



**MINISTRY
OF HEALTH**



For a healthier life

The Israeli “Childsmile”

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Division of Dental Health

Ministry of Health



Dental care for children - National Health Insurance Law

- 2.4 million children are entitled to free basic dental care
- January 2018 – entitlement age up to 16
- The service will be broadened up to the age of 18
- 61.7 % of the 6-year-old children suffer from dental decay, only 38.3 % caries free

Editorial

Need to put children's oral health first in Israeli debate on water fluoridation

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A possible dental public health crisis is looming in Israel. How can this be? As many as 70% of the Israeli population are currently supplied with optimally fluoridated water and oral health studies carried out in Israel over the past decade have demonstrated the benefits.

For example, a national study of Israeli 12-year olds in 2002 (Zusman *et al.*, 2005) found an average DMFT of 1.39 in fluoridated areas compared with 1.83 in non-fluoridated

The regulations, currently still in force, are due to expire in August 2014. After that, the picture looks somewhat blurred. In a 'worst case' scenario it is possible that *all* fluoridation may cease in Israel once Mekorot is no longer required by law to fluoridate, which would be bad news for children and families in cities such as Haifa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. More toothache, more caries, more restorations, more extractions and a decrease in quality of life are the



Tap water [illustrative].(Photo by: INIMAGE)

Health Minister German outlaws fluoridation of all tap water

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH
08/17/2014

The move is in contravention of leading public health experts and prime minister's position in 2012.

Contrary to the advice of public health and dentistry experts in her own ministry and academia, Health Minister Yael German has decided to prohibit the fluoridation of drinking water around the country.

- Bad news
- A request for alternative caries prevention program
- Significant challenge –window of opportunity for a new, mid-stream, settings-based caries prevention program
- Supervised daily toothbrushing in kindergartens

Pilot study pre-kindergardens in Kiryat-Gat - 2014

- At 6 settings where teachers agreed to participate
- Dental hygienist visited each kindergarden daily for the first two weeks (some needed less)
- Providing equipment, arranging environment, training
- The teacher could choose “wet” or “dry” protocol
- Empowerment – the task is important!



Interim results

- High cooperation and satisfaction of teachers
- Due to positive reports, 6 more kindergartens joined after a fortnight
- A neighboring city Ashkelon requested to enter pilot program
- About 70 kindergartens operated supervised toothbrushing in both cities in the end of 2014



What we learned after one year

- Most teachers preferred dry brushing
- Disposable plates, paste amount control
- A toothbrush and toothpaste have to be provided for home use to extend the brushing habit beyond the kindergarden



What we learned after one year

Toothbrushes worn
our was higher than
expected

Orchestrating brushing
in a group – starting
and finishing
all together



Teachers produced creative ideas

- Involved parents
- Used messaging platform
- Incorporated brushing into kindergarten activities

