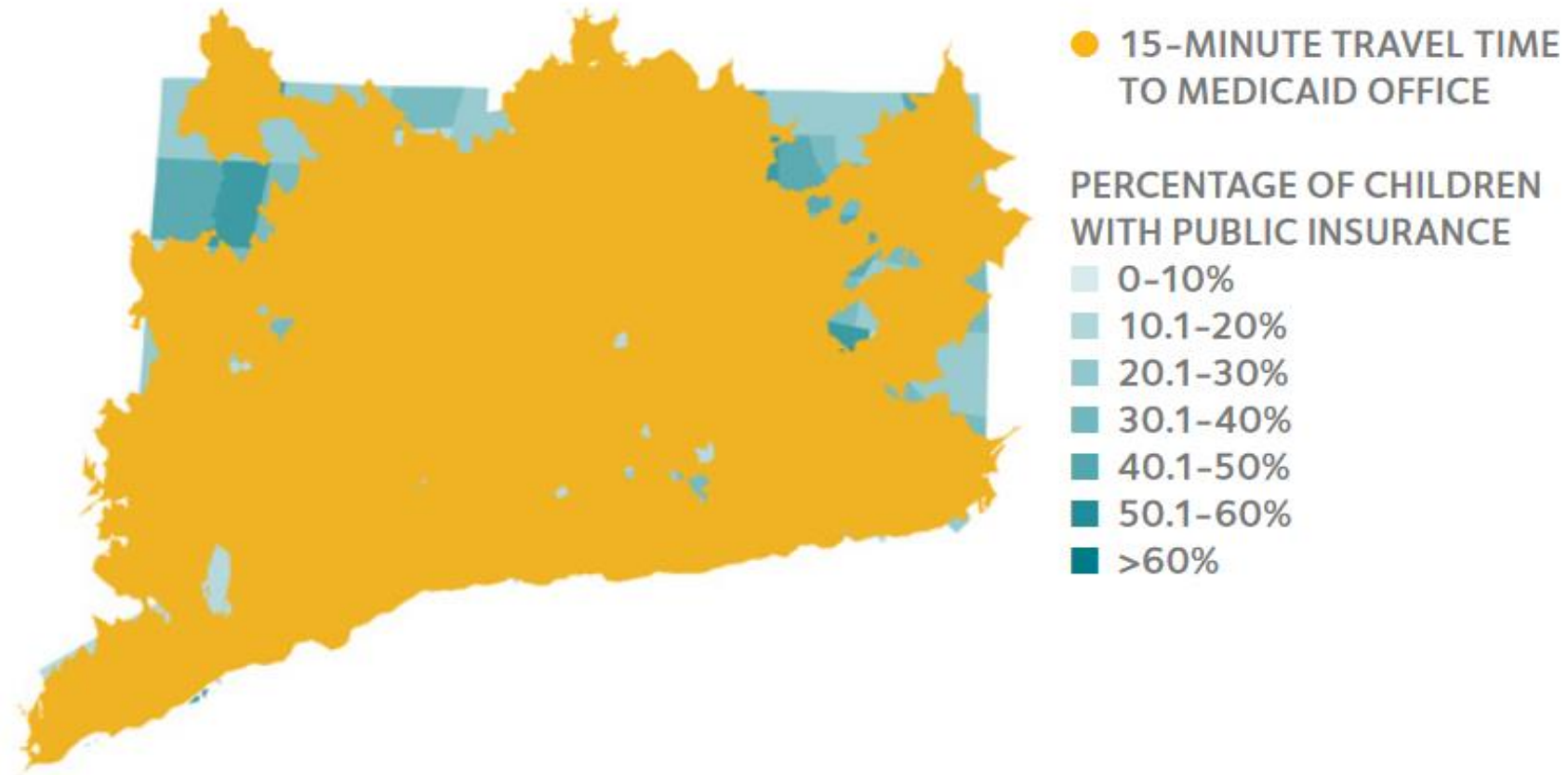
Provider Outreach

- In 2011, DHCS began outreach to all of the approximately one thousand dental offices enrolled in HUSKY Health.
- In 2012 CTDHP in its annual survey of dental offices, included questions regarding care provided to prenatal patients.
- DHCS regularly visit about 180 OB/GYN offices to encourage them to talk to their patients about oral health
- DHCS regularly visit about 250 pediatric PCP offices
 - They encourage the office to participate in the ABC Program, the oral assessment and fluoride varnish application initiative.

