



Positioned for Progress

A Year of Transition,
Vision, & Innovation

IMPACT REPORT 2025

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WHO WE ARE

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a national, nonprofit organization representing the leaders and staff of state and territorial oral health programs (S/TOHPs) within public health agencies. Since its founding in 1948, ASTDD has served as a trusted partner and resource, promoting effective public health strategies to prevent oral disease and improve oral health outcomes throughout the lifespan.

ASTDD plays a pivotal role in shaping national oral health policy, supporting states and territories in developing and implementing prevention-focused programs and policies. Through collaboration and shared learning, ASTDD builds capacity and strengthens the public oral health workforce by developing best practice approach reports, policy statements, white papers, and issue briefs.

ASTDD connects professionals across jurisdictions by hosting conferences and providing timely information to health officials, policymakers, and partners. Our primary members include state and territorial dental directors or their equivalents, with associate membership open to their staff, public agencies, voluntary organizations, tribal entities, and health professionals committed to advancing dental and overall health.



VISION

A strong and effective governmental oral health presence in states and territories to assure optimal oral health.

MISSION

To support state and territorial oral health programs, address health equity, integrate oral health into overall health, and promote evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices.



ASTDD has served and will continue to serve as a collective voice for oral public health for everyone. ”

— Russ Dunkel, ASTDD Board President

WHAT GROUNDS US

Strategic Map



In July 2025, the ASTDD Board of Directors (BOD) began evaluating the organization's structure, financial sustainability, and operational efficiencies. During a time of significant change in dental public health, the ASTDD BOD continues to critically assess the Association's moral authority, value, impact, and relevance. It is undertaking this work in order to establish a 2027–2030 Strategic Vision, Strategic Plan, and Implementation Guide, as well as a 2027 Annual Work Plan. The Association will release these documents in summer/fall 2026. The ASTDD Strategic Map 2024–2026 is available [here](#).

Values and Beliefs

Oral Health for Everyone

Oral health is essential to health. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve optimal oral health.

State and Territorial Oral Health Programs

S/TOHPs do the challenging work of assuring the oral health of populations, especially those who experience the greatest disparities. We believe they should have the resources required to be effective in their work.

Prevention

Almost all oral disease is preventable. We believe that there should be broad awareness of and support for prevention and that oral health problems should be addressed as early as possible to reduce their severity and related health issues.

Diversity

We value the individuality, culture, professional backgrounds, and competencies of our members and the diversity of the populations they serve. Our combined perspectives can strengthen the ability to create a strong and effective governmental oral health presence in every state and territory.

Member Contribution

We value and depend upon the involvement of our members, both in the work of our organization and in national efforts to promote optimal oral health.

Competency

We value a knowledgeable and skilled public oral health workforce. We believe that achieving a highly competent workforce requires formal education, continuous learning, mentoring, and leadership development, as well as policies, programs, and resources that promote and support increased competency.

Science-Based Learning

We value lessons learned from the application of scientific principles. We believe the work we do should be grounded in data, research, and rigorous evaluation.

Collaborative Leadership

We value those individuals, agencies, and organizations with whom we interact. We believe that together we can successfully carry out our unique missions and achieve our shared vision.

Accountability

We value being as good as our word and good stewards of our resources. We believe that our focus should always be on the results of our activities.

Integrity

We value fairness, humility, and impartiality and seek to engender the respect of all with whom we interact.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



**Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA,
FACD, FICD, FPFA**

Board President, ASTDD

Dear ASTDD members, partners, friends, and colleagues,

This year's Impact Report theme, *Positioned for Progress: A Year of Transition, Vision, & Innovation*, captures both where ASTDD has been and where we are headed. In a time of continued change for public health, our work remains essential. State and territorial oral health programs continue to navigate complex challenges, changing needs, and increasing demands. Yet through it all, ASTDD has remained steady in its mission, clear in its purpose, and deeply committed to advancing oral health for all.

This report is a tribute to that commitment. Each page reflects the dedication of our members, consultants, partners, volunteers, and leaders, who work every day to strengthen public health through oral health. Your efforts help build stronger programs, support evidence-informed practice, promote health equity, and ensure that oral health remains part of the larger public health conversation.

This has also been a year of meaningful transition. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Chris Wood, whose leadership has shaped ASTDD for more than two decades, including 16 years as executive director. Chris has served this organization with wisdom, grace, integrity, and an extraordinary depth of knowledge. Her influence extends far beyond ASTDD, touching state, territorial, and national oral health efforts in lasting ways. We thank Chris for her remarkable service and wish her joy and fulfillment in this next chapter.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Matt Zaborowski as ASTDD's new executive director. Matt has stepped into this role with energy, focus, and a strong vision for the future. His leadership is already helping position ASTDD for continued progress through strategic planning, strengthened partnerships, expanded visibility, and new opportunities for innovation, including the development of the ASTDD Foundation.

We also pause to remember our dear friend and colleague, Beverly Isman. Bev's wisdom, generosity, and lifelong commitment to dental public health left a lasting mark on ASTDD and on so many of us personally. Her contributions will continue to inform and inspire our work. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband, Bob, and to their family.

