

**Report of the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Division of Oral Health
to the
Council on Access, Prevention and Interprofessional Relations
American Dental Association**

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CDC's National Oral Health Program consists of four essential, interrelated components that support the efforts of states to strengthen oral disease prevention and health promotion programs and to ensure the safe delivery of dental care. These components are

- ◆ Supporting state oral health programs.
- ◆ Building the evidence base for preventive strategies through prevention research and program evaluation.
- ◆ Strengthening state and national capacity to monitor oral health.
- ◆ Disseminating effective prevention practices to the public and health professions.

Supporting State Oral Health Programs

State Cooperative Agreement Program. Through a new cooperative agreement program, CDC will provide approximately \$2.7 million per year over 5 years to 12 states and the Republic of Palau to strengthen their oral health programs and reduce inequalities in the oral health of their residents. The 12 states are Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Texas. In addition to the core awards, nine states and Palau are receiving one-time supplemental funds to complete a necessary oral health project. The funding is designed to improve state public health programs, including support for program leadership and additional staff, monitoring oral health risk factors, and developing and evaluating prevention programs. A technical assistance workshop focusing on coalition development and program evaluation is scheduled for September 29–October 2. Attendees also will discuss oral cancer trends, the evidence base regarding oral cancer screening, and the new American Dental Association oral cancer awareness campaign.

New Publication Highlights Successful State Practices. The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) has produced a manual, *Promising Practices in Chronic Disease Prevention and Control: A Public Health Framework for Action*. This publication is designed to guide development of state programs for chronic disease prevention and control. One of its chapters, authored by Division of Oral Health (DOH) staff, builds upon two earlier Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) reports on capacity and infrastructure and recent experiences with grantee states. “Promoting Oral Health Throughout the Lifespan” discusses successful health promotion and disease prevention practices for oral health programs. Other chapters address a model framework for state programs, prevention and control of diabetes, promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and evidence-based tobacco control programs. This publication is available at http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/promising_practices/index.htm.

Water Fluoridation Training and Technical Assistance. CDC will provide its training course on Basic Water Fluoridation Engineering and the Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS) course in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on November 3–7. In June, 25 people from 17 states and two Native American tribes attended this course. Participants also represented the American Association of Dental Research, the Kanoeha Marine Corps Base (Hawaii), and the Indian Health Service (Billings, Montana).

To date in 2003, CDC has provided technical assistance on fluoridation-related issues to communities in several states, including ones in Colorado (Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins), Montana (Billings), Florida (Palm Beach County), and Oregon (Beaverton). States receiving technical assistance included Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia.

ASTDD Best Practices Project. In July, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) launched a Best Practices component on its Web site (<http://www.astdd.org>). This new web-based resource presents successful state practices for developing state-of-the-art oral health programs. Materials available include *Best Practice Approach Reports* that describe dental public health strategies, summarize supporting evidence (research, expert opinions, field lessons, and theoretical rationale), and use current practices to illustrate successful implementation methods. The Web site also has descriptive summaries of dental public health activities, which can be searched by topic and state. The first set of reports include dental public health approaches to fluoridation, school fluoride mouth rinse programs, school sealant programs, oral health surveillance, state oral health plans, state oral health coalitions, collaborative partnerships, and workforce development. Future reports will focus on oral health surveys and needs assessments, fluoride varnish programs, oral cancer prevention and control, and access to care including expanding traditional delivery systems and financing services. The Best Practices resource was developed by the ASTDD through a cooperative agreement with CDC.

Conducting Prevention Research and Program Evaluation

Updated Infection Control Guidelines for Dentistry. CDC plans to publish *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings* during Fall 2003. This two-part document consolidates recommendations for preventing and controlling infectious diseases and managing occupational health and safety issues related to infection control in dental settings. The recommendations are intended to help dental health care personnel prevent occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens, to prevent infections associated with contaminated medical devices or surgical instruments, and to address other relevant safety and health issues. Part I provides a review of the scientific evidence on dental infection control practices, and Part II provides evidence-based recommendations. DOH plans to distribute this document to all U.S. dentists. The document will be available as a *Morbidity and Mortality Report and Recommendation* and on the DOH Web site.