Dental Network for Children

American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute Medicaid Provider Access
Study

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF MEDICAID DENTISTS



Measurement of Outcomes

- CTDHP developed claims and enrollment analyses to measure project activities and outcomes.
- Activities, outreach and material distribution are recorded by DHCS in a proprietary software system developed by CTDHP
- Project goals are measured through dental claims, client enrollment data and provider enrollment data.

Program Activity Outputs

2017, DHCS distributed:

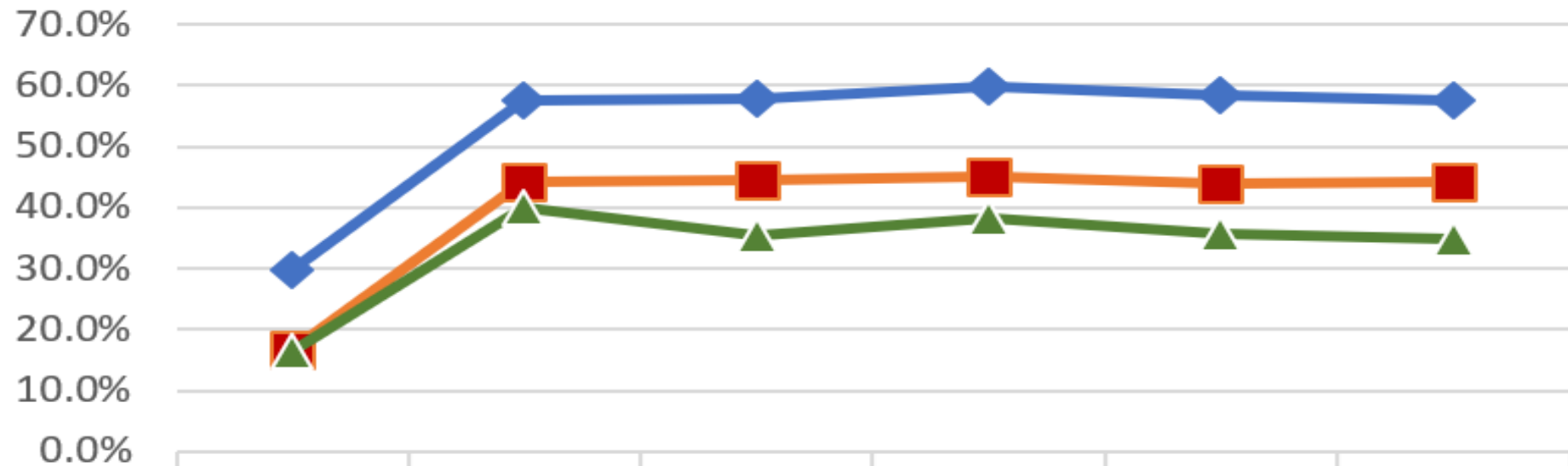
- 9,572 perinatal oral health kits
- 8,699 infant oral health kits
- 379 Rx referral pads
- 1,063 pregnancy brochures, English
- 810 pregnancy brochures, Spanish
- A total of 71,991 materials including the above

2017, DHCS performed outreach to:

- 63 Family Medicine Offices
- 186 OB/GYN Offices
- 290 Pediatrician Offices
- 18 Community Action Agencies
- 58 Head Start Locations
- 4 Healthy Start Locations
- 10 Nurturing Families Locations
- 8 Basic Needs Agencies
- 34 Family Services Agencies
- 63 WIC Offices
- 29 Schools
- A total of 994 contacts including the above.

