

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

GUIDELINES FOR STATE AND TERRITORIAL ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: Essential Public Health Services to Promote Oral Health in the United States

The following essential public health services form a framework for the publication, *Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs*. The *Guidelines* were developed and approved with input from federal agencies and national organizations, such as ASTHO, to provide guidance to government officials for assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of oral health activities. Links to ASTDD Best Practice Approach Reports and State Practice Descriptions are included in the document. View and download this important document on ASTDD's website at <http://www.astdd.org/docs/ASTDDGuidelines.pdf>.

I. Assessment

- A. **Assess oral health status and needs** so that problems can be identified and addressed.
- B. **Analyze determinants** of identified oral health needs, including resources.
- C. **Assess the fluoridation status** of water systems, and other sources of fluoride.
- D. **Implement an oral health surveillance system** to identify, investigate, and monitor oral health problems and health hazards.

II. Policy Development

- A. **Develop plans and policies through a collaborative process** that support individual and community oral health efforts to address oral health needs.
- B. **Provide leadership** to address oral health problems by maintaining a strong oral health unit within the health agency.
- C. **Mobilize community partnerships** between and among policy makers, professionals, organizations, groups, the public and others to identify and implement solutions to oral health problems.

III. Assurance

- A. **Inform, educate and empower the public** regarding oral health problems and solutions.
- B. **Promote and enforce laws** and regulations that protect and improve oral health, ensure safety, and assure accountability for the public's well-being.
- C. **Link people to** needed population-based **oral health services**, personal oral health services, and support services and **assure the availability, access, and acceptability** of these services by enhancing system capacity, including directly supporting or providing services when necessary.
- D. **Support** services and implementation of programs that focus on **primary and secondary prevention**.
- E. **Assure that the public health and personal health work force** has the capacity and **expertise** to effectively address oral health needs.
- F. **Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality** of population-based and personal oral health services.
- G. **Conduct research and support demonstration projects** to gain new insights and applications of innovative solutions to oral health problems.



ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL DENTAL DIRECTORS (ASTDD)

<http://www.astdd.org>

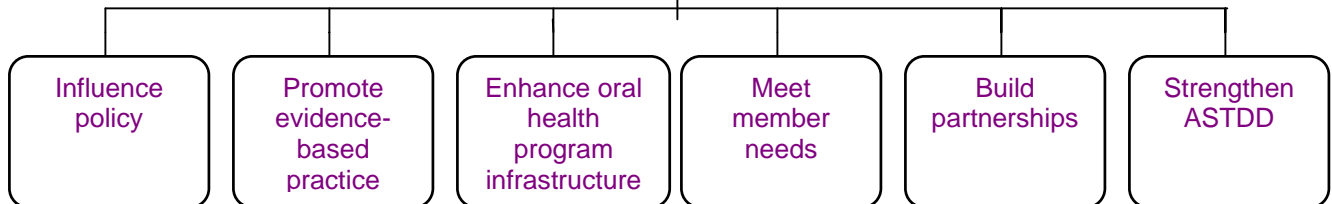
Vision

A strong and effective governmental oral health presence in states and territories to assure optimal oral health.

Mission

ASTDD provides leadership to advocate a governmental oral health presence in each state and territory, to formulate and promote sound oral health policy, to increase awareness of oral health issues, and to assist in the development of initiatives for prevention and control of oral diseases.

GOALS



ASTDD is a 501 (c) (6) non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for oral health and one of the 17 affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). In 1993 ASTDD established a non-voting Associate member category, and in 2006 added an Associate member director to the Executive Committee.

ASTDD's funding is primarily from cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA, MCHB). Projects fall under the general categories of:

- **Best Practices:** A rapidly growing collection of 8 best practice approach reports and 120+ summaries of successful practices submitted by 47 states are on the ASTDD website.
- **Oral Health Needs Assessment and Surveillance:** States receive TA on performing the Basic Screening Survey (BSS) and integrating data with other health indicators to create surveillance systems and contribute to the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS).
- **Program Reviews and Technical Assistance:** Over 20 states have benefited from self-studies and onsite reviews by a team of consultants and peers using *ASTDD Guidelines* (see back page).
- **Leadership and Professional Development:** ASTDD sponsors an orientation and mentoring program and Board development; a National Oral Health Leadership Institute for state oral health directors and staff will be launched in Spring 2007.
- **Annual National Oral Health Conference:** The annual National Oral Health Conference provides continuing education and a venue for discussion for more than 700 state and local oral health directors and staff, Medicaid dental consultants, academic faculty, clinicians and others.
- **School and Adolescent Oral Health (SAOH):** The ASTDD website lists components of SAOH programs and now contains 22 state/territorial profiles.
- **Head Start:** ASTDD provides support to all states for multidisciplinary HS Oral health forums and collaborative follow-up activities.
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN):** ASTDD co-publishes materials on CSHCN with the National Oral Health Resource Center and supports CSHCN oral health forums to states.

Collaborative relationships, advocacy, health promotion and disease prevention, access to preventive services and dental care, and evaluation are key threads through all activities.