

# Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)

## 2007 Annual Report



Partnerships are the Key to Success

# Who We Are

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a 501 ( c )( 6 ) non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state and territorial public health agency programs for oral health. It is one of 17 affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). In 1993 ASTDD established a non-voting associate member category.

## 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.

ASTDD receives funding from member dues and from cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Oral Health (DOH), and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA, MCHB).

## Key Directions

Influence policy

Promote and use evidence-based practices

Enhance oral health program infrastructure and Workforce

Build partnerships

Strengthen ASTDD

ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of national dental public health policy; assists state dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases; builds awareness and strengthens dental public health professionals' knowledge and skills by developing position papers and policy statements; provides information on oral health to health officials and policy makers; and conducts conferences for the dental public health community.

## Governance

ASTDD is governed by a nine-member Executive Committee comprised of the five elected officers, three member directors and one associate member director. Ex-officio members include the executive director, the cooperative agreement manger and the editor of the newsletter. At the end of 2007 ASTDD had 54 members and 74 associate members.

### Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors Central Office

105 Westerly Rd  
New Bern, NC 28560  
Phone: (252) 637-6333  
Fax: (252) 637-3343  
<http://www.astdd.org>

## Communication Tools

ASTDD maintains three primary means of communication: a website, member listserv and newsletter. ASTDD currently contracts with Integrated NetDESIGN in Jefferson City, MO to host and maintain the website and listserv and to implement enhancements. During the past year all of the website content has been merged into a database with a search function. State and territorial programs are featured as well as resources for building quality oral health programs. The A-Z tab, Featured Links, and the search function facilitate easy navigation to popular topics. A PowerPoint featuring an overview of the website is posted on the Members Only section of the website, but is available to other organizations on request.

ASTDD maintains a closed listserv where members actively post announcements, resources and discussion questions. Some committees also use Google groups for committee communication.

The quarterly newsletter, *Oral Health Matters*, underwent many enhancements in 2007, including a new Partners Column and feature stories on State programs, U.S. territories and jurisdictions, and Associate members. Dr. Warren LeMay serves as editor, with Ms. Lynn Bethel serving as assistant editor. The Winter 2008 issue will launch a new look, thanks to Anunci Creative Group of Madison, WI. The newsletter is distributed to members via the listserv and by email to a number of national organizations; recent issues are posted on the website.



In 2007 ASTDD partnered with CDC, the Office of Head Start and ASTHO on a number of webcasts. Topics focused on integrated height/weight/oral health data collection, ASTDD Website, Best Practices Resources, Oral Health and Emergency Medical Response Systems, and Head Start Oral Health Models. ASTDD members also participated in webcasts offered by other organizations.

In a cost-sharing arrangement with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC), ASTDD exhibited at the following annual meetings: Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, American Dental Hygienists' Association, National Oral Health Conference and the National Primary Oral Health Conference.

**National Maternal & Child Oral Health RESOURCE CENTER**  
www.mchoralhealth.org

- Maintains library of programmatic materials
- Provides information and technical assistance
- Develops and shares print and electronic materials
- Administers discussion lists
- Maintains Web sites

**Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors**  
www.astdd.org

- Represents public health agency oral health programs
- Helps implement programs, policies, and best practices
- Facilitates professional development and enhances leadership skills
- Provides information and technical assistance

# Partnerships

ASTDD continues to expand relationships with national organizations and federal agencies. Collaboration includes serving on committees or advisory boards; convening or participating in meetings; developing and disseminating materials and reports; sponsoring and conducting continuing education workshops and conferences; supporting statewide oral health forums and action plans; collecting, analyzing and publishing oral health data; advocating for oral health improvements; and collecting and disseminating best practices. ASTDD held a mid-year Executive Committee meeting with 14 partners (cover photo) to discuss collaborative efforts, ways to coordinate activities, how to leverage resources, and pathways to communication and information dissemination. ASTDD received many invitations to meetings this year such as the ADA's American Indian/Alaska Native Oral Health Summit, the Oral Health America Gala and the Institute of Medicine's Dental Workforce Study Planning Committee.

## Some National Organization Partners

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD)  
American Association of Community Dental Programs (AACDP)  
American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)  
American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH)  
American Dental Association (ADA)  
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA)  
American Public Health Association, Oral Health Section (APHA)  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)  
Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP)  
Family Voices (FV)  
Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association (MSDA)  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)  
National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)  
National Oral Health Policy Center (NOHPC)  
National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC)  
Oral Health Action Partnership (OHAP)  
Oral Health America (OHA)  
Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA)

## Federal Agencies

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start (OHS)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Oral Health (DOH)  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
➤ Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)  
➤ Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)  
➤ Bureau of Health Professions (BHPR)  
Indian Health Service (IHS)  
National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

## Highlights of 2007 Accomplishments

Most programmatic activities are accomplished through committees and consultants. There are 3 standing committees and 10 Ad-hoc committees. ASTDD members serve as committee chairs while consultants provide coordination, report writing and technical assistance to states. Most ASTDD consultants have worked with the Association for 7-10 years—a major advantage for coordination, consistency and sustainability. The majority of members and associate members are actively involved in the association through the business meeting, committee participation, review of materials, representing ASTDD at meetings, or other activities.

