



# Dental Public Health Activities & Practices

**Practice Number:** 04003  
**Submitted By:** Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health  
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| <b>SECTION I: PRACTICE OVERVIEW</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <b>Name of the Practice:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles – Disseminating Surveillance and Other Oral Health Data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Public Health Functions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Assessment – Use of Data<br>Assurance – Oral Health Communications<br>Assurance – Building Community Capacity for Interventions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Healthy People 2010 Objectives:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 21-16 Increase the number of states with State-based surveillance system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>State:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Region:</b>         | <b>Key Words:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Arizona                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Southwest<br>Region IX | Assessment, community profile, oral health data, oral health surveillance, surveillance data, dissemination of surveillance data, use of oral health data, oral health status, oral health needs, community oral health information |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>The Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles are a series of fact sheet used to provide Arizona communities with information on the oral health status of their residents. The Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health developed the profiles in 1997 to organize the available oral health information for communities and to provide easier access to this data. Each profile summarizes and coordinates the oral health findings from eleven state surveys, and lists the information for a specific Arizona community, the county and the state for comparison. The purpose of the Community Oral Health Profile is to provide community-specific data to support a community in raising awareness of oral health needs, planning and developing solutions to meet the needs of its residents, and/or justifying resources. A searchable database stores profiles for 173 Arizona communities, allows the Office of Oral Health to update data from partners collecting surveillance data. Access to oral health data for all 173 community profiles by the public and communities is provided through the Arizona Department of Health Services Web site at <a href="http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/chpprofiles.htm">http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/chpprofiles.htm</a> (oral health data added to a set of Arizona Community Health Profiles). Communities have used the profiles for grant proposals to seek funding for oral health prevention and treatment services and to support community water fluoridation.</p> |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Contact Persons for Inquiries:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Julia Wacloff, RDH, MS, Chief, Office of Oral Health, Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health, 150 N. 18 <sup>th</sup> Ave. #320, Phoenix, AZ 85007, Phone: 602-542-1866, Fax: 602-364-1474, Email: <a href="mailto:julia.wacloff@azdhs.gov">julia.wacloff@azdhs.gov</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## **SECTION II: PRACTICE DESCRIPTION**

### **History of the Practice:**

The Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles were developed in 1997 to organize the state's growing oral health database and to provide data access to community users. The Community Oral Health Profiles have been in use for more than ten years and continue to serve as a key source of state and local source of oral health data. Oral health information is available from eleven state surveys and other data sources.

### **Justification of the Practice:**

Communities in Arizona have expressed a need for information about the oral health conditions and needs of their residents. Community-level oral health data guides local assessments and solutions to meet the oral health needs of the residents. County health departments, school districts, primary care centers, and local organizations regularly request data from the Office of Oral Health when applying for funding, setting priorities, supporting water fluoridation efforts, and/or addressing the needs of their underserved populations.

### **Administration, Operations, Services, Personnel, Expertise and Resources:**

The Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health (OOH) initially collaborated with the Office of Women's and Children's Health and the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs to develop the Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles.

A wealth of information, available from several sources, is provided through surveys, reports, and other collected data. The Office of Oral Health compiled the Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles using these statewide sources of information:

- U.S. Census Bureau, Population and Ethnicity, Census 2000 Summary
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health, Arizona Dental Survey of Preschool Children 1994-1995
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health, Arizona Dental Survey of School Age Children, 1999-2003
- Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health, Dental Survey of Arizona's Senior Adults, 1993
- Special Olympics, Special Smiles, 2000 Special Olympics State Games, Arizona, 2000.
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Registries, Arizona Cancer Registry, 2001
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Registries, 1997 Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program Report
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education and Prevention Program, 2003 Arizona Youth Tobacco Survey
- Arizona Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002 and 2003
- Arizona Board of Dental Examiners (licensed dentists, dental hygienists, and Medicaid dentists)
- Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health Systems Development (Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas 2004)

Data contributors collect data on a periodic, ongoing basis as part of their surveillance. The surveillance data from these sources are organized for each of 173 Arizona communities. Profiles also report data on counties and on the state as a whole for comparison. The profiles provide information to determine oral health conditions and needs in a particular community, and can serve as a tool to help in planning, prioritizing needs, and allocating resources.

Each 3-page Community Oral Health Profile provides the following data for the community, the county, and the state:

1. *Demographics*

- Population,
- Children by Age Groups
- Race/Ethnicity
- Median Household Income,
- Families with Income Below Federal Poverty Level
- Unemployment Rates

2. *Oral Health Indicators*

- Dental Health Status  
Proportion of persons with decay experience, untreated tooth decay, dental sealants, tooth loss, pain/infection, and urgent treatment needs for infants 6-24 months, toddlers 2-4 years, children 6-8 years, adolescents 11-13 years, adults 35-44 years, adults 60+ years, and people with special health care needs
- Oral Cancer  
Proportion of males and females who have lip, oral cavity and pharyngeal cancer
- Craniofacial Birth Defects  
Incidence rate per 1,000 live births with cleft lip with and without cleft palate
- Tobacco Use  
Proportion of children in middle school/high school and adults 18-64 years/65+ years who are currently using cigarettes or chewing tobacco/snuff

