



## Dental Public Health Activities Descriptive Summaries

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### **New York State Preventive Dentistry Program**

The Preventive Dentistry Program for High-Risk Underserved Children provides project grants to establish and/or enhance dental services in areas of New York State where children exhibit substantial risk for oral health problems because of lack of access. The objectives of this program are (1) to enhance oral health promotion and disease prevention activities, (2) to provide eligible children a point of entry into the dental health care system, and (3) to identify effective interventions to suit the community needs and mobilize resources to implement the activities and evaluate the outcome of these activities including methods to monitor progress toward Healthy People 2010 objectives, Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant performance measures and Communities Working Together for A Healthier New York goals. The program targets screenings, referrals and low cost preventive dental services (such as fluoride mouth rinses and tablets, dental sealant application, supervised tooth brushing, and oral hygiene instruction) to children residing in communities whose populations exhibit a high degree of poverty and an excessive occurrence of dental disease. Thirteen dental projects were funded in 1984 and services were provided for more than 26,000 children in schools, head start centers, well-baby clinics and child health conference sites. In 2001, 25 projects were funded and the program now reaches over 80,000 children through 50 partnerships. An average of \$30,000 was awarded per project in 2001. Approximately \$900,000 per year will be available to the program over a five-year period. The projects funded by the program have the following expected outcomes: (1) Improve access to dental care for high risk and underserved populations, (2) Increased availability of preventive programs, and (3) Improved oral health in children.

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