



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

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STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) <small>Minimum=300 Maximum=500</small>	
Activity title:	Albuquerque Public Schools’ Dental Program
State/Territory:	NM
Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives Rationale Personnel Key partners Costs & sustainability 	
<p>Albuquerque Public School's (APS) school-based dental program was established to help the students of APS achieve their preventive dental care needs by providing convenient access to care. Mira Consulting, Inc. is designated in 36 elementary, sixteen middle, and five high schools to visit and treat children each school year. We visit each school as scheduled and perform radiographs, exams, cleanings, fluoride varnish treatments, oral hygiene instruction, and sealants as needed for the students. After preventive treatment, we follow up with students needing restorative care and offer treatment at the Mira Clinic. The Mira Clinic runs once a week and was designed to provide a dental home for students without a dental home. Performing these services is a dentist, dental assistants, and dental hygienists. Aside from supplies for clinical treatment, our costs include employee payroll, gas for vans, equipment maintenance, and</p>	

consent form copies. Vans are used for the school dental sealant program only. We do not do any mobile restorative care.

There is a huge need in the Albuquerque community for pediatric dental care. Tooth pain is a leading cause of absence from school for children. We are able to treat about 30-40 children a school. Most students have Medicaid or private insurance to cover the cost of treatment. For the students without a form of payment, the New Mexico Department of Health provides Mira Consulting, Inc. with an annual fund to cover expenses. When funds are exhausted, we offer all students with parental consent radiographs and examinations in-kind per our APS contract. Treating the students is extremely rewarding, many are abundantly grateful for our service to the community. This year in particular, with new Covid-19 protocols in scheduling, we have struggled to get as many students to return their permission forms as we have in the past. We are now required to schedule via School Dude rather than with each school's nurse. Ideally, we would like to get our forms added to each student's online registration and hope this option will become available in the near future. We also plan to offer silver diamine fluoride as an onsite treatment option in the upcoming year.

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

We have learned:

- Attaching wheels to our heavy equipment helps with getting in and out of schools easily.
- Always bring a back-up unit to each location to have on standby.
- Working hand and hand with the school staff makes for a successful day of treatment for students.
- Adding dental program consent forms to each school's online registration will increase the response rate, allowing us to reach and treat more students.

We have learned that getting students in middle and high school to deliver dental consent forms to their parents is very unlikely. Our numbers at middle and high schools are significantly lower than elementary in similar areas. They are also more defiant when called for treatment, many ask to call their guardians to try and get out of receiving treatment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD	
Activity Number:	34007
Submission Date:	May 2022
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