

# SUMMARY REPORT

## 2021 SYNOPSES OF STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

DATA FOR FY 2019-2020

Association of State and Territorial  
Dental Directors



May 2021

Supported by Cooperative Agreement 5 NU58DP006573-03-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

**Table of Contents**

Introduction ..... 1

Demographics ..... 2

Infrastructure ..... 5

Workforce ..... 6

Administration ..... 7

Oral Health Programs Funded or Operated by State ..... 11

## Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the *2021 Synopses of State Dental Public Health Programs* (2021 Synopses); which represents the status of the state oral health program during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Each January, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) distributes the Synopses questionnaire to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain current information from each state on demographic, infrastructure, workforce, and administrative factors that impact the state's oral health program. In addition, each state is asked to provide detailed information on the services they provide to their constituents. State specific information from the 2021 Synopses is available in a comprehensive report posted on the member's only section of the ASTDD website ([www.astdd.org](http://www.astdd.org)). The 2021 Synopses questionnaire was returned by 48 states plus the District of Columbia. NOTE: Wyoming did not have an oral health program during FY 2019-2020.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Each age and income group have unique oral health needs. To plan a comprehensive program that serves all population groups, oral health program staff must understand the demographics of their state. The following tables present information on the number of states by the percent of their overall population that is 65 years or older or 0-19 years of age.

### Seniors – Percentage of Population Aged 65 Years and Older (2019)

| Percent of Population $\geq$ 65 | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 12.0%                         | 1                | 2.0%              |
| 12.0 – 12.9%                    | 3                | 5.9%              |
| 13.0 – 13.9%                    | 0                | 0.0%              |
| 14.0 – 14.9%                    | 3                | 5.9%              |
| $\geq$ 15.0%                    | 44               | 86.3%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-state-detail.html>

### Children – 0 to 17 Years (2020)

| Percent of Population 0-17 | Number of States | Percent of States |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 20.0%                    | 7                | 13.7%             |
| 20.0 – 21.9%               | 16               | 31.4%             |
| 22.0 – 23.9%               | 21               | 41.2%             |
| 24.0 – 25.9%               | 6                | 11.8%             |
| $\geq$ 26.0%               | 1                | 2.0%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census, <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2010-2020/state/totals/nst-est2020.xlsx>

It is well documented that low-income individuals have more oral health problems compared to higher income individuals. The following tables present information by various measures of poverty. Title XIX Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide medical and dental coverage to low-income children.

### Title XIX Medicaid Children (Number ever enrolled, FFY 2019)

| Number of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 100,000          | 6                | 11.8%             |
| 100,000 – 249,999  | 11               | 21.6%             |
| 250,000 – 499,999  | 8                | 15.7%             |
| 500,000 – 749,999  | 13               | 25.5%             |
| 750,000 – 999,999  | 13               | 25.5%             |
| $\geq$ 1,000,000   | 6                | 11.8%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2019-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>

**CHIP Children (Number ever enrolled, FFY 2019)**

| Number of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 10,000           | 4                | 7.8%              |
| 10,000 – 19,999    | 5                | 9.8%              |
| 20,000 – 39,999    | 6                | 11.8%             |
| 40,000 – 49,999    | 1                | 2.0%              |
| 50,000 – 99,999    | 9                | 17.6%             |
| 100,000 – 499,999  | 23               | 45.1%             |
| ≥ 500,000          | 3                | 5.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2019-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost (reduced price) or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established in 1946 under the National School Lunch Act. To be eligible for free lunches a child's family must be at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) while the upper income for reduced price lunches is 185% of FPL.

**Percentage of Children Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunches (2018-2019)**

| Percent of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 40.0%             | 13               | 25.5%             |
| 40.0 – 49.9%        | 16               | 31.4%             |
| 50.0 – 59.9%        | 13               | 25.5%             |
| 60.0 – 69.9%        | 6                | 11.8%             |
| ≥ 70%               | 3                | 5.9%              |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics,

[https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20\\_204.10.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_204.10.asp)

As previously mentioned, low-income individuals have more oral health problems compared to higher income individuals. The percent of children living in households at or below 125% and 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are common indicators used to describe the socioeconomic status of a state.

