

ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

COMMUNIQUÉ

Compiled by the Oral Health Program in the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

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The Wisconsin Oral Health Program promotes and seeks to improve oral health for all citizens in Wisconsin through policy development, technical assistance, needs assessment, training and education.

Wisconsin Oral Health Program

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program works on statewide programs and projects aimed at improving oral health. The Program staff includes Jeff Chaffin, Dental Director; Robbyn Kuester, Fluoridation and Sealant Coordinator; Melissa Olson, Epidemiologist; and Jenna Schneider, Communication Specialist/ Health Educator. The Oral Health Program works closely with many organizations across the state. These partnerships expand the reach of our programs and messages.

Current projects and priorities are:

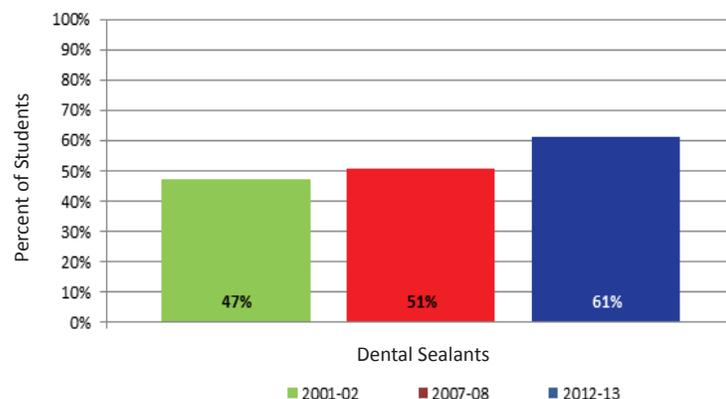
- 1) Dental sealants for low-income children--an evidence-based method to reduce dental caries.
- 2) Community water fluoridation--a preventive measure that is effective for all residents, regardless of age or income.
- 3) Surveillance activities that allow the program to assess the oral health and health trends of our populations.
- 4) Increased access to dental care for the underserved.

Wisconsin Third-Grade Basic Screening Survey

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program recently completed an assessment of the oral health of third-grade children in Wisconsin. The 2012-2013 survey used the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Basic Screening Survey protocol to survey a statewide, representative sample of third-graders. The full report will soon be available online on the Department of Health Services Oral Health Program website: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/Oral_Health/.

Figure 1 (below) shows the percentage of Wisconsin third-grade children with at least one dental sealant on a permanent molar for the last three iterations of the survey. The marked increase in dental sealants, from 47% in 2001-2002 to the current level of 61%, suggests that Wisconsin's third-grade children have increased access to dental sealants from both private and public programs. The efficacy of sealants for preventing caries in children is well established in the literature, as dental sealants prevent caries by creating a barrier between the tooth and the bacteria. The increased use of sealants can be an integral part of increasing the oral health of Wisconsin children.

Figure 1. Percentage of Wisconsin's Third-Grade Children with Dental Sealants, 2001-2002, 2007-2008, and 2012-2013.

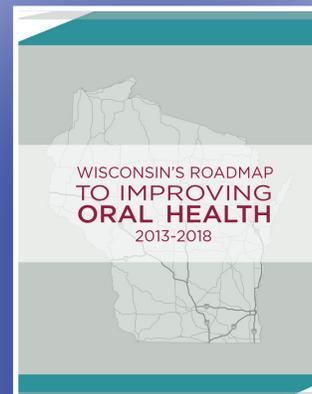


Wisconsin's Roadmap to Improving Oral Health

Wisconsin's Roadmap to Improving Oral Health 2013-2018 is available for download at http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/oral_health/. The Strategic Areas and Goals of the roadmap were developed by a group of key stakeholders convened by the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition, with additional input from members of the public health and dental communities.

The overall goal of the roadmap is to reduce the prevalence of oral disease and reduce oral health disparities in Wisconsin. Work group members identified key issues and priorities across the state as starting points to improve oral health. Four strategic areas - infrastructure, prevention and health promotion, access to oral health care and workforce - guide the goals contained in the roadmap.

The Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition is hosting a working meeting for Roadmap implementation on Wednesday, April 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Registration information is available at: <http://chawisconsin.org/oral-health.php?pg=30>.