ASTDD creates an annual evaluation plan with the help of an evaluation consultant to guide our quality improvement efforts. Evaluation strategies include member needs assessments; feedback from partner organizations, mentors, mentees, and states receiving technical assistance; quarterly consultant reports and annual committee reports; reports from meetings attended; staff and consultant annual assessments and phone conferences; evaluation forms from conferences, webcasts and workshops; and website statistics reports and usability studies. Interim progress reports and final reports for cooperative agreements include both process and outcome measures.

### ASTDD Annual Meeting and National Oral Health Conference

#### 2007 NOHC stats:

- **5 plenary sessions**
- **19 concurrent sessions**
- **1 poster session**
- **38 roundtables**
- **1 preconference workshop**
- **35 exhibitors**

ASTDD partnered with the American Association of Public Health Dentistry for the eighth year to co-sponsor the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) in Denver, CO from April 28 to May 2, overlapping for a day with the annual meeting of the Special Care Dentistry Association. The NOHC has become the premier U.S. dental public health conference. The 2007 NOHC was attended by 761 registrants, speakers and staff, Sixty abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentations. AACDP, ABDPH, MSDA, and the Military Dental Group held preconference sessions on the weekend. The 2008 meeting will be held in Miami, FL and will include two international panels. A dedicated NOHC website features online registration and submission of abstracts, the program brochure and presentations from previous meetings.

Each year the ASTDD Awards luncheon recognizes individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the organization. The 2007 awardees included Dr. Lew Lampiris, Dr. Don Marianos, Dr. Lynn Mouden and Dr. Warren LeMay. ASTDD, CDC and the ADA jointly presented a number of community water fluoridation awards to states, communities and individuals.



### Oral Health Assessment and Surveillance

**In 2007, 35 states (70%) submitted qualified data to the NOHSS.**

Each year ASTDD, in cooperation with CDC, collects oral health information from states for the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS). NOHSS is designed to monitor the burden of oral disease, use of the oral health care delivery system, and the status of community

water fluoridation on both a national and state level. Oral health data is also gathered through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a national telephone survey. This year ASTDD and CDC partnered to begin a comprehensive review of the NOHSS, including its history. The evaluation will be completed in 2008 and will result in reports and journal articles. A report on states' use of the BRFSS information also is in process. The ASTDD Data Committee is finalizing an oral health surveillance template for states, with a list of potential data sources.

**20 states have used the BSS for collecting oral health screening data on preschool-age children.**

Two ASTDD consultants provide technical assistance and training to states on use of the *Basic Screening Survey (BSS)*. Training materials and data collection tools are used by screeners with or without dental backgrounds to collect information on oral health status and access to dental care. It is currently being revised to include updates and new video footage; all materials will be available on a DVD. Although primarily used to collect data

on 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for the NOHSS and *Healthy People 2010* oral health objectives, the *BSS* also collects data on preschoolers, particularly children enrolled in Head Start. In the upcoming year a trend analysis will be performed for those states having multiple years of data to compare BSS data with data collected in NHANES.

Each year since 1994 ASTDD has published a *Synopses Report of State and Territorial Dental Public Health Programs*. In 2007, 48 states submitted data for the *Synopses*. An aggregated summary is available on the ASTDD website. A subset of the data is displayed on the State Synopses Website.



## Best Practices

The ASTDD Best Practices Project continues to receive national recognition in its work with states and partners to capture and disseminate best practices and promising models. Since oral health programs have different environments, infrastructure, cultures, resource availability, local burden of disease, and political considerations, end-users are encouraged to critically assess the best practice information and adapt ideas and strategies to better meet their needs.

At the end of 2007 the Best Practice website contained 9 Best Practice Approach Reports, 193 summaries of successful practices and 99 expanded descriptive reports. A new report published this year was *Oral Health of Children, Adolescents and Adults with Special Health Care Needs*. A companion article to this report, based on a symposium presentation by Dr. Jay Balzer, was published in the March/April issue of *Pediatric Dentistry*.

ASTDD is collaborating with the Children's Dental Health Project to complete a BP Approach Report on Infant and Toddler Oral Health, and collaborating with the ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Workgroup (SAOH) to collect state practice submissions to complete the BP Approach Report on Integrating Oral Health into Coordinated School Health Programs.