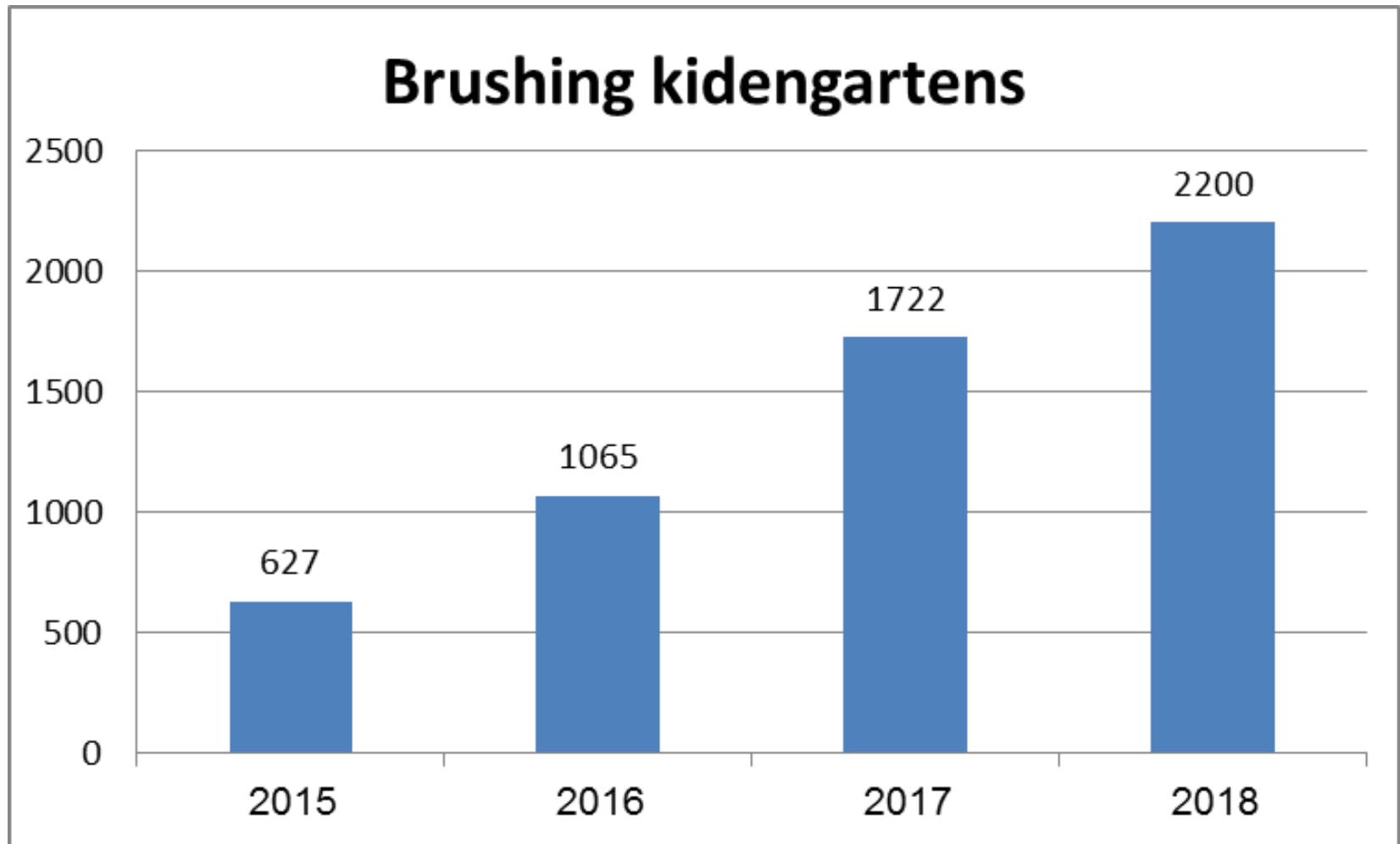


National program is feasible

Responsibility for launching a supervised tooth brushing program in pre-schools was assigned to SDS staff together with pre-school teachers, who were asked to incorporate this activity into their daily routine.



From 16 to 60 local authorities 2015-2018



Evaluation of the program from the kindergartens teachers perspective, 2016

- Phone survey of 300 participating teachers
 - 84% feel that the children like to learn about tooth-brushing
 - 96% said that it is very important to teach children in kindergartens about tooth-brushing
 - 70% of teachers believe in the program success and want to continue with it in the future
 - 66% think that teaching oral hygiene should be their role

50% of teachers indicated that they needed more creative ideas and professional guidance throughout the program



“Healthy smile *possible*” –
a dental health logo in the National
Program to Promote Active, Healthy
lifestyle - 2017



November 2017: Head of Teacher's Union: "A kindergarten teacher is not a babysitter It's the role of the parents"

"יש לצחצח את שיני ילדי הגנים"

במשרדי הבריאות והחינוך מעוניינים להרחיב השנה את הפיילוט המוצלח מהשנה שעברה הנוגע להעלאת המודעות להיגיינת הפה בקרב ילדי הגנים: צחצוח השיניים מיד לאחר הפסקת העשר, בפיקוח הגננות. אולם בהסתדרות המורים זועמים: "הגננות לא בייביסיטר, זה תפקיד ההורים!"

יעל אודם | חדשות 2 | פורסם 29/10/17 22:51



אילוסטרציה. מי אחראי על הצחצוח? | צילום: vitalinka / 123rf



The program runs as planned




אפסריובדיא
חתכנית הלאומית לחיים פעילים ובריאים

Water fluoridation returns

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Water fluoridation set to return in Israel

April 11, 2016

By Michelle Manchir

Fluoridation is expected to resume in the coming months throughout Israel after a parliamentary committee approved the Minister of Health's action, according to Dr. Shlomo Zusman, director of dental health at the Israeli Ministry of Health.

The motion comes almost two years after the country's previous health minister, Yael German, halted the decades-old fluoridation program. Ministry public health officials and the current health minister, Ya'acov Litzman, "strongly backed the restoration of fluoridation," according to a report from [The Jerusalem Post](#).

The Knesset's (Israel's unicameral parliament) Labor, Social Welfare and Health Committee voted in March to restore fluoridation, the news story said.

Thank you!

