



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Georgia Access to Dental Services III (GADS III) – Expansion of GADS through the States Oral Health Collaborative Systems Grant

The Oral Health Section, Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources initiated a project in FY 2004 called "Georgia Access to Dental Services" (GADS). The goal of the project is to increase the dental prevention and treatment services availability in Georgia and to improve the access of low- and moderate-income children to these services. The project aims to develop and implement community level plans that increase the supply of dental providers, improve access to available services, educate stakeholders, providers and families about oral health and the service system, and provide outreach to identified population groups to assure use of services. **Part III of the project (GADS III)** is funded by the HRSA's States Oral Health Collaborative Systems (SOHCS) Grants, first year of a three year funding period (\$65,000/year 09/04 through 08/07). Activities of GADS III include the following:

- (1) The statewide Oral Health Assessment/Georgia 3rd Grade Oral Health Screening Survey implementation in 2004/2005 is the priority of GADS III. This survey is supported by collaborative partnerships built through GADS I and II community activities. Data supplied by the 3rd Grade Basic Screening Survey will be used to support Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHB)/Title V performance measures, Healthy People 2010 objectives and to target further GADS III project activities in the remaining two years that are funded.
- (2) In 1996, the public/private Georgia Oral Health Coalition (25 agencies and groups) was formed and was successful in preventing the elimination of all state funding for oral health. The coalition was successful in obtaining increased state funding for oral health and Medicaid/PeachCare reimbursement rate increases. Isolated improvements were occurring without linkage or efforts to leverage them into an effective service system. GADS III will provide continuing improvement to eliminate these shortcomings.
- (3) The Georgia State University/Georgia Health Policy Center (GPHC) has provided evaluation of the Georgia Oral Health Prevention Program giving measurements on availability and utilization of services to the target population, based on dental claims submitted by Medicaid/PeachCare providers statewide. Evaluation has been made using 1999 data as baseline and using 2001/2001 data; updates using 2003 data from Medicaid claims are currently in process.
- (4) Quarterly activity reports for monitoring and provision of technical assistance with implementation of GADS projects are required, in addition to monthly programmatic data. Project reports for the full year will be available late October 2005. Best practices observed among the districts projects supported by GADS I, II and III efforts will be disseminated through a statewide Summit Meeting 2006, and will be utilized to enhance achievement of statewide goals and performance measures.

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