## BP Website Statistics

**-index pages: 81,000+ hits**  
**-9 BP Approach Reports: 16,200+ downloads**  
**-160 BP submission reports were downloaded 700-800+ times per month**

## Leadership and Professional Development

The ASTDD Leadership Committee supported a number of activities this year. Media training for the Executive Committee was conducted by Fleishman-Hillard in January 2007; many report using these skills throughout the year. ASTDD supported travel stipends for ASTDD members, consultants and state oral health staff to attend CDC-sponsored Fluoridation courses and the CDC/American Evaluation Association Summer Evaluation Institute. The joint ASTDD/AAPHD Dental Public Health Workforce Task Force developed and sponsored two sessions on workforce at the 2007 NOHC, while the Leadership Committee sponsored a workshop, Health Promotion Research: NIDCR/NIH Funding Opportunities.

Fourteen state dental directors and the EC associate director representative completed the first National Oral Health Leadership Institute. Participants attended a 3-hour session on April 29 at the NOHC, followed by a 2 ½ day retreat in October at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. The focus of these sessions was on leadership skills, public health policies, risk management, and working with the media. Participants also engaged in a 360 degree assessment with feedback provided by peers, employers and supervisors, accompanied by personal leadership counseling. A Leadership lending library was also developed.



In August 2007 the CDC, Division of Oral Health and ASTDD again sponsored a day of orientation to CDC resources for new dental directors, followed by a 2-day workshop for state dental directors on a variety of topics. In September ASTDD co-sponsored an all-day workshop with the New England Rural Health Roundtable entitled, Getting Over the Hump: Practical Program Evaluation. Dr. B.J. Tatro, ASTDD's evaluation consultant, served as faculty, with 22 people from five of the New England states attending. Participants received packets of material, including a CD with electronic versions of worksheets and resource materials.

ASTDD continues to collaborate with the OHRC, the Ohio Department of Health and the Indian Health Service to maintain and update the very popular web-based *Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual*, which receives, on average, more than 5,000 hits per month.



ASTDD launched a new online resource, the *Mobile-Portable Dental Manual*, which also continues to be popular. It contains five chapters to help organizations make decisions about designing, financing, implementing and evaluating mobile van programs, services using portable dental equipment or hybrid models. There are numerous links to existing programs, references and other resources. During the launch in June, it received 14,000 hits with 1,155 unique visitors.

## Other Resources for States and Territories

ASTDD's *Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs*, first published in 1985, has undergone at least four revisions, primarily updating the background information and linking examples in the state oral health program matrix to Best Practice reports and State Examples on the Best Practice website. ASTDD recently formed an Ad-hoc committee to perform a comprehensive review of the document to revise both the content and format for release in 2008. Revisions will take into consideration emergent issues, changes in evidence-based practices, changes in public health competencies, the wealth of new information available, new routes for dissemination, and new processes for updates.

ASTDD has worked throughout the year with Altarum through the HRSA State Access Workshops project to provide direct technical assistance or monetary support for strategic planning to selected states. Because of ASTDD's emphasis on Head Start, CSHCN, school-based oral health programs and program evaluation, we will providing TA and training to the MCHB TOHSS grantees early in their projects in 2008 to help them be successful and to link them to additional resources.

ASTDD continues to offer assistance to oral health programs in U.S. jurisdictions. Nine dental chiefs and Dr. Julie Tang represented ASTDD at a meeting of the Pacific Basin Dental Association (PBDA) in Honolulu in January 2007 to facilitate discussions on integrating school health in coordinated school health programs and increasing linkages with ASTDD. During the NOHC members of the PBDA met with the ASTDD Executive Committee and, with members from Atlantic jurisdictions, presented information on their island nations during the Sunday Members' Breakfast. ASTDD and CDC are facilitating conference calls for the PBDA members because communication is difficult and costly for them.



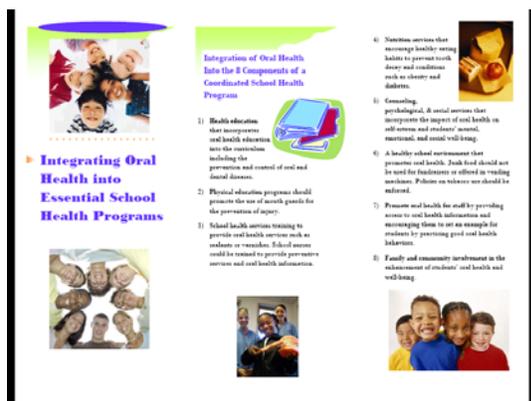
ASTDD entered into an agreement with Columbia University, Center for Health Policy to assist with their new CDC cooperative agreement for Collaborations in Public Health Law Related to Oral Health Issues. The purpose of the project is to document, analyze and disseminate public health legal principles relating to improved community water fluoridation, bringing together expertise in law, public health policy and dental public health.

