

SUMMARY REPORT

2025 SYNOPSES OF STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

DATA FOR FY 2023-2024

Association of State and Territorial
Dental Directors



June 2025

Supported by Cooperative Agreement 5NU58DP006573-05-00 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

State Infrastructure..... 5

Dental Workforce..... 6

Administration 7

Oral Health Programs..... 11

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the *2025 Synopses of State Dental Public Health Programs* (2025 Synopses); which represents the status of the state oral health program during the 2023-2024 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 2025 Synopses is available in a comprehensive report posted on the member's only section of the ASTDD website (www.astdd.org). The 2025 Synopses questionnaire was returned by 47 states plus the District of Columbia. New York and North Carolina did not return the questionnaire and Wyoming did not have an oral health program during FY 2023-2024.

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 (2023)

Percent of Population \geq 65	Number of States	Percent of States
< 15.0%	4	7.8%
15.0 – 16.9%	4	7.8%
17.0 – 18.9%	25	49.0%
19.0 – 20.9%	12	23.5%
\geq 21.0%	6	11.8%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-by-age/>

Children – 0 to 18 Years (2023)

Percent of Population 0-17	Number of States	Percent of States
< 20.0%	5	9.8%
20.0 – 21.9%	10	19.6%
22.0 – 23.9%	21	41.2%
24.0 – 25.9%	13	25.5%
\geq 26.0%	2	3.9%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/distribution-by-age/>

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 2021)

Number of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 100,000	6	11.8%
100,000 – 249,999	10	19.6%
250,000 – 499,999	9	17.6%
500,000 – 749,999	12	23.5%
750,000 – 999,999	4	7.8%
\geq 1,000,000	10	19.6%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2021-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf>

CHIP Children (Number ever enrolled, FFY 2021)

Number of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 10,000	5	9.8%
10,000 – 19,999	4	7.8%
20,000 – 39,999	8	15.7%
40,000 – 49,999	1	2.0%
50,000 – 99,999	10	19.6%
100,000 – 499,999	20	39.2%
≥ 500,000	3	5.9%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2021-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 (2022-2023)

Percent of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 40.0%	14	27.5%
40.0 – 49.9%	13	25.5%
50.0 – 59.9%	14	27.5%
60.0 – 69.9%	6	11.8%
≥ 70%	4	7.8%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 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 (2023)

Percent of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 15.0%	17	33.3%
15.0 – 19.9%	15	29.4%
20.0 – 24.9%	14	27.5%
25.0 – 29.9%	2	3.9%
≥ 30.0%	3	5.9%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, POV-11: Poverty Status by State: 2023,

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps-pov/pov-11.html>

Children under 18 Years of Age who are at or below 200% of FPL (2023)

Percent of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 20.0%	2	3.9%
20.0 – 29.9%	19	37.3%
30.0 – 39.9%	21	41.2%
40.0 – 49.9%	7	13.7%
≥ 50.0%	2	3.9%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: US Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, POV-11, <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 (2023)

Percent of Children	Number of States	Percent of States
< 1.0%	3	5.8%
1.0 – 1.9%	19	37.3%
2.0 – 2.9%	16	31.3%
3.0 – 3.9%	8	15.7%
4.0 – 4.9%	4	7.8%
≥ 5.0%	1	2.0%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table HI-10_ACS,

<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 (2022)

Percentage of Population	Number of States	Percent of States
< 25.0%	2	3.9%
25.0 – 49.9%	8	15.7%
50.0 – 74.9%	14	27.5%
≥ 75.0%	27	52.9%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/php/statistics/2022-water-fluoridation-statistics.html>

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

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	12	23.5%
1,500 – 1,999	25	49.0%
2,000 – 2,499	14	27.5%
≥ 2,500	0	0.0%
Not Reported	0	0.0%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: <https://www.ada.org/resources/research/health-policy-institute/dentist-workforce>

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	9	17.6%
2,000 – 2,499	4	7.8%
≥ 2,500	0	0.0%
Not Reported	20	39.2%

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	9	17.7%
1 – 4 years	12	23.5%
5 – 9 years	15	29.4%
10 – 14 years	6	11.8%
≥ 15 years	1	2.0%
Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP	8	15.7%

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	2	3.9%
Yes	46	90.2%
Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP	3	5.9%

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	8	15.7%
1.0 – 9.9%	12	23.5%
10.0 – 19.9%	9	17.7%
20.0 – 29.9%	6	11.8%
≥ 30%	8	15.7%
Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP	8	15.7%

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%	5	9.8%
50 – 100%	6	11.8%
Not Reported / Vacant / No SOHP	4	7.8%

