



# Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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## Utilizing Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement Funds to Support Oral Health Programs

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control is responsible for implementing tobacco prevention and control programs in the state and administers grants to local agencies for community programs. The Division of Oral Health provided technical assistance, training and program guidance to local health agencies striving to implement oral health components to tobacco prevention and control programs.

The "How to Help Your Patients Be Tobacco Free" tobacco cessation program from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the National Spit Tobacco Education Program (NSTEP) from Oral Health America were promoted and integrated into community-based tobacco programs. Participation in the programs afforded the opportunity for local health agency staff to collaborate with community oral health professionals, school administrators and teachers to increase the awareness of tobacco use, and to encourage the promotion of cessation programs, adjuncts and assistance in stopping the use of tobacco.

Funding to implement these programs was available through the Tobacco Master Settlement funding. In addition to the tobacco program implementations, two local health agencies integrated tobacco education programs into the existing dental sealant program within their counties. This allowed the Division of Oral Health the opportunity to leverage tobacco settlement funds to build its dental sealant program capacity.

The tobacco settlement funds also supported oral cancer prevention and control activities with local health department grants that integrated oral cancer into existing cancer prevention and control programs. The Division of Oral health partnered with the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control to administer and evaluate the grants and to provide technical assistance to the community-based tobacco and cancer programs.

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