

*Policy statements are documents to assist State and Territorial Oral Health Programs (S/TOHP) to improve oral health, in support of ASTDD’s objective to reflect the Association's priorities and stance on dental public health issues. These documents are intended for directors of S/TOHP and their staff to support them in describing the issues and evidence base at a high level. Documents may include examples, recommendations, strategies, and/or information that S/TOHP can use to assist decision makers (such as healthcare providers, federal, state or private agencies, employers, public health officials), or the public, in developing further understanding of dental public health issues or in choosing between alternative courses of action in specific situations.*

### **Summary**

*This section resembles an abstract and should be one page or less in length. It will state the problem (purpose of the paper), summarizes or provides an overview of what will follow, may reiterate the paper’s objectives as stated in the communication plan, and includes the concluding or policy statement. What are two or more major points this paper will make? What will be the “take-aways” for the primary audience?*

### **Problem**

*This section outlines the general issue and its implications for oral health. How does this impact dental public health? Dental professionals? the public? Why does it matter? Relevant data should be included, demonstrating the identification of the problem and supporting the need to identify, develop and implement programs that will “move the needle” toward improvement and change.*

*As this section concludes, it should lead into the next one. What do we want this paper to do for people? What would be specific outcomes that having access to this statement could produce in support of the overall goal? How can state dental directors use this?*

### **Method**

*This section describes research, programs, interventions, policy initiatives, and best and promising practices etc., available primarily but not exclusively through peer-reviewed, published literature to demonstrate approaches to addressing the problem, leading to a concluding statement and a policy statement.*

### **Policy Statement**

*The policy statement usually affirms actions or makes recommendations for state and territorial health programs relative to the identified problem.*