As my term as ASTDD board president comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude. It has been an honor to serve alongside such dedicated, talented, and compassionate colleagues. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident in the direction ASTDD is heading. I also look forward to supporting Robin Miller as she assumes the role of president and continues leading ASTDD with strength, purpose, and vision.

Thank you for your commitment, your resilience, and your belief in the power of public health. Together, we are not simply responding to change—we are shaping what comes next. ASTDD is truly positioned for progress.

With sincere gratitude,

Dr. Russell Dunkel

Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FICD, FPFA

Board President

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Matt Zaborowski, MPH, CPH
Executive Director

Dear ASTDD Community,

As we at ASTDD reflect on 2025, we see a story of transition, resilience, and shared achievement in advancing oral health. This was a year defined by both continuity and change, as we strengthened our internal operations while sustaining the impact, partnerships, and technical assistance that make ASTDD the place where oral health lives.

Since becoming executive director in October 2025, my approach has centered on six guiding principles: clarity, communication, collaboration, connection, consistency, and compassion. These “Six C’s” are more than words—they frame how ASTDD shares information, structures decisions, supports members, and navigates change with transparency and integrity. They will continue to anchor our work as we implement a new strategic vision and operating model that position ASTDD for long-term success.

Throughout 2025 and into 2026, the Board has been developing a roadmap for the years ahead that includes a forward-thinking strategic vision, a multi-year strategic plan, and an implementation guide. The Board designed this roadmap, which it will release later in 2026, to keep ASTDD nimble, resilient, and financially sustainable. Further, it sharpens our focus on core functions, high-impact programs, and meaningful outputs that directly support our members and state and territorial oral health programs. As part of this work, we have initiated the [ASTDD Foundation, Inc.](#), a separate 501(c)(3) public charity that serves as the philanthropic arm of ASTDD—created to strengthen and sustain ASTDD’s mission by diversifying funding and investing in leadership, education, and innovation.

Looking ahead, ASTDD remains committed to being focused and lean where it matters—streamlining processes, aligning resources with mission, and modernizing our operations—without wavering in our commitment to be the place *where oral health lives* and the trusted “go-to” organization for state and territorial oral health programs. Guided by transparency, our Six C’s, a strong strategic vision, and the enduring example of leaders like Chris Wood, Bev Isman, Russ Dunkel, and so many others, we will continue to promote, protect, and preserve oral health through collaboration, partnership, and shared purpose. Now is the time to be flexible, resilient, and steadfast in our moral authority, mission, vision, and values.

As we reflect on the year, I want to acknowledge a few very important members of ASTDD:

Chris Wood

For more than two decades, Chris Wood has been our cornerstone, guiding the organization through periods of significant growth and change while strengthening its impact, partnerships, and reach. Her vision, dedication, and generosity have shaped nearly every major ASTDD initiative and intensified our voice in dental public health. As executive director from 2009 through 2025, she demonstrated exceptional leadership, a deep commitment to health equity, and a tireless dedication to supporting state and territorial oral health programs and their staff. On behalf of the Board, consultants, and members, I extend heartfelt gratitude to Chris for her distinguished career, unwavering service to ASTDD, and the impact she has had on the broader dental public health and oral health community.

Beverly Isman

On behalf of the ASTDD Board of Directors, we honor the lasting influence of our beloved colleague, Beverly Isman, whose more than 25 years of service—as policy leader, *Roundup* editor, mentor, and active member—helped shape ASTDD into the organization it is today. The impact of Bev and her husband, Dr. Robert (Bob) Isman, on our Association, and on so many of us personally, is immeasurable, and we carry her legacy forward in all that we do. A memorial to Bev can be found at the end of this Impact Report.

ASTDD Board of Directors

ASTDD's progress in 2025 also reflects the steady leadership of President Russ Dunkel, the Executive Committee, and the full Board of Directors. Together, they have provided clear vision, thoughtful governance, and courageous decision-making during a pivotal period for the Association. Their willingness to ask hard questions, support needed changes, and keep member needs central has been essential in shaping ASTDD's strategic direction and advancing a strong, stable transition in leadership. Thank you to the Board for being bold, thinking strategically, and ensuring ASTDD stays true to our moral authority and long-term success. You are the reason that ASTDD has a culture of collaboration and an impactful history of service.

Consultants and Committee Chairs

ASTDD's consultants and committee chairs remain at the heart of our mission, translating strategy into action and supporting state and territorial oral health programs through technical assistance, resources, and responsive partnership. Their expertise, adaptability, and commitment have carried us through this transition year and have helped position ASTDD for the future. Thank you for your continued support, leadership, and flexibility as we improve our operations and the way in which we serve our members.

Members and Partners

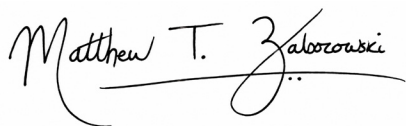
You are the core of why ASTDD exists and the reason we are the place where oral health lives. Your leadership, feedback, and collaboration guide our priorities, strengthen our programs, and ensure that everything we do is rooted in the realities of state and territorial oral health programs and the communities you serve. I feel your support daily.

