



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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Statewide Coalition Development – IFLOSS Coalition: Communities Working Together to Improve Oral Health

The IFLOSS Coalition is a statewide public-private partnership of stakeholders whose goal is to improve oral health in Illinois. The Coalition, founded in 1998, includes social service agencies, state agencies, academia, school districts, local health departments, community-based organizations, federally qualified health centers, safety net dental clinics, the state dental society, the state dental hygiene association, organizations representing pediatricians and school nurses. Other members include organizations representing Head Start, consumers, children with special needs and people with developmental disabilities. There are more than 100 active participants in the Coalition.

In order to address oral health issues, IFLOSS forms subcommittees and workgroups. IFLOSS creates a forum for conversations, discussions and debates by hosting quarterly regional meetings and annual oral health conferences as well as through its list serve and website. IFLOSS assists its partners to continue to build capacity to assess oral health needs, plan oral health improvement interventions and assure engagement of stakeholders. There is a special focus of community engagement.

The IFLOSS Coalition (501C3) is incorporated and has By-Laws, a dues structure, a board of directors and a strategic plan. Over the years, IFLOSS became a viable charitable and advocacy organization and along with partners, these activities have included:

- (a) Integrally involved in advocacy to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates and expand covered services.
- (b) Added public health representation to the Medicaid Dental Policy Advisory Committee.
- (c) Developed a set of oral health data elements.
- (d) Assisted communities in developing dental HPSA designations and created loan repayment programs.
- (e) Created a buying consortium for toothbrushes.
- (f) Developed a marketing plan to raise awareness about the importance of oral health and educate health professionals and decision-makers about access to oral health care.
- (g) Facilitated legislation to create an oral health fund and tax check off.

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