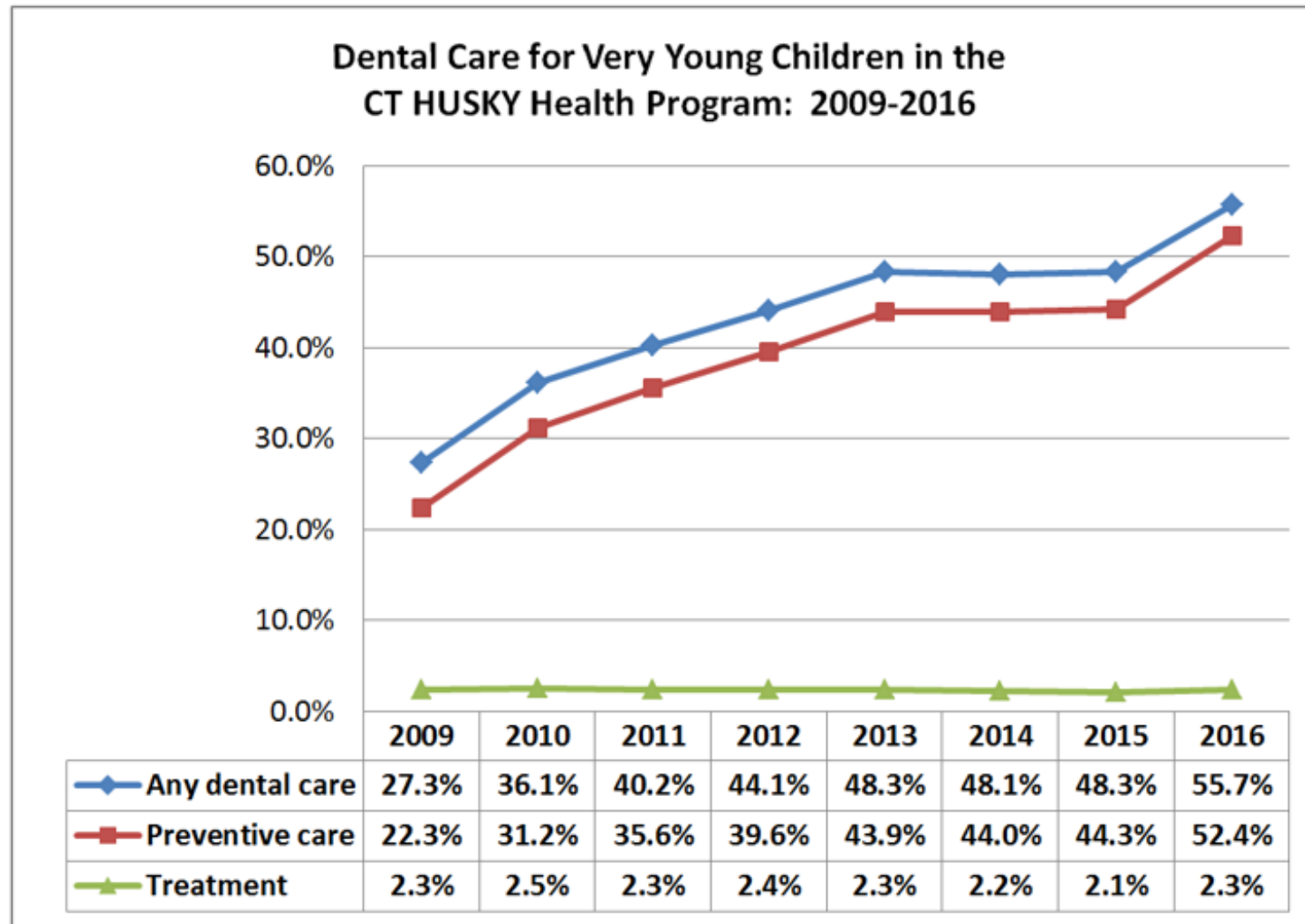
Dental Utilization of HUSKY Health Perinatal Women

