



# 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)

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<b>STATE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY (e.g., practice, program, service, event, or policy)</b> Minimum=300 Maximum=500	
Activity title:	<b>The South Carolina Dental Web-Based Directory for Individuals with Special Health Care Needs</b>
State/Territory:	<b>South Carolina</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>	

The purpose of the Special Needs Network of Dentists (SANDS) online directory (<http://sandsc.org>) is to increase access to care for individuals with special health care needs by making it easier to identify dentists who are willing and able to provide a wide variety of dental services. The SANDs (Special Adults Needing Dentists) directory was developed through grant funding from the Duke Endowment. It was developed in 2015 in response to parent and professional concerns about difficulty in finding dentists to serve individuals with special needs. The directory contains information on more than 3000 dentists. Information is searchable by several factors: dentist name, practice name, location by county, patient's diagnosis and severity of the condition, sedation services offered, language spoken, dental specialty, and if the office accepts Medicaid. Dentist participation in the directory is voluntary and is integrated into the existing state licensure renewal process for South Carolina.

The directory is available to individuals, parents and other caregivers, and health and social service professionals as well as those who assist patients in finding appropriate oral health services. The online directory is not password protected. This website is maintained and updated, and emails are received, by a program director who acts as a concierge to anyone who needs personalized assistance navigating the website. Feedback from parents and professionals indicate that the directory has been successful in linking patients to dentists efficiently.

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

<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD</b>	
Activity Number:	46002
Submission Date:	July 2021
Submission Filename:	SUM46002SCspecialneedsonlinedirectory-2021