#### Children under 18 in families earning less than 125% of FPL (2019)

| Percent of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 15.0%             | 15               | 29.4%             |
| 15.0 – 19.9%        | 20               | 39.2%             |
| 20.0 – 24.9%        | 10               | 19.6%             |
| 25.0 – 29.9%        | 4                | 7.8%              |
| ≥ 30.0%             | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-46.html>

#### Children under 19 Years of Age who are at or below 200% of FPL (2019)

| Percent of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 20.0%             | 0                | 0.0%              |
| 20.0 – 29.9%        | 11               | 21.6%             |
| 30.0 – 39.9%        | 23               | 45.1%             |
| 40.0 – 49.9%        | 15               | 29.4%             |
| ≥ 50.0%             | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/health-insurance/acs-hi.html>

#### Children under 19 at or Below 200% FPL without Health Insurance (2019)

| Percent of Children | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 1.0%              | 2                | 3.9%              |
| 1.0 – 1.9%          | 14               | 27.5%             |
| 2.0 – 2.9%          | 17               | 33.3%             |
| 3.0 – 3.9%          | 8                | 15.7%             |
| 4.0 – 4.9%          | 8                | 15.7%             |
| ≥ 5.0%              | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/health-insurance/acs-hi.html>

## STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

When planning community programs, it is essential that oral health program staff know and understand their state's infrastructure. Especially important to oral health is community water fluoridation.

### Percentage of Population Served by Community Water Fluoridation (2018)

| Percentage of Population | Number of States | Percent of States |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 25.0%                  | 2                | 3.9%              |
| 25.0 – 49.9%             | 6                | 11.8%             |
| 50.0 – 74.9%             | 15               | 29.4%             |
| ≥ 75.0%                  | 28               | 54.9%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/2018stats.htm>

States are not mandated to provide dental benefits to adults through Medicaid. The following table lists the percent of states that provide dental benefits to adults who are eligible for Medicaid.

### Percentage of States with Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits (September 2019)

| Type of Benefit   | Number of States | Percent of States |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| None              | 2                | 3.9%              |
| Under Development | 2                | 3.9%              |
| Emergency Only    | 12               | 23.5%             |
| Limited           | 16               | 31.4%             |
| Extensive         | 19               | 37.3%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: Center for Health Care Strategies, [https://www.chcs.org/media/Adult-Oral-Health-Fact-Sheet\\_091519.pdf](https://www.chcs.org/media/Adult-Oral-Health-Fact-Sheet_091519.pdf)

## DENTAL WORKFORCE

Dentist-to-population and hygienist-to-population ratios are commonly used indicators of dental workforce and access to dental professionals. The following two tables provide information on the dentist and hygienist to population ratios. Please note that these ratios are based on the number of dental professionals living in the state rather than those licensed to practice in the state.

### Active Dentists to Population Ratio

| Dentist to Population Ratio | Number of States | Percent of States |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 1,500                     | 13               | 25.5%             |
| 1,500 – 1,999               | 27               | 52.9%             |
| 2,000 – 2,499               | 11               | 21.6%             |
| ≥ 2,500                     | 0                | 0.0%              |
| Not Reported                | 0                | 0.0%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.ada.org/en/science-research/health-policy-institute/data-center/supply-and-profile-of-dentists>

### Dental Hygienists Living in State to Population Ratio

| RDH to Population Ratio | Number of States | Percent of States |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 1,500                 | 18               | 35.3%             |
| 1,500 – 1,999           | 12               | 23.5%             |
| 2,000 – 2,499           | 4                | 7.8%              |
| ≥ 2,500                 | 1                | 2.0%              |
| Not Reported            | 16               | 31.4%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire



### ADMINISTRATION

The following tables provide information on the administration, staffing and budgeting of state oral health programs. Please note that some states operate or hire staff for local or regional dental clinics so some of the staff identified in these tables may be clinical.