3. *Access to Care*

- Dental Service Utilization  
Proportion of children, adults, and seniors who have a dental checkup yearly, two or more years ago, or never
- Dental Insurance Coverage  
Proportion of children, adults, seniors and children with special health care needs with public/Medicaid dental insurance those and without dental insurance
- Oral Health Professionals  
Number of licensed dentists and dental hygienists residing in the community

4. *Designations*

- Identifies a community if designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area

5. *Community Fluoride Levels*

- Advises users to call their water company

In the beginning, profiles were developed for 131 Arizona communities. Over time the profiles have expanded to include 173 communities. Access to the all 173 Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles is provided to the general public on the Arizona Department of Health Services Web site (<http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/chppprofiles.htm>); oral health data have been integrated into full Arizona Community Health Profiles. The Office of Oral Health staff maintains the database and periodically updates the profiles when new data is available.

The Office of Oral Health has demonstrated the Community Oral Health Profiles to communities at an Arizona public health institute meeting and other workshops for community leaders and providers. A fact sheet template has been provided for communities to describe local oral health status and needs by filling in profile information. Communities have used the profiles to educate partners on their oral health status, to prepare grant proposals for funding oral health prevention and treatment services, and to support community water fluoridation.

### **Budget Estimates and Formulas:**

In the beginning, one OOH employed dentist and a contracted dental consultant each spent 25% of their time over two years to develop the system for the Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles. In addition, a computer programmer was contracted to set up the searchable database and automate the production of the community profile reports. Approximate cost for setting up the profile system

was \$25,000. Funding was obtained from the Office of Women's and Children's Health and Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs to cover 50% of the initial costs.

**Lessons Learned and/or Plans for Improvement:**

Prior to the development of the Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles, each request from a community for oral health information required 1-2 days to look up information from various sources and compile a report. With the automated profiles, printing the community report can be quickly accomplished. Data sources have some limitations in providing community level information (e.g., some communities may have not been included in a survey or there was an inadequate sample size). There is a need to periodic update the data for the Profiles.

**Available Resources - Models, Tools and Guidelines Relevant to the Practice:**

Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health, Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles (oral health data from the profiles are added to Arizona Community Health Profiles available at <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/chpprofiles.htm>).

## SECTION III: PRACTICE EVALUATION INFORMATION

### **Impact/Effectiveness**

*Does the practice demonstrate impact, applicability, and benefits to the oral health care and well-being of certain populations or communities (i.e., reference scientific evidence and outcomes of the practice)?*

The Community Oral Health Profiles have provided valuable information for communities in supporting their efforts to seek grant funding for improving access to dental care and initiating preventive oral health services. The Office of Oral Health has provided profile information to county health departments to raise awareness for oral health needs. In addition, profile information has successfully supported several communities in their water fluoridation efforts.

### **Efficiency**

*Does the practice demonstrate cost and resource efficiency where expenses are appropriate to benefits? Are staffing and time requirements realistic and reasonable?*

Previous to the development of the Community Oral Health Profiles, a request for community oral health information typically required one staff person to spend 1-2 days to search the various survey resources and compile a report. With the profiles, a report is printed within minutes. In addition, the profiles have standardized the reporting of community-level findings from ongoing surveys and data sources (e.g., dental examination surveys and cancer registry). Funding support was obtained from the Office of Women's and Children's Health and Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs to cover 50% of the costs to develop the profiles.

### **Demonstrated Sustainability**

*Does the practice show sustainable benefits and/or is the practice sustainable within populations/communities and between states/territories?*

The Arizona Community Oral Health Profiles were developed in 1997 and have been a key data resource for the Office of Oral Health since that time for 10+ years. With current surveillance efforts related to the dental examination survey of school age children in 100+ communities, the profiles will be updated with current dental status information (e.g., prevalence of tooth decay and dental sealants) on an ongoing basis.

### **Collaboration / Integration**

*Does the practice build effective partnerships/coalitions among various organizations and integrate oral health with other health projects and issues?*

The profiles resulted from the collaboration and financial support of three offices in the Arizona Department of Health Services (Office of Oral Health, Office of Women's and Children's Health and Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs). In addition, partnerships were developed in gathering and sharing data from the various contributors such as the Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Health System Developments, the Arizona Board of Dental Examiners, and the Arizona Office of Health Registries. The profiles further support building linkages by sharing oral health data with communities.

### **Objectives / Rationale**

*Does the practice address Healthy People 2010 objectives, the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health, and/or building basic infrastructure and capacity?*

The Community Oral Health Profiles is part of the Office of Oral Health surveillance system, which disseminates information to stakeholders. This effort supports the HP 2010 objective to increase the number of states with a state-based surveillance system.

### **Extent of Use Among States**

*Is the practice or aspects of the practice used or observed in other states?*

The Office of Oral Health is not certain of the number of states that have developed community oral health profiles.