Participation in OSAP Meeting. The Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures (OSAP) 2003 Symposium was held June 19–22 in Tucson, Arizona. Experts from the clinical, public health, legal, institutional, and manufacturing sectors of the dental community presented their thoughts, perspectives, and opinions on today's hot topics in infection control and safety as well as future implications. Health professionals from the CDC conducted a special session on the upcoming *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings*, which includes new public health recommendations on dental unit waterlines, bloodborne postexposure management, instrument and environmental disinfection strategies, and program evaluation methods.

Publication on Occupational Exposures. DOH's Dr. Jennifer L. Cleveland is the lead author on an upcoming article titled, "Occupational Exposures to Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B virus, and Hepatitis C virus: Risk, Prevention, and Management," which will appear in *The Dental Clinics of North America*. This article addresses the risk for occupational exposure to these infectious diseases, risk for percutaneous injuries for dental personnel, and prevention of occupational exposures to blood. It also addresses management of health care providers who may have been exposed to HIV, HBV, or HCV, including post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for occupational HIV exposure. Prevention strategies (including vaccination) and use of standard precautions are recommended. The authors recommend that every dental facility develop a comprehensive plan for preventing and managing occupational exposures to blood. In addition, each office should have resources available for rapid access to clinical care, testing, counseling, and PEP for exposed dental workers.

Conference on Periodontal Disease. More than 70 people, including public health researchers, state dental directors, professional dental association members, and other public health professionals, attended the meeting, "Public Health Implications of Chronic Periodontal Infections in Adults," held April 8–9 in Atlanta. The conference was sponsored by CDC and the American Academy of Periodontology. Presentations focused on the relationship of periodontal infections to cardiovascular disease, respiratory infections, diabetes, and reproductive outcomes including preterm births. Following each presentation, attendees could discuss how these issues related to current public health practices. Proceedings of the conference will be published this fall in the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*.

Expert Panel on School Dental Sealant Programs. CDC will convene an expert panel to advise state dental program directors and other public health officials on the benefits and limitations of school-based and school-linked dental sealant programs. In July 2002, the Task Force on Community Preventive Services completed a systematic review of the evidence of effectiveness of school sealant programs. The Task Force reported a 60% decrease in tooth decay on the occlusal surfaces of posterior teeth after sealant application and strongly recommended school sealant programs to prevent tooth decay. The expert panel will examine opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness and overcome barriers to implementing school sealant programs for at-risk children in targeted schools. CAPIR member Dr. Hal Haering is the ADA's representative to this panel.

National Research Council Examining Safety of Fluoride. The National Research Council Subcommittee of the Committee on Toxicology has begun a 2-year review of the toxicological, epidemiological, and clinical data published since 1993 on orally ingested fluoride from drinking water and other sources. At the subcommittee's initial meeting on August 12, Dr. William Maas, director of DOH, discussed the history of the use of fluoride in the United States to improve dental health, including prevention of dental caries, sources of fluoride exposure, and dental (enamel) fluorosis. The subcommittee will review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations concerning the maximum contaminant level (MCL) and secondary MCL of fluoride allowed in drinking water.

Strengthening State and National Surveillance/Monitoring

Surveillance of Periodontal Infections. In conjunction with the April conference on chronic periodontal infections, CDC convened a working group on surveillance methods. The group aims to develop a surveillance system for periodontal infections, including self-reported measures. Consideration is being given to possible sentinel sites, events, providers, and payors that could be used to monitor these infections. Dr. Robert Genco, professor and director of the Periodontal Disease Research Center, State University of New York at Buffalo, is chairing the working group. The next meeting will be held in October. DOH staff epidemiologist Dr. Paul Eke is coordinating this initiative.

CDC Conference on Cancer Prevention and Control. DOH Director Dr. William Maas will moderate a session on oral and pharyngeal cancer at the 2003 Cancer Conference, "Comprehensive Approaches to Cancer Control: The Public Health Role," to be held September 15–18 in Atlanta. The session, titled, "Developing Public Health Approaches in Addressing Oral and Pharyngeal Cancers," will explore current efforts to assess the validity of cancer registry data and to develop state models for programs addressing these cancers, as well as efforts by the ADA to educate dental providers.

Publication. DOH Senior Epidemiologist Dr. Eugenio Beltrán is the lead author of a review article titled, "Oral Health Surveillance: Past, Present and Future Challenges," published in the Summer 2003 issue of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*. The article reviews efforts to collect oral health data, principally on dental caries and periodontal diseases, at national, state, and local levels. It also presents information on alternative techniques developed in the past 10 years to collect oral health data.

