

2019 ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM GOALS

1. Build Nevada Oral Health Program infrastructure and capacity.
2. Create the framework of an oral health surveillance plan.
3. Oversee implementation of new legislation that is specific to chronic diseases comorbid with poor oral health, and provide pertinent education to legislators to improve dental public health legislation in Nevada.
4. Educate to promote the use of preventive dentistry practices into the dental care delivery system, to increase utilization of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT), and to provide clinical expertise to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy.
5. Collaborate with existing systems, programs, and sister agencies to improve access to care for individuals in dental health professional shortage areas.
6. Expand the reach of oral health messaging on decay prevention and evidence based oral health practices for children, children and youth with special healthcare needs, adolescents, and women of childbearing age.
7. Timely and accurate completion and submission of pertinent reports and documents; monitoring program expenditures; and performing other program management activities.



ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Program History

The Nevada Oral Health Program is statewide program under the Division of Public and Behavioral Health housed within Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services. The Program was established in statute in 2009 under NRS 439.2791. The mission of the Oral Health Program is to protect, promote, and improve the oral health of the people of Nevada. The Program reaches this goal by facilitating communication and collaboration between agencies and organizations throughout Nevada, working to enhance maternal child health, decrease chronic disease rates, improve Medicaid utilization, establish medical-dental integration programs, and the provide services and education for those with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

The Program seeks to improve the health of Nevadans across the lifespan by enhancing access to dental care for underserved and vulnerable populations. This is accomplished through support of public health community based dental programs and school-based sealant programs, education to promote the use of preventive dentistry practices in the dental care delivery system, influencing Medicaid policy changes that are clinically sound, and collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data to describe the oral health burden, health disparities, and unmet needs in Nevada.

There are currently three coalitions in the state that focus primarily on oral health: Community Coalition for Oral Health (CCOH), Northern Nevada Dental Coalition for Underserved Populations (CUSP), and Oral Health Nevada (statewide). The Oral Health Program facilitates communication and collaboration between the coalitions and the statewide Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health (AC4OH, NRS 439.2792).

The Oral Health Programs invites oral health stakeholders and advocates to join them in their mission to reduce dental decay, oral health disparities, and chronic diseases comorbid with poor oral health. Below is a list of the Program's recently completed and in-progress projects. Join us in our mission to improve oral health in Nevada. Together we will create a better dental healthcare system for all Nevadans.

More information on the Oral Health Program can be found at:

<http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OH/OH-Home/>