#### Dental Director's Years of Service

| Years of Service                | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 1 year                        | 5                | 9.8%              |
| 1 – 4 years                     | 20               | 39.2%             |
| 5 – 9 years                     | 15               | 29.4%             |
| 10 – 14 years                   | 6                | 11.8%             |
| ≥ 15 years                      | 2                | 3.9%              |
| Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP | 3                | 5.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

#### Dental Director is Full-Time Position

| Full-Time Position              | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No                              | 4                | 7.8%              |
| Yes                             | 45               | 88.2%             |
| Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

#### Percentage of Dental Director's Time Devoted to Medicaid/SCHIP Issues

| Percentage of Time              | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 0                               | 11               | 21.6%             |
| 1.0 – 9.9%                      | 12               | 23.5%             |
| 10.0 – 19.9%                    | 13               | 25.5%             |
| 20.0 – 29.9%                    | 3                | 5.9%              |
| ≥ 30%                           | 10               | 19.6%             |
| Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Percentage of Dental Director's Time Paid by Medicaid/SCHIP**

| Percentage of Time              | Number of States | Percent of States |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 0                               | 36               | 70.6%             |
| 10 – 49%                        | 7                | 13.7%             |
| 50 – 100%                       | 5                | 9.8%              |
| Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP | 3                | 5.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Number of FTE Employees Working in State Programs (Rounded)**

| Number of FTEs         | Number of States | Percent of States |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 2                    | 6                | 11.8%             |
| 2 – 3                  | 12               | 23.5%             |
| 4 – 5                  | 8                | 15.7%             |
| 6 – 8                  | 10               | 19.6%             |
| 9 – 10                 | 5                | 9.8%              |
| 11 – 20                | 4                | 7.8%              |
| ≥ 21                   | 4                | 7.8%              |
| Not Reported / No SOHP | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Number of FTE Contractors Funded by State Program (Rounded)**

| Number of FTEs         | Number of States | Percent of States |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| < 2                    | 39               | 76.5%             |
| 2 – 3                  | 3                | 5.9%              |
| 4 – 5                  | 0                | 0.0%              |
| 6 – 10                 | 4                | 7.8%              |
| 11 – 20                | 0                | 0.0%              |
| ≥ 21                   | 3                | 5.9%              |
| Not Reported / No SOHP | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Number of FTE Employees and Contractors Working for or Funded by State**

| Number of FTEs         | Number of States | Percent of States |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 0 – 2                  | 12               | 23.5%             |
| 3 – 4                  | 8                | 15.7%             |
| 5 – 6                  | 6                | 11.8%             |
| 7 – 9                  | 9                | 17.6%             |
| 10 – 19                | 8                | 15.7%             |
| 20 – 49                | 4                | 7.8%              |
| ≥ 50                   | 2                | 3.9%              |
| Not Reported / No SOHP | 2                | 3.9%              |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia  
Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Funding Sources – Percentage of Budget from Each Source (Rounded)**

| % of Budget from Source | Funding Source (Percent of States) |             |       |            |       |       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
|                         | Medicaid                           | Other State | MCHBG | Other HRSA | CDC   | Other |
| 0                       | 68.6%                              | 19.6%       | 47.1% | 37.3%      | 49.0% | 70.6% |
| 1 – 24%                 | 15.7%                              | 23.5%       | 25.5% | 29.4%      | 15.7% | 17.6% |
| 25 – 49%                | 5.9%                               | 13.7%       | 15.7% | 21.6%      | 11.8% | 0.0%  |
| 50 – 74%                | 2.0%                               | 17.6%       | 0.0%  | 2.0%       | 11.8% | 3.9%  |
| 75 – 100%               | 2.0%                               | 19.6%       | 5.9%  | 3.9%       | 5.9%  | 2.0%  |
| Not Reported            | 5.9%                               | 5.9%        | 5.9%  | 5.9%       | 5.9%  | 5.9%  |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia  
Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**NOTE: Of the 48 states that provided information on source of funding, 22 (46%) reported receiving 75-100% of their funding from just one of the following sources: Medicaid, non-Medicaid State, HRSA, CDC, and other public/private. Ten states (21%) received ≥ 75% of their funding from non-Medicaid state funds while 1 state (2%), 7 states (15%), 3 states (6%) and 1 state (2%) reported receiving ≥ 75% of their funding from Medicaid, HRSA (MCHBG plus other HRSA funds), CDC or other public/private respectively.**