Other Tobacco Products

Many people are familiar with the traditional packs of cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco; however, as cigarette smoking rates have dropped, the tobacco industry has created new products. Unfortunately, many people believe these "other tobacco products" (OTPs) are not harmful. Health officials recommend the public avoid and discontinue use of all tobacco products due to their addictive, cancer-causing contents.

OTPs are not safe. Consequences of their use can include cancer, tooth loss, periodontal disease, and increased risk of heart disease and stroke. OTPs are available in a variety of forms including snus, hookah, cigarillos, little cigars, and e-cigarettes. The amount of tobacco in some of these products can be up to three times that of one cigarette.

In an effort to increase awareness and provide additional education to dental professionals, a two-part webinar has been created, "Oral Health Care Providers and Tobacco Users." The webinar series addresses the dangers of these new tobacco products and how dental professionals can get involved. To access this free webinar, go to <http://chawisconsin.org/oral-health.php?pg=30> under the *Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition documents, tools and resources* section.

Fluoride Census

The Wisconsin Public Water Supply Fluoridation Census has been updated with 2013 data and is available on the Oral Health Program website (http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/Oral_Health/reports/wiH2O.htm). The Fluoridation Census provides information on the fluoride status of public water systems. This document is designed to assist local public health departments as well as medical and dental professionals in determining the level of fluoride of a public water supply. This information can be used to assess risk for oral disease prior to prescribing fluoride supplements.

Systems are listed in one of three categories: adjusted, natural, or non-adjusted. Systems listed as adjusted ensure the amount of fluoride in the water is at the level recommended for optimal oral health benefits. The optimal level for fluoridated systems in Wisconsin is 0.7 parts per million (ppm) of fluoride.

To request assistance with determining the fluoridation status of a public water supply, contact Robbyn Kuester in the Oral Health Program at (608) 266-0876.



New Funding for the Wisconsin Oral Health Program: HRSA and CDC

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program was recently awarded a \$1.2 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities program. The primary goals of the grant are to: (1) increase the capacity of Wisconsin's oral health workforce by expanding the Seal-A-Smile school-based sealant programs to provide comprehensive oral health services in dental professional shortage areas; (2) increase Wisconsin's capacity to respond to community water fluoridation issues throughout the state by educating regional fluoride spokespersons; and (3) strengthen the oral health surveillance system addressing data gaps to document the oral health of Wisconsin residents and identify oral health trends.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Oral Health Program was one of 21 recipients awarded a "State Oral Disease Prevention Programs" grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The aim of this grant program is to assist state health departments to improve the oral health of their state residents, in particular those children and adults who are most at risk for oral diseases such as tooth decay. Dr. Jeff Chaffin, Wisconsin State Dental Director, noted that "With the CDC support, the Oral Health Program will be better able to monitor Wisconsin's oral health, identify priorities and target efforts, and expand programs aimed at preventing oral disease."

Head Start Basic Screening Survey

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program is planning to conduct a Basic Screening Survey of Head Start children throughout Wisconsin. The survey follows the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors' (ASTDD) protocol and has been conducted every five years in Wisconsin since the 2002-2003 school year. These data provide valuable information about the oral health status of Head Start children, progress towards Healthy People 2020 objectives, health disparities and trends. Data collection will occur between February and May of 2014 and will be completed by trained dentists and dental hygienists. Results will be available electronically through the [Wisconsin Oral Health Program website](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/oral_health_program/).

Content contributors for this edition of the *Wisconsin Oral Health Program Communiqué* include:

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Funding Available for Low-Income Access Dental Clinics

The Wisconsin Oral Health Program is accepting applications for grants totaling \$850,000 for dental clinics to increase dental access for vulnerable populations. Creating and improving local community efforts to increase access to oral health services for Wisconsin's at-risk population are the objectives for this funding. The RFP was released on December 18, 2013, and applications are due **February 14, 2014**. The first year of the grant period is July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. The RFP and associated documents can be found at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rfp/>.



State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health
Wisconsin Oral Health Program

Visit our website: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/Oral_Health/
Contact us: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/Oral_Health/Contact.htm

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