The ASTDD Fluorides Committee published a research brief, *Fluoride Varnish: An Evidence-Based Approach*, as a guide for states. Committee members also worked with CDC to provide talking points for states about the American Dental Association's interim guidance on mixing reconstituted infant formula with fluoridated water. A representative from the Fluorides Committee participated in an MCHB inter-disciplinary workgroup to develop consensus on recommendations for topical fluoride use for high-risk children. ASTDD members also served on a CDC expert panel to review the *Engineering and Administrative Recommendations for Water Fluoridation* to compare them with current practices by state programs.

Through presentations at the 2007 NOHC and the 2007 American Dental Education Association's annual meeting, the ASTDD Oral Health Medical Response Systems Team is proactively increasing awareness of roles for the dental and dental public health workforce in emergency preparedness and disaster response. An online assessment of state oral health programs on the subject of emergency preparedness focused on leadership preparedness, training and education, capacity building and best practices. Responses from the 34 responding

states are helping them develop a new manual to assist states in emergency preparedness and disaster response plans.

Per request, the Workforce Task Force provided a summary of ASTDD workforce-related activities to ASTHO to share with their senior staff, and the ASTDD management team shared a two-page summary of ASTDD resources. The Leadership Committee also developed and disseminated a handout on *Resources for Recruitment and Orientation of Directors of State Oral Health Programs*.



The SAOH Workgroup developed packets of information that can be adapted for each state for integrating oral health into school health. These are being distributed to school nurses through the state dental directors. They include an introductory letter, PowerPoint presentation, brochure for dental professionals, brochure for school and local professionals, and curriculum and assessment resources lists. All materials are posted on the ASTDD website.

With funding from HRSA, MCHB, ASTDD continued to support collaborative activities in states to improve oral health for Head Start families and those with Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN). State forum final reports and action plans are posted on the ASTDD and OHRC websites, along with summary evaluation reports. Throughout the year ASTDD participated in national conference calls to foster collaborative relationships between state oral health programs, state Medicaid/SCHIP programs and Head Start state collaboration offices, and to promote sharing of information regionally. This resulted in a series of regional and state conference calls sponsored by the Office of Head Start, and two webinars sponsored by the National Head Start Association to highlight promising oral health models; these models will be submitted to the Best Practices Project. Collaboration with Family Voices also resulted in a webinar and some educational materials on oral health for CSHCN.

In response to members wanting ASTDD to increase advocacy efforts, the Policy Committee was resurrected this year. The committee has been busy reviewing and making decisions about archiving or updating all 129 ASTDD resolutions from 1954-2007 and outlining topics and priorities for policy development. The committee also developed a Guide for Policy Action and procedures for annual review of active policy actions. ASTDD members testified on a number of resolutions affecting states at the ADA annual meeting, and had the opportunity to testify at a number of congressional hearings. Members regularly receive advocacy alerts and updates from our national partners.

**51 of 73 members and associate members who responded to an annual survey noted they had acted on at least one advocacy alert in 2007**

Thanks to everyone



for such a great year!

# Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

## Executive Committee

Steven J. Steed, DDS – President  
Christine Wood, RDH, BS – President Elect  
Lynn Douglas Mouden, DDS, MPH – Immediate Past-President  
Nicholas G. Mosca, DDS – Secretary  
Bob Russell, DDS, MPH – Treasurer  
Margaret M. Snow, DMD, MBA, MPH – Director  
Linda A. Altenhoff, DDS – Director  
Gordon B. Empey, DMD, MPH – Director  
Linda L. Koskela, RDH, MPH – Associate Member Director  
M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH – Executive Director, Ex Officio  
Warren R. LeMay, DDS, MPH – Newsletter Editor, Ex Officio  
Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH – Cooperative Agreement Manager, Ex Officio

## ASTDD Consultants

Don Altman, DDS, MPH, MBA, MA; NOHLI Director  
Jay Balzer, DMD, MPH; CSHCN Coordinator  
Kathy Geurink, RDH, MA; Head Start and School & Adolescent Oral Health Coordinator  
Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH; Program Review & TA Coordinator  
Kathy Mangskau, RDH, MPA; Mentoring and Policy Coordinator  
Michael C. Manz, DDS, MPH, DrPH; Needs Assessment Consultant  
Donald W. Marianos, DDS, MPH; Leadership Coordinator  
Kathy Phipps, DrPH; Data & OH Surveillance Coordinator  
Julie M. W. Tang, DMD, MPH, Best Practices Coordinator  
B.J. Tatro, PhD; Evaluation Consultant

Funding for this report was made possible by cooperative agreement U44MC00177 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and cooperative agreement 5U58DP723036 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