**Overall Budget Change as Compared to Prior Year**

| Change in Overall Budget | Number of States | Percent of States |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Decreased                | 15               | 29.4%             |
| Increased                | 12               | 23.5%             |
| Same                     | 18               | 35.3%             |
| Not Reported / No SOHP   | 6                | 11.8%             |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia  
Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Number (%) of States that Reported a Decrease or Increase in Funding Source**

| <b>Funding Source</b> | <b>Decreased</b> | <b>Increased</b> | <b>Same</b> | <b>TOTAL REPORTING</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| State – Medicaid      | 4<br>28.6%       | 4<br>28.6%       | 6<br>42.9%  | 14                     |
| State – General Funds | 6<br>18.8%       | 8<br>25.0%       | 18<br>56.3% | 32                     |
| State – Tobacco Tax   | 1<br>16.7%       |                  | 5<br>83.3%  | 6                      |
| State – SSB Tax       |                  |                  | 2<br>100.0% | 2                      |
| State – Other         | 2<br>20.0%       | 2<br>20.0%       | 6<br>60.0%  | 10                     |
| HRSA – MCHBG          | 7<br>25.9%       | 4<br>14.8%       | 16<br>59.3% | 27                     |
| HRSA – OHWA           | 3<br>11.5%       | 4<br>15.4%       | 19<br>73.1% | 26                     |
| HRSA – Other          | 3<br>33.3%       |                  | 6<br>66.7%  | 9                      |
| CDC – PHHSBG          | 3<br>23.1%       | 3<br>23.1%       | 7<br>53.8%  | 13                     |
| CDC – DOH             | 1<br>5.0%        | 2<br>10.0%       | 17<br>85.0% | 20                     |

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

**Budget Range – Number of States within Each Budget Category**

| <b>Budget Category</b> | <b>Number of States</b> | <b>Percent of States</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| No SOHP in 2019-2020   | 1                       | 2.0%                     |
| Less than \$100,000    | 1                       | 2.0%                     |
| \$100,000 to \$250,000 | 2                       | 3.9%                     |
| \$250,001 to \$500,000 | 5                       | 9.8%                     |
| \$500,001 to \$999,999 | 11                      | 21.6%                    |
| \$ 1 million or more   | 24                      | 47.1%                    |
| Not Reported           | 7                       | 13.7%                    |

Range: \$0 to \$28,769,000 (NOTE: One state reported having a SOHP with a budget of \$0.00)

Mean (for reporting states with SOHP): \$2,280,759

Median (for reporting states with SOHP): \$1,170,000

## ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

State oral health programs offer a variety of different services to their constituents. The following table provides information on the percent of states that offered specific oral health services funded, managed, or operated by the state during the fiscal year.

**Percentage of States with Specific Oral Health Services**

| <b>Program</b>                                  | <b>Has Program</b> | <b>No Program</b> | <b>Not Reported or No SOHP</b> |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Access to Care Program                          | 45.1%              | 51.0%             | 3.9%                           |
| Dental Screening Program                        | 66.7%              | 29.4%             | 3.9%                           |
| Fluoride Mouthrinse Program                     | 9.8%               | 86.3%             | 3.9%                           |
| Fluoride Varnish Program                        | 56.9%              | 39.2%             | 3.9%                           |
| Silver Diamine Fluoride Program                 | 15.7%              | 80.4%             | 3.9%                           |
| Oral Health Literacy/Education Program          | 70.6%              | 25.5%             | 3.9%                           |
| Basic Screening Survey                          | 13.7%              | 82.4%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Preschool Children                 | 41.2%              | 54.9%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Elementary School Children         | 58.8%              | 37.3%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Adolescents                        | 25.5%              | 70.6%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Children Special Health Care Needs | 29.4%              | 66.7%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Pregnant Women                     | 43.1%              | 52.9%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Adults 18-64 Years                 | 17.6%              | 78.4%             | 3.9%                           |
| Programs for Older Adults                       | 25.5%              | 70.6%             | 3.9%                           |
| Infection Control & Prevention Programs         | 51.0%              | 43.1%             | 5.9%                           |

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire