

WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN STATE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS?

Broad reaching impact - “I felt it could make more of an impact with the larger population and know that I am making a difference.”

- Kimberlie Yineman, Dental Director, *North Dakota*

Dynamic, diverse field - “Working in a state oral health program means you need to possess or have access to expertise in so many different areas—it is never boring.”

- Harry Goodman, former Dental Director, *Maryland*

Interprofessional collaboration - “I chose to be a dental director because I wanted to work with professionals from different fields and be able to integrate oral health into other areas of public health.”

- Beverly Isman, former Dental Director, *Maine*

Rewarding, meaningful work - “Knowing that you can make a difference and affect many lives and meeting others that care as much as you do is satisfying.”

- Andrew Tseu, Hospital & Community Dental Services Branch Chief, *Hawaii*

Improving communities - “Oral health comes into every aspect of a person’s life, but it is not often at the forefront of people’s minds when they think of overall physical health. I believe that educating Rhode Islanders on the importance of oral health from birth is vital to living a full, healthy life.”

- Sadie DeCourcy, Oral Health Program Project Coordinator, *Rhode Island*

Educational Environment - “Working in these programs was our opportunity to apply the principles taught in our coursework and gain real-world experience with the many facets involved in accomplishing objectives at the state level.”

- Jennifer Domagalski (*Hawaii*) and Rachel King (*Rhode Island*), Dental Public Health Residents

STATE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: Make Them Part of YOUR Public Health Experience and Future Career



It all happens at the State!

- Learn the inner workings of oral health operations in state government
- Work with mentors and network with like-minded peers
- Address factors that lead to oral health disparities among local populations, e.g., linguistic and cultural differences
- Identify key messages for public education about topics such as community water fluoridation and early childhood caries
- Identify and recommend expertise, resources, and support for oral health initiatives and projects throughout state government
- Apply practices learned in public health training such as oral health assessment, program planning, policy development and evaluation
- Help plan and participate in community-based interventions such as school-based sealant, fluoride and referral programs
- Join interdisciplinary teams and projects
- Participate in statewide screenings and use the data to inform community interventions
- Collaborate with community stakeholders through oral health coalitions to achieve a common goal

Contact the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) or your state’s dental director with questions or assistance in developing a relationship with the state oral health program.

