



Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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New Jersey Oral Health Coalition

While great strides have been made to enhance oral health in New Jersey, there remain disparities in the oral health of the state's citizens. In the fall of 2000, individuals from a diverse group of organizations representing federal, state and local government, academia, education, health care providers, and insurance companies met to discuss issues related to oral health. The outcome was the establishment of the New Jersey Oral Health Coalition. The mission of the New Jersey Oral Health Coalition is to foster and promote the equitable access of quality oral health care services throughout New Jersey, which include both clinical treatment and dental disease preventive modalities provided by public oral health programs and private practices. The New Jersey Oral Health Coalition is comprised of a number of organizations from both the private and public sector that are committed to finding solutions that will make comprehensive oral health care and oral health programs accessible to all New Jersey residents. Coalition members include representatives from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), New Jersey Department of Human Services, UMDNJ-New Jersey Dental School, New Jersey Dental Assisting Association, New Jersey Dental Hygienist's Association, New Jersey Dental Association, Legal Services of New Jersey, New Jersey Primary Care Association, New Jersey Association of Pediatric Dentistry, New Jersey Society of Dentistry for Children, Association of Retarded Citizens, New Jersey Health Officers' Association, local health departments, federally-qualified health centers, hospitals and private insurers. In addition to general Coalition membership, members also serve on the executive, financial, legislative and education subcommittees of the Coalition. Members have donated their time and services as an in-kind contribution of their agency or organization. A key accomplishment of the Coalition is holding the New Jersey Oral Health Summit in September 2001. As a result of the Summit, the Coalition's priorities include: educating the public about the importance of good oral health, expanding school-based oral health initiatives, and promoting benefits of water fluoridation. The Coalition is also in the process of creating partnerships with legislators, health professionals, educators, community-based organizations, businesses and the people of New Jersey to help achieve its goal of improving the oral health and well-being of all people of New Jersey.

Contact Person(s) for Inquiries:

Beverly Kupiec, PhD, RN, Coordinator, School and Oral Health Program, NJ Department of Health & Senior Services, PO Box 364, Trenton, NJ 08625-0364, Phone: 609-943-5749, E-mail: Beverly.Kupiec@doh.state.nj.us