

## 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](mailto:lcofano@astdd.org)

FIRST CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES	
Name:	Sarah Tomlinson, DDS
Title:	State Dental Director and Oral Health Section Chief
Agency/Organization:	NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section
Street:	5505 Six Forks Road
City, State, Zip Code:	Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone:	(919) 707-5488
Email:	<a href="mailto:Sarah.tomlinson@dhhs.nc.gov">Sarah.tomlinson@dhhs.nc.gov</a>
SECOND CONTACT PERSON FOR INQUIRIES	
Name:	Paige Nance, DDS
Title:	Public Health Dentist
Agency/Organization:	NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section
Street:	5505 Six Forks Road
City, State, Zip Code:	Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone:	(919) 707-5491
Email:	<a href="mailto:paige.nance@dhhs.nc.gov">paige.nance@dhhs.nc.gov</a>

STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy) Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	<b>Oral Health Data Dissemination</b>
State/Territory:	<b>NC</b>
Summary overview, which may include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Rationale</li> <li>• Personnel</li> <li>• Key partners</li> <li>• Costs &amp; sustainability</li> </ul>	
<p>The North Carolina Oral Health Section, as the state dental office, is charged with dental public health surveillance and shares its oral health data for program planning. The NC Oral Health Section (OHS) created data visualization tools, <b>Oral Health Snapshots</b> which are one-pagers listing oral health variables that support comparison between 10 regions of the state and against the state overall. 13 measures were chosen to compare region-to-region and combined to offer a state value. In some instances, North Carolina can be compared against other states.</p> <p>The <a href="#">NC Oral Health Regional Snapshots</a> and the <a href="#">NC Social Determinants of Health by Regions</a> offer an accurate yet speedy community oral health needs assessment. All three overlaying domains of a community needs assessment (described in the 2013 CDC <a href="#">Community Needs Assessment Participant Workbook</a>) are found in the combination of the tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a selected community, such as our regions</li> </ul>	

- a focus, such as oral health, within that region
- components that impact oral health

Using these one-pagers, community stakeholders developed a plan of action to improve oral health in their regions of the state. When stacked and bookended, these regional plans formed the 2020-2025 NC Oral Health Improvement Plan. As the regional oral health improvement plans are implemented, data points in the **Oral Health Snapshots** should show improved outcomes. In this manner, the snapshots can be used as an evaluation tool.

The OHS incurred no additional costs since existing staff led this data dissemination project.

OHS project outcomes on data sharing are the 11 **Oral Health Snapshots** (10 Regional and one Statewide) developed by our epidemiologist and then further, the improvement plans developed via their use.

Overarching lessons learned are that stakeholders need clarity and streamlined support. Compiling multiple compounding drivers of oral health into one easily accessible document was good for our team and our partners because it provided clear oral health data in an easily understandable resource. Snapshots can be updated as data points change. Our recently updated Oral Health Snapshots have social determinants of health noted. This, too, has been beneficial as our staff and partners are able to incorporate this “hot topic” in understanding obstacles and barriers to oral health that our state’s most vulnerable populations struggle to overcome.

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

**Environmental Scan:** many states likely have similar if not the exact same oral health data resources. States limited by FTE and fewer resources than NC may be able to create their own one-pagers. Many data points used in the OHS Oral Health Snapshots are not generated by our team.

**Time management** has been very important in this endeavor. Understanding that our ROHA members are busy with their full-time jobs, Oral Health Snapshots were valuable on several fronts: visually appealing and easily accessible, used as oral health needs assessment, will be used for program evaluation.

We have had challenges, including updating the Oral Health Snapshots.

- (1) Although it is important to respond to feedback our partners give, when conflicting requests come into play, navigating the response can be tricky. Academics, clinicians, and policy makers all come to oral health from different backgrounds and have different ways of reviewing and using data. What might be important to a university scholar might be slightly different from what a provider might find useful in clinical practice, for instance.
- (2) The OHS wants our data visualization tool to be as useful as possible. Early on our Snapshots focused on the work of the OHS. They have since been updated (once) to include broader stakeholder involvement. (The earlier version showed how many dental sealants our staff placed but the updated version shows the number of dental sealants placed on children enrolled in Medicaid in that Region. This updated version also now highlights which drivers of oral health are “social determinants of health.”
- (3) Also, after the OHS and our ROHA began to use the Snapshot data for program planning, national initiatives were updated. HP 2020 is very different from HP 2030. We may find it necessary when update our Snapshots in five years, that we will need to include different measures.

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD</b>	
Activity Number:	36013
Submission Date:	August 2021
Submission Filename:	SUM36013NC-oh-data-dissemination-2021