



# Dental Public Health State Activity Submission Form

ASTDD’s goal in collecting information about successful state Dental Public Health activities (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) is to share this information with other states, territories, and stakeholders who may be interested in implementing similar activities. We thank you for your time and willingness to share your experiences.

Please complete the form below and return to Lori Cofano, ASTDD Best Practices Project Coordinator, at [lcofano@astdd.org](mailto:lcofano@astdd.org)

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<b>STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy)</b> Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	<b>Children’s Dental Services School-based Sealant Program</b>
State/Territory:	MN
Summary overview, which may include the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectives</li> <li>Rationale</li> <li>Personnel</li> <li>Key partners</li> <li>Costs &amp; sustainability</li> </ul>	
<p>Children’s Dental Services (CDS) utilizes a dental team, together speaking Somali, Hmong, and Spanish, to deliver dental sealants coupled with oral health education. The multi-lingual dental team consists of collaborative practice dental hygienists and dental assistants who provide the sealants, essential diagnostic and preventive care, and culturally targeted oral health education, consisting of distribution of a tooth kit containing a toothbrush, dental floss, and toothpaste. Culturally tailored care involves including traditional dentifrices, like <i>mswaki</i>, a medicinal chewing bark common in East Africa which stimulates salivation. Culturally focused and translated oral health instructions incorporate diet and cultural norms. Advanced dental therapists provide essential restorative treatment.</p> <p>CDS targets diverse communities and advances health equity by 1) engaging target communities in determining best</p>	

practices for care provision, 2) linking interventions to inequities in oral health access, 3) developing multiple tools for ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing inequities, 4) understanding and accounting for diversity within the target community itself, and 5) identifying a process for recognizing and addressing unintended consequences. Staff who represent the community served work as dental providers, and all project materials are vetted by target community members.

Each year over 20,000 high-risk children receive dental sealants, oral health education, follow-up restorative care, and essential tools for ongoing oral health care. Associated program costs include salaries, travel, equipment and supplies, printing and communications totaling \$1,250,000 annually.

**Lessons learned (Successes and Challenges):**

Lessons learned include investigating, promoting, and supporting dental workforce innovations, such as collaborative practice dental hygienists and the mid-level provider dental therapists; utilizing multilingual insurance navigators who assist families with health insurance; and embracing, dental technology and care innovations such as telehealth dental care and the use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF), and engaging target patient and school communities.

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD</b>	
Activity Number:	26014
Submission Date:	May 2022
Submission Filename:	SUM26014MN-cds-sbsp-2022