



# Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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## California's Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program (CDDPP)

California's Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program (CDDPP) was legislatively established in 1979 and the program was implemented in 1981 until June 2009. Due to California's budget crisis funding for the program was eliminated and the program was suspended indefinitely.

The mission of CDDPP was to assure, promote, and protect the oral health of California's school children through a school-based program that emphasized the prevention of oral disease, increase student awareness and knowledge about their oral health, increase student self-responsibility for their oral health, and develop student's positive, life-long health behaviors. The program recognized the importance of a well-child and encouraged the development of activities improving individual nutritional, physical, and mental development along with oral health.

CDDPP included five components: (1) fluoride mouthrinses/supplements in sub-optimally fluoridated communities, (2) dental sealants, (3) plaque control, (4) classroom oral health education, and (5) an oral health advisory committee. The program targeted students enrolled in the free or reduced school lunch program. The State partnered with the University of California, San Francisco, School of Restorative Dentistry, and provided staff for the project. The CCDDPP program was initially funded at \$3.2 million from the state general fund. The funding had been reduced to \$2.9 million when the funding for the program was eliminated. CDDPP staff consisted of 2.5 FTE contract employees. The program provided multi-year contracts to 33 local programs. Each program had a lead local coordinator and either employed additional staff or contract staff. Remarkably, many of the lead coordinators had been with the program for over 20 years which led to great continuity and trust within the community. The staffing pattern was unique to each local program based on the needs of the program. Local programs represented a variety of settings such as local public health departments, community-based clinics, county offices of education, local school districts, a non-profit hospital, and youth based organization in urban and rural areas. Services were based in school sites, lead coordinators worked with school administrators and teachers to implement the program. Local programs received \$10 per child which included administrative costs. Funding could be used to purchase dental equipment, health education literature, training materials, toothbrushes, dental sealants, and fluoride mouth rinse or varnish, and staffing. Local programs leveraged an additional \$2,111,195 to implement the program in SFY 2008-09. Also in SFY 2008-09, 284,892 children received services representing 1,084 schools. A total of 14,013 children received 46,223 sealants. 80,314 children received dental screenings (which was optional). Furthermore, an average of 10% more children received services and 75% more sealants were provided than programs received funding between 2001-2009. It is the goal of the Oral Health Unit to identify funding to re-establish this effective program. Note: Local programs continue to use the statutes established for this program to provide preventive services in school-based or public health settings.

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Link to CDDPP web page: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/CCDDPP.aspx>