

Oral Health Facts

Oral Health Program Accomplishments – 2008-2009

September 2009

- Completed three fact sheets/reports and published to the web: (1) *Community Water Fluoridation* fact sheet, (2) *Biennial Report of Oral Health Leading Indicators* and (3) *Healthy People 2010/2020 Status Report*. The *Biennial Report of Leading Indicators* also was distributed to the North Dakota Legislature.
- Collaborated with the North Dakota Dental Association, community health centers and the North Dakota State College of Science on *Give Kids a Smile Day* events across the state. Thirty-four dentists volunteered their time to provide free dental care to 449 children.
- Formed a new partnership with the North Dakota Department of Human Services and the North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry to address childhood tooth decay. The partnership is called the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Head Start Dental Home Initiative.
- Collected Head Start oral health data on dental homes from Head Start sites in North Dakota via an online survey.
- Hired a second part-time epidemiologist to work with the Oral Health Program.
- Updated the Surveillance Plan, data grid and question matrix.
- Completed the North Dakota State Synopsis and submitted to the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors.
- Integrated North Dakota's Oral Health activities and accomplishments into the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) database using their Management Overview for Logistics Analysis and Reporting (MOLAR) system.
- Aligned social-demographic database with surveillance data to allow for tracking and monitoring of oral health disparities in North Dakota.
- Created an evaluation strategy to assess ways to improve the delivery of oral health services and prevention programs within North Dakota.
- Completed the dental sealant rural pilot project. Completed a cost comparison for the rural and urban sealant projects.
- Updated the fluoride varnish *Medicaid Reimbursement Guidelines*. Created fluoride varnish site codes.
- Increased the number of public water systems doing fluoridation split samples from 25 percent to 80 percent.
- Added one new fluoridated water system, South Central Rural Water District-North Burleigh.
- Provided information on community water fluoridation at the annual operating training.

- Developed community water fluoridation resource materials to educate local communities on the value of maintaining community water fluoridation.
- Created fluoridation articles for medical professionals and submitted for publication in two newsletters.
- Collaborated with the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition to develop a policy plan for the 2009 Legislative Session. Advocated for successful passage of five oral health bills. House Bill 1012 increased reimbursement levels for dental providers, House Bill 1231 provided start-up funding for a dental care mobile, House Bill 1176 changed supervision of dental hygienists to allow greater access to oral health screening and preventive services, Senate Bill 2004 increased the appropriation for the Donated Dental Services Program, and Senate Bill 2358 created a dental loan repayment program for dentists serving in public health and nonprofit dental clinics.
- Updated the Oral Health Program website.
- Attended *Frameworks* training. Created oral health messages for the *Watch Your Mouth* campaign.
- Developed *Tooth and Gum Care During Pregnancy* fact sheet for inclusion in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Prenatal Plus program packets.
- Developed a *Healthy Smiles* brochure to promote good oral health for pregnant women and young children.
- Published two editions of the *Focus on Oral Health* newsletter.
- Provided regular program updates in the North Dakota Dental Association newsletter to keep local dentists informed of Oral Health Program activities.
- Published three articles in newspapers and three in newsletters to promote oral health activities and awareness.
- Updated the *Directory of Dental Access Programs* on the website.
- Enhanced program staff knowledge and skills through participation in the National Fluoridation Conference and a Cultural Competency training.
- Developed a series of six oral health anticipatory guidance sheets for ages birth to 21 years.
- Developed fact sheets on *Trends in Youth Oral Health*, *Oral Health for Children with Special Health Care Needs* and *Safe Water Information – Community Water Fluoridation*.
- Developed brochures on *Oral Cancer* and *Fluoride Facts for Parents*.

**For more information, contact:**

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