New Data Available on the Synopses of State and Territorial Dental Public Health

Programs. In August 2003, data from the ASTDD's 2003 Synopses of State Dental Programs were added to the CDC's Synopses Web site. The site now contains six years of data on state oral health programs. Produced in cooperation with ASTDD, the Synopses Web site presents data from overviews of state dental health programs, as reported to ASTDD by state oral health directors each year. Information is available on state demographics, types of programs (e.g., sealant programs, fluoridation, dental screening), infrastructure, dental workforce, and administration. The Synopses Web site helps state dental directors, state legislators, and community leaders to better understand oral health needs, infrastructure, capacity, and programs

in each state, as well as how these factors change over time. The Web site is available at <http://www2.cdc.gov/nccdphp/doh/synopses/index.asp>. The most recent data also are displayed in the National Oral Health Surveillance System in the State Profiles section.

My Water's Fluoride and Oral Health Maps. Since CDC launched these two new interactive features on its Oral Health Web site in October 2002, four additional states—Kentucky, Louisiana, Utah, and Virginia—have chosen to participate. These public use tools allow consumers and health professionals in participating states to learn the fluoridation status of individual water systems by selecting a state and county or by entering the water system's EPA identification number. The site provides basic information on the water system, including the number of people served and the target fluoridation level. Fluoridation status also can be displayed in Oral Health Maps, a geographic information system (GIS) application. These maps provide state or county profiles with selected demographic and water fluoridation information. The goal for 2003 is to increase the number of states electing to display data online to 30 states.

Other states participating in My Water's Fluoride include Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Data Resource Center (DRC). The DRC has compiled a list of oral health questions fielded in national surveys. This collection is available on request as a CD or binder and will be available online soon. This resource complements the Catalog of Surveys and Archive of Methods Related to Oral Health completed in 2002, and updated in 2003. This collection will help researchers design their own surveys and provide them with descriptions of questions used in national surveys. The collection will be expanded as new survey questions are fielded. The DRC is funded by the CDC and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Summer Interns Conduct Research Projects on PRAMS. During the summer, CDC hosted seven students from the Emory School of Public Health master's program as American Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) summer interns. The students worked with the state dental directors in eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Washington) to analyze the prevalence of self-reported dental problems and dental visits during pregnancy from CDC's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). PRAMS is an ongoing, state-specific, population-based surveillance system designed to identify and monitor selected maternal behaviors and experiences that occur before, during, or after pregnancy among a sample of women who have recently given birth to a live infant. The purpose of PRAMS is to improve the health of mothers and infants by reducing adverse outcomes such as low birth weight, infant mortality, and maternal illnesses. The students produced reports for the state dental directors and are submitting abstracts to the 2004 Maternal and Child Health conference. Another student worked with Maine's dental director to develop several fact sheets for policy makers.

Assessing the Oral Health in Kryrgyzstan. As part of a summer internship at CDC, Dr. Nazgul Abduvalieva, a dentist who is an MPH student at Emory University, developed a national oral health survey that will be used to assess the oral health status of people in her home country of Kryrgyzstan in central Asia. The survey will assess oral health for children and their parents. The last survey was conducted in 1973. Dr. Abduvalieva plans to return to her country next spring and work with the Ministry of Health to implement the survey using dental school instructors as examiners.

Promoting Public Awareness and Education

Release of National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health. The release of *A National Call to Action to Promote Oral Health (CTA)* by U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona during the annual National Oral Health Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was extremely successful. On April 29, following breakfast with members of ASTDD and representatives of the Partnership Network, Dr. Carmona gave the plenary address, congratulating conference participants on their efforts and promising to work with the oral health community to improve the health and lives of all Americans. He also answered questions about the *CTA* from the news media. At a lunch meeting chaired by Illinois Dental Director Lewis Lampiris, members of the Partnership Network provided examples of how their respective organizations would be supporting the five specific activities called for by the *CTA*. Members of the Partnership Network are expected to assume increasing leadership of the action agenda and to seek expanded opportunities for collaboration and communication. DOH activities supporting the *CTA* recommendations include helping states develop state-specific action plans and supporting state public health programs to enhance state infrastructure, leadership, surveillance, and evaluation of oral disease prevention programs.

Education for Improving State Oral Health Programs. In 2003, CDC funded the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) through a cooperative agreement to increase legislators' knowledge about effective strategies to prevent oral disease. This summer, NCSL published a postcard highlighting children's oral health and prevention of tooth decay through community water fluoridation and other preventive fluoride treatments. The postcards were sent to approximately 5,500 state legislators and staffers for health committees.

