

ASTDD Dental Public Health Policy Committee Annual Report
Jan 1, 2023 – Dec 31, 2023

Chair: Harry Goodman Consultant: Judy Feinstein

Members: Tracy Anselmo (CO), Eric Biagioli (MD), Chris Farrell (MI), Debonny Hughes (MD), Shelley Guinn (WA), Pedro Medina-Cuevas (IL), Nicole Payonk (PA), Anubhuti Shukla (IN), Kristi Sutton-Thomas (MI), Mona VanKanegan (IL)

1. List any new members or subcommittee members: N/A

2. Describe the purpose of your committee:

To develop, promote and support resource and policy-related documents to assist state and territorial oral health programs to improve oral health, in support of ASTDD’s objective to reflect the Association's priorities and stance on dental public health issues. These documents are intended for directors of State/Territorial Oral Health Programs (S/TOHP) and their staff to support them in describing the issues and evidence base at a high level. Documents may include examples, recommendations, strategies, and/or information that S/TOHP can use to assist decision makers (such as healthcare providers, federal, state or private agencies, employers, public health officials), or the public, in developing further understanding of dental public health issues or in choosing between alternative courses of action in specific situations. Older policies are routinely evaluated by the committee to ensure that they continue to reflect the latest science. The Committee works in collaboration with other ASTDD committees and/or individuals and the Board of Directors to oversee the creation of resource documents and policy statements for use by the ASTDD membership.

3. List your committee accomplishments for the last calendar year.

- Met ten times during 2023.
- Posted two documents to ASTDD’s website: *Social Determinants of Health and Improving Oral Health Equity* (March); and *Dental Amalgam and Resin-Based Composites: Environmental and Health Impacts* (August). The authors of the former paper, then third year dental students at Harvard’s School of Dental Medicine, presented a poster session at the 2023 NOHC highlighting their research.
- Both new policy statements were presented as ASTDD Spotlights: *Social Determinants of Health* on November 9, presented by two of the three authors, Catherine Simpson and Stephanie Yang; and *Dental Amalgam and Resin-Based Composites* on December 5, presented by Linda Kaste, DDS, MS, PhD, University of Illinois Chicago, College of Dentistry, whose work with a dental public health master’s student was instrumental in completing the paper. Both sessions well-received and attended by over 90 people.
- Harry Goodman and Judy Feinstein worked with other ASTDD consultants throughout the spring and summer in collaboration with McAllister Castelaz, DMD, FAGD, the president of the American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance to produce a new issue

brief, *Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents*, posted in August. This Brief updates and replaces our older papers, *School-Based or School-Linked Mobile or Portable Dental Services* policy statement and the *Mobile and Portable Dental Services in Pre-school and School Settings: Complex Issues Issue Brief*.

- In collaboration with AAPHD, the Committee reviewed proposed resolutions as presented to the ADA's House of Delegates for their Annual Session in October 2023, and prepared comments on six of them for ASTDD. ASTDD provides simple statements of support to "get on the record" on issues that may have an impact on dental public health. These resolutions concerned including preventive coverage in dental benefits plans; defining and expanding Medicare coverage for dental care services; emphasizing the importance of dental benefits as Essential Health Benefits; supporting the ADA in retaining its 2018 policy encouraging education of the dental profession on the importance of preventing HPV cancers, and collaborating with other health care organizations to support patient education on HPV prevention; supporting the ADA to encourage private dental practitioners to contract and collaborate with FQHCs and CHCs; and supporting the ADA in affirming that the determination of Health Professional Shortage Area designations should be accurate, timely, and objective, taking into account a full range of key data points.
 - The DPHPC collaborated with experts in the field in planning a panel presentation at the 2023 NOHC, *A Collaborative Research Project to Reduce Opioid Use by Dental Providers in Managing Dental Pain*. Judy Feinstein served as the session moderator; Bruce Austin, DMD, coincidentally chair of ASTDD's Fluorides Committee, was one of the presenters along with Deborah Polk, PhD, the primary researcher from University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.
4. Describe the future activities planned by your committee:
- Review updated/revised documents in collaboration with the Fluorides Committee as they become available.
 - Complete new/updated policy papers on oral health in primary care (in collaboration with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center), tobacco products use, early childhood caries, oral health and older adults (funded by the Gary and Mary West Foundation), and minimally invasive care (funded by CareQuest).
 - Continue to evaluate older policy statements and resource documents (publication dates older than 5 years) to identify those likely to need revisions/updates. Other than those noted above, topics could include HPV and oropharyngeal cancer, oral health and chronic disease, sugar-sweetened beverages, and teledentistry.
 - In lieu of drafting a policy statement on health equity to correspond with a BPAR that might be developed, the Committee will focus on creating an annotated webpage on health equity, e.g., by reorganizing and annotating ASTDD's Health Equity/Social Determinants of Health webpage, into categories such as organizations, policy statements, toolkits, journal articles, etc.

- In lieu of an issue brief on oral health literacy, the Committee continues to be interested as time permits, in undertaking drafting a short document (one to two pages) to summarize the many and multi-faceted issues around oral health literacy and describe ASTDD's resources, using an annotated webpage.
 - Continue consideration as time permits, of Committee processes, e.g., format changes for documents, how the relationship among related various papers and resources (those related to access to care, fluorides, and others to be determined) can be presented.
5. Describe any subcommittees your committee uses, their roles and activities:
- Subcommittees are established as needed to work on specific statements or other activities, e.g., an ad hoc subcommittee to review the ADA's proposed resolutions. The DPHPC did not use any subcommittees in 2023.
6. List any unmet needs of your committee (e.g., members, funding, etc.):
- The Committee may recruit new members in 2024.