

CDC Funded Grants to 6 States to Develop Models of Collaboration for State Chronic Disease and Oral Health Programs

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Six states -- **Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota and New York** -- will test innovative approaches to building communication between state chronic disease and oral health program staff; incorporating oral health into chronic disease management systems such as those developed to manage diabetes and hypertension; increasing collaboration between state safety net medical and dental programs and fostering participation of oral health staff in the development of state chronic disease prevention plans. Each state is receiving \$250,000 a year over the next two years.

- The **Alaska Oral Health Program** will collaborate with the state Obesity Prevention and Control Program to train dental professional and tribal dental providers to educate and counsel children and their caregivers to reduce consumption of sugared beverages and promote increased consumption of water, including fluoridated water.
- The **Colorado Oral Health Unit** will work together with the state Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Unit to develop and implement an enhanced model of care in which oral health and primary care providers collaborate to deliver comprehensive, patient-centered diabetes prevention and management in community health clinic settings.
- The **Georgia Oral Health Program** will join with the state Center for Chronic Disease Prevention to engage dental professionals to promote referrals to the state tobacco quitline for young women at high risk for tobacco use during pregnancy.
- The **Maryland Office of Oral Health** will join with the state Center for Chronic Disease Prevention to engage dental professionals to provide blood pressure screenings during routine dental visits and to counsel and refer patients with previously undiagnosed hypertension to medical providers for further evaluation.
- The **Minnesota Oral Health Program** along with the state Cardiovascular Health Unit will test a program to encourage bi-directional referrals by dentists and medical providers to increase access to dental and medical screening for periodontal disease and hypertension.
- The **New York Oral Health Program** and the state Chronic Disease Program will develop a healthy beverage social media campaign targeting African American and Hispanic teenage boys in Western New York; messages will focus on the contribution of sugar sweetened beverages to chronic diseases such as obesity and tooth decay to encourage changes in beverage choices.