Spanish Language Fluoride Education Materials. CDC released posters and flyers containing pediatric oral health tips in Spanish titled, "Refresque sus Conocimientos sobre Dientes Sanos: Pasos Sencillos para Sonrisas Infantiles" in conjunction with National Children's Dental Health month. The tips recommend good oral care habits starting in infancy and provide information on the proper use of toothpaste and other fluoride products. In 2002, CDC released a health communication initiative called "Brush Up on Healthy Teeth: Simple Steps for Kid's Smiles," which targeted parents of young children. In response, CDC received numerous requests for Spanish language versions of these materials. Hispanic children aged 2–5 years have more tooth decay in their primary teeth than either white or African-American preschool children. The Third National Health and Examination Survey showed that more than twice as many Mexican-American children (35%) as white children (14%) in this age group have untreated tooth decay. The Spanish language materials were sent to all state health departments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Information Center also sent them to

approximately 7500 WIC clinics. These materials are available on CDC's Spanish language Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/dental/index.htm>. They may be ordered by sending an e-mail to brushup@cdc.gov.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed with AADR. On May 6, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS, and four federal public health agencies with the American Association for Dental Research (AADR). The purpose of this MOU is to support a major effort focused on three *Healthy People 2010* objectives: (1) reducing the percentage of children and adolescents who have tooth decay in their primary or permanent teeth, (2) reducing the percentage of adults who have periodontal disease, and (3) increasing the percentage of adults whose oral cancer lesions are diagnosed at the earliest stage. AADR plans to use its organizational publications and communications network to promote awareness of these objectives; encourage researchers to design studies aimed at reducing the burden of tooth decay, periodontal diseases, and oral cancer; sponsor symposia and annual meeting sessions designed to address these issues; and educate policy makers on the three objectives. The MOU is available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/Implementation/mous/>.

DOH Participates in International Public Health Meetings. New strategies for health promotion and public health were the primary focuses of the 8th Annual Conference of the European Association for Dental Public Health, held August 21–23 in Jyväskylä Paviljonki, Finland. Sessions at the conference addressed epidemiology in practice and administration, global oral health surveillance, and models of financing oral health services and their impact on oral health. Representing both CDC and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, Dr. William Maas gave a keynote speech on “State Surveillance Systems: Oral Health and General Health” as part of a session describing a spectrum of U.S. state, national, and global surveillance considerations. He shared lessons learned by the CDC in integrating monitoring of oral health and its risk factors with those of other chronic diseases. In addition, Dr. Dolores Malvitz, team leader for DOH Surveillance, Investigations and Research, presented a poster session on “Collaboration to Identify Suitable Measures of Periodontal Diseases in Populations.” She described the new effort underway to recommend self-reported and clinically derived measures of periodontal infection that can monitor disease levels in populations. Participation in this meeting provided an opportunity for the U.S. dental public health community to see that Europeans are dealing with many of the same issues as the United States and to learn how Europeans monitor oral diseases and work to prevent them by addressing health behaviors.

Earlier this summer, Dr. Malvitz made a presentation on “Global Health Through Women’s Leadership,” at the 2nd International Women’s Leadership Conference in Göteborg, Sweden. Sponsored by the American Dental Education Association, this meeting was attended by deans and associate deans of dental schools worldwide as well as other leaders in oral health.

In June, CDC staff members provided several presentations at the General Session of the International Association of Dental Research in Göteborg, Sweden. Dental Officer Dr. Gina Thornton-Evans presented a poster session on an analysis from the 1999 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System that showed an association between tooth loss and coronary artery disease in smokers aged 18–54 years. Dr. Paul Eke provided a session on his research showing an

association between some organisms associated with periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease. In addition, Laurie Barker provided a session on trends in dental health status among Mexican-American adults, and Dr. Eugenio Beltrán discussed the validity of epidemiological examination for dental caries using the World Health Organization periodontal probe.

CDC Staff Highlights. Lisa Levy joined DOH in September 2003 as an ASPH Fellow. Lisa earned her MPH from Yale University. The fellowship will focus on enhancing assistance to state grantees in efforts to strengthen state-based oral health surveillance, enhance core public health functions designed to improve oral health, and expand use of water fluoridation and school-based/school-linked dental sealants.