



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Summary

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New York State School-based Supplemental Fluoride Program

In 1978, the New York State Health Department initiated the Supplemental Fluoride Program with the goals of preventing dental caries among targeted groups of children at high risk for dental disease and promoting awareness of the importance of oral health. The Fluoride Supplement Program consists of a school-based fluoride mouth rinse program serving elementary school children in fluoride deficient areas.

The Supplemental Fluoride Program is implemented in a participating school as part of a health education program. Participation in the program is voluntary and parental consent is required. Fluoride rinse products are ordered by the program, purchased by the New York State Department of Health, and shipped directly from the manufacturer to participating schools and facilities. The distribution of weekly fluoride mouth rinse solution occurs under the general supervision of a volunteer supervising dentist or school physician. In addition, a health coordinator, who is either the school nurse or a dental hygienist, monitors the fluoride product distribution. The Supplemental Fluoride Program provides: (1) information and technical assistance to all schools interested in implementing the program, (2) education and promotional information on fluorides and dental health to teachers, parents and health care providers, (3) purchase of fluoride product, and (3) in-service training for program personnel at participating schools.

The program receives \$75,000 from MCH Block Grant funds to cover the purchase of fluoride rinse. During the 2010-2011 school year, 42,832 school children in grades 1-8 at 268 schools in fluoride-deficient areas of the State participated in the fluoride rinse program.

Lessons Learned:

The program has developed training materials that can be distributed to school. Monitoring the outcome of the program is challenging.

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