Dental Services for Mothers in the Perinatal Period



Any dental	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017
Preventive	29.8%	57.7%	57.9%	59.9%	58.4%	57.6%
Treatment	16.6%	44.2%	44.4%	45.2%	44.0%	44.2%
	16.4%	39.9%	35.4%	38.4%	35.6%	35.0%

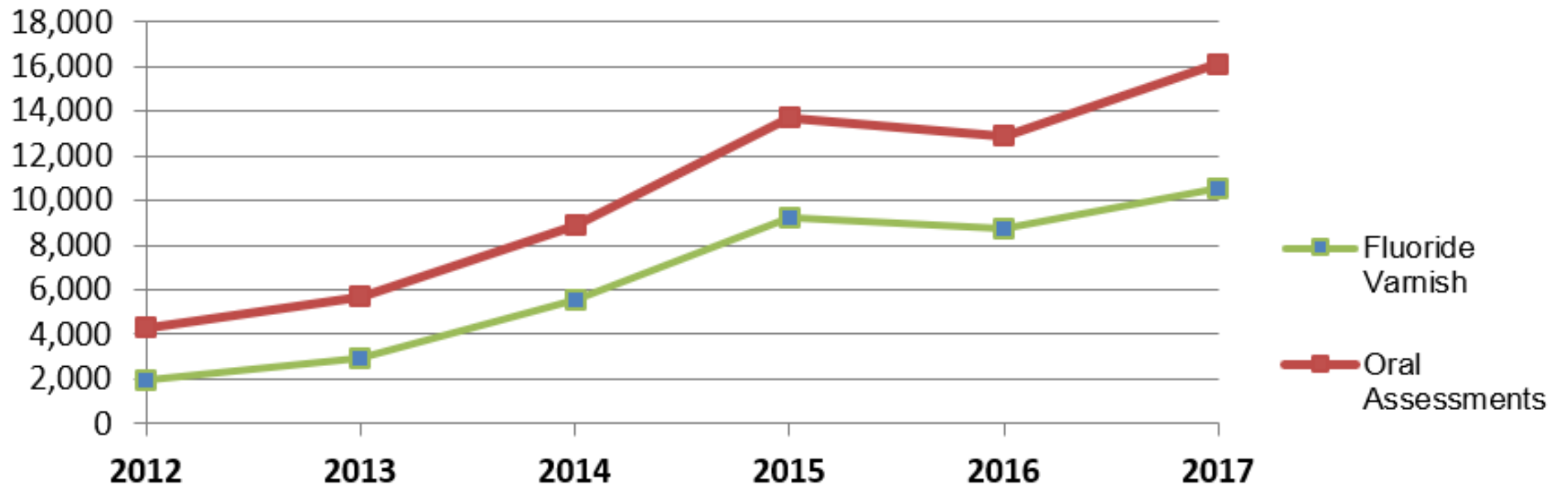
Dental Utilization of HUSKY Health Infants



Continuously enrolled children under age 3 (as of 12/31) in HUSKY A, B, C or D. Over the 8-year period, changes in program policy and procedures for determining new eligibility and renewal may have affected the number of children continuously enrolled from year to year. By definition, continuously enrolled infants were born in January. **Source:** Analysis by CT DHP for PIOHQIP evaluation, September 2017

HUSKY Health Children – ABC Program

Access To Baby Care (ABC) Program Oral Assessments & Fluoride Varnish Applications



Source: CTDHP Internal Report

Addressing Challenges

- Convincing people that oral health is important
 - Policy makers, medical professionals, clients, general public
- In 2015, a work group under Connecticut Coalition for Oral Health evolved and continues to present. While there have been regular meetings, it is a challenge to keep a wide array of stakeholders involved.
- More work needs to be done to maintain the work group.
- Plan for sustainability - discussion

Recommendations & Suggestions

- Barriers as a work group
- Feedback
- We welcome suggestions from the Committee

Thank you!

Contact Information

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