To All

Thank you for your trust, your commitment, and your belief in what is possible when we work together. Your engagement, feedback, and collaboration ensure that ASTDD remains grounded in the realities of state and territorial oral health programs while advancing a strong national voice for dental public health and oral health. Now is the time for us to move forward together with clarity, courage, and conviction.

I remain committed to listening, learning, and leading as, together, we shape the next era of ASTDD's impact.

With gratitude and optimism,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew T. Zaborowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Matt Zaborowski, MPH, CPH

Executive Director

KEY 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, ASTDD produced and disseminated a wide range of high-impact resources to inform programs, strengthen partnerships, and support evidence-based planning among our members. These included:

- The [ASTDD 2024 Annual Report](#) and [ASTDD 2024 Impact Report](#)
- The [2025 ASTDD State Synopses Report](#)
- Our quarterly newsletter, *The Roundup*
- A customizable [State Oral Health Programs Slide Deck](#)
- A [State Oral Health Programs Flyer](#)
- [Advancing Oral Health Success Stories](#)
- Five Health Impact Snapshots focusing on:
 - [Caries Prevention](#)
 - [Data and Surveillance](#)
 - [Leadership Development and Peer Support](#)
 - [Medical/Dental Integration](#)
 - [Older Adult Oral Health](#)
- A [Perinatal Oral Health Best Practice Approach Report](#) and a [Perinatal Oral Health Policy Statement](#)
- [The Advocacy Guidebook](#)
- We also held seven “Spotlight” presentations, each featuring a newly published Spotlight on a key public oral health topic:
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Introducing the Advocacy Guidebook: A Tool to Educate Policy Decision Makers](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: A Strategic Framework for Improving Perinatal Oral Health](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Tell Me... Without Telling Me: Silent Videos that Speak Volumes about Oral Health](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Using BSS infographics to Drive Oral Health Action](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Successful Oral Health Consensus-Building to Inform Your State Oral Health Plan](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Championing Minimally Invasive Care: Aligning Advocacy to Transform Oral Health](#)
 - [ASTDD Spotlight: Updates to the ASTDD Website](#)



ASTDD COMMITTEES, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, AND FOCUS AREAS

In 2025, ASTDD provided various resources and hours of technical assistance (TA) and training to state/territorial personnel and partners.

Over the course of the year, ASTDD's committees developed a diverse set of resources for our members and the broader dental public health community. Furthermore, our Communities of Practice (CoP) offered opportunities for individuals to engage with others who share similar concerns, challenges, and a passion for specific topics. These included:

The Basic Screening Survey (BSS) CoP focused on recruiting schools to participate in the BSS, increasing consent rates for children to be screened, disseminating data from the BSS, exploring alternate methods of collecting oral health status data, and contracting with screeners.

The Communications CoP produced two areas of content in 2025: (1) language that states may want to avoid using in documents, reports, and on their websites, and (2) "A New Direction for State Oral Health Programs," with resources and tools for demonstrating an oral health program's value.

The Fluoridation CoP held interactive learning sessions on these topics: messaging about community water fluoridation, reporting, the Water Fluoridation Reporting System, oral health data dashboards, and ASTDD resources and technical assistance.

ASTDD complemented the work of this CoP by monitoring potential fluoridation activities with a

subscription to a data-mining service and a daily Google Alert on relevant media coverage. When an alert that might warrant attention arrives, each state oral health program lead and known fluoridation contact receives an email. This early-warning system often is a state's first notice about a planned public meeting on CWF and allows it to engage partners, prepare, and attend. In 2025, eight states requested TA from ASTDD related to community water fluoridation. On an intermittent basis, ASTDD also provides compilations of resources for fluoridation-related topics via member listservs.

The Medical/Dental Integration CoP helped ASTDD facilitate information exchange among states funded through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement and to provide feedback on data products they developed in Year 2 of the agreement. States use the data to increase awareness about the link between oral health and diabetes within the diabetes community, and among primary care providers to improve health outcomes and potentially reduce costs of care for people with Type 2 diabetes.

The **Evidence-Based Preventive Dental Services CoP** focused on partnerships and collaborations for oral health programs that are providing evidence-based preventive dental services (EBPDS). Efforts addressed school-based sealant initiatives and data collection, as well as infection prevention and control for school-based dental sealant programs.



ASTDD COMMITTEES, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, AND FOCUS AREAS

Other ASTDD Services Provided in 2025

Over the course of the year, ASTDD responded to the ongoing and evolving needs of members in a variety of other ways. For example:

- Our expertise in data collection and surveillance enabled us to provide 134 hours of TA for the BSS and other oral health surveillance issues to 12 states.
- For the new dental directors/program leads hired in 16 states in 2025, ASTDD provided one-on-one orientation calls and an invitation to our peer support/mentoring program. Participants could engage with a mentor and participate in peer discussion group calls.
- ASTDD also welcomed 110 new associate members and offered each a one-on-one call with our new associate member coordinator to guide them through our website, introduce ASTDD's resources, and recommend ways to get involved.
- With funding from the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety, the Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