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	9	17.7%
2 – 3	11	21.6%
4 – 5	8	15.7%
6 – 8	12	23.5%
9 – 10	2	3.9%
11 – 20	3	5.9%
≥ 21	3	5.9%
Not Reported / No SOHP	3	5.9%

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	34	66.7%
2 – 3	3	5.9%
4 – 5	4	7.8%
6 – 10	2	3.9%
11 – 20	1	2.0%
≥ 21	2	3.9%
Not Reported / No SOHP	5	9.8%

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	9	17.7%
3 – 4	10	19.6%
5 – 6	8	15.7%
7 – 9	10	19.6%
10 – 19	8	15.7%
20 – 49	1	2.0%
≥ 50	2	3.9%
Not Reported / No SOHP	3	5.9%

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	MCHB	Other HRSA	CDC	Other
0	68.6%	22.0%	43.1%	33.3%	41.2%	66.7%
1 – 24%	13.7%	31.7%	29.4%	27.5%	17.7%	21.6%
25 – 49%	7.8%	9.8%	11.8%	23.5%	19.6%	2.0%
50 – 74%	2.0%	26.8%	3.9%	2.0%	11.8%	2.0%
75 – 100%	7.8%	9.8%	3.9%	5.9%	2.0%	7.8%
Not Reported	68.6%	22.0%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	66.7%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

NOTE: Of the 47 states that provided information on source of funding, 15 (32%) reported receiving 75-100% of their funding from just one of the following sources: Medicaid, non-Medicaid State, HRSA, and CDC. Ten states (21%) received ≥ 75% of their funding from non-Medicaid state funds while 4 states (9%) and 1 state (2%) reported receiving ≥ 75% of their funding from HRSA (MCHBG plus other HRSA funds) and CDC sources respectively.

Overall Budget Change as Compared to Prior Year

Change in Overall Budget	Number of States	Percent of States
Decreased	10	19.6%
Increased	17	33.3%
Same	19	37.3%
Not Reported / No SOHP	5	9.8%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

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

Funding Source	Decreased	Increased	Same	TOTAL REPORTING
State – Medicaid	4 25.0%	1 6.3%	11 68.8%	16
State – General Funds	5 13.9%	10 27.8%	21 58.3%	36
State – Tobacco Tax	1 16.7%	0 0.0%	5 83.3%	6
State – SSB Tax	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	5 100.0%	5
State – Other	1 8.3%	1 8.3%	10 83.3%	12
HRSA – MCHBG	5 18.5%	5 18.5%	17 63.0%	27
HRSA – OHWA	3 9.7%	5 16.1%	23 74.2%	31
HRSA – Other	2 20.0%	2 20.0%	6 60.0%	10
CDC – PHHSBG	2 10.0%	9 45.0%	9 45.0%	20
CDC – DOH	7 33.3%	2 9.5%	12 57.1%	21

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

Budget Range – Number of States within Each Budget Category

Budget Category	Number of States	Percent of States
No SOHP in 2022-2023	1	2.0%
Less than \$100,000	3	5.9%
\$100,000 to \$250,000	1	2.0%
\$250,001 to \$500,000	4	7.8%
\$500,001 to \$999,999	11	21.6%
\$1 million or more	27	52.9%
Not Reported	5	9.8%

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire

Range: \$0 to \$40,140,000 (NOTE: Two states reported having a SOHP with a budget of \$0.00)

Mean (for reporting states with SOHP): \$3,167,931

Median (for reporting states with SOHP): \$1,111,987

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

Program	Has Program	No Program	Not Reported or No SOHP
Access to Care Program	51.0%	43.1%	5.9%
Dental Screening Program	62.8%	31.4%	5.9%
Fluoride Varnish Program	64.7%	29.4%	5.9%
Silver Diamine Fluoride Program	19.6%	74.5%	5.9%
Oral Health Literacy/Education Program	66.7%	27.5%	5.9%
Basic Screening Survey	31.4%	62.8%	5.9%
Programs for Preschool Children	39.2%	54.9%	5.9%
Programs for Elementary School Children	56.9%	37.3%	5.9%
Programs for Adolescents	23.5%	66.7%	9.8%
Programs for Children Special Health Care Needs	25.5%	66.7%	7.8%
Programs for Pregnant Women	27.5%	64.7%	7.8%
Programs for Adults 18-64 Years	15.7%	76.5%	7.8%
Programs for Older Adults	21.6%	68.6%	9.8%
Infection Control & Prevention Programs	51.0%	41.2%	7.8%

Includes all states and the District of Columbia

Source: State Synopses Questionnaire