

Oral diseases, which include cavities, gum disease, and oral cancer, are considered chronic diseases just like diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), asthma, and breast and other cancers. Oral diseases impact almost everyone who lives in the U.S. sometime during their lives. Not only do oral diseases negatively affect overall health, they can also cause people to miss time from work and school, go to the emergency department for relief of pain, and impact some people's ability to get a job or enlist in the military. And yet, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides funding to every State Health Department for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease and stroke prevention programs, it funds less than half the states for prevention programs for oral diseases. Every five years, states that want CDC funding must submit applications and compete for funding. In 2018, 45 states applied but only 20 were funded.

This means that some states have never received CDC funding, while other states that used to receive funding, no longer do so.

Lack of current CDC funding has been devastating for Nevada. Without CDC funds, Nevada is unable to implement preventive programs or surveillance activities and the State Oral Health Program is annually on the brink of closure. The lack of current data and epidemiologist staffing hinders Nevada from clearly understanding the statewide scope of need, from identifying initiatives to improve oral health, and from building a competitive application for federal funding.

Currently Funded States	Previously Funded States	States that Have Never Been Funded
Arkansas	Alaska	Alabama
Colorado	Hawaii	Arizona
Connecticut	Illinois	California
Florida	Maine	Delaware
Georgia	Michigan	DC
Idaho	Mississippi	Indiana
Iowa	Nevada	Kentucky
Kansas	New York	Massachusetts
Louisiana	Oregon	Montana
Maryland	Texas	Nebraska
Minnesota	Wisconsin	New Jersey
Missouri		New Mexico
New Hampshire		North Carolina
North Dakota		Ohio
Pennsylvania		Oklahoma
Rhode Island		South Dakota
South Carolina		Tennessee
Vermont		Utah
Virginia		Washington
West Virginia		Wyoming

The CDC Division of Oral Health, which is located in the CDC National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, currently receives only \$19M from Congress to distribute to states for prevention programs for oral diseases. To fund all states for an oral health program, Congress needs to appropriate an additional \$17.5M above their current appropriations of \$19M. Of the additional \$17.5M, \$11.5M would go towards funding 30 more states, \$3.5M would support the provision of program technical assistance and support for surveillance, evaluation, policy and communication activities, and \$2.5M would go towards research, epidemiologic analysis, translation of science to action, infection prevention, and prevention guidance.

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Endorsed by:

American Network of Oral Health Coalitions

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors