



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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Statewide Survey of Oral Health Status of Children

The Statewide Survey of the Oral Health Status of Children is a critical component of Missouri Department of Health Services, Oral Health Program. The survey is a collaborative effort of the Missouri Department of Health/Bureau of Statistics, Department of Education, CDC, local public health agencies, schools, and the state oral health program. The program conducts dental examination surveys of school age children at 5-year intervals. The first survey was conducted in 1995. The second survey in 2000 included 2nd, 3rd and 6th graders and examined over 12,000 children. The Missouri Department of Health statistical staff designed the sampling to collect valid statewide and district level data. The survey used the guidelines and tools developed by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) including the *Seven Step Model for Assessing Oral Health Needs* and the *Basic Screening Surveys: An Approach to Monitoring Community Oral Health*. Survey staff included examiners and recorders. Two retired state dental directors (both dentists) served as examiners, and the state oral health program staff served as coordinators/recorders. The current state dental director, who has been trained through the National Institute of Health (NIH) calibration program, calibrated the examiners. The survey data was recorded manually, staff at the Bureau of Statistics entered the data, and the database was sent to CDC for analysis. The cost for examiners, supplies, and travel for the 2000 survey was approximately \$25,000 and the survey examiners were contracted at a rate of \$25 per hour (examiners partly donated their services). Surveys were funded through the MCH Block Grant. The state oral health program disseminated the survey findings to local, state and federal health agencies. Survey findings have been used to address access issues, justify programs, develop policies, provide surveillance, and increase the visibility of the state oral health program as a key resource for oral health information. The data from the survey has also contributed to the National Oral Health Surveillance system.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH, Former Missouri State Dental Director, Executive Director, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), 322 Cannondale Road, Jefferson City, MO 65109, Phone: 573-636-0453, Fax: 573-636-0454, Email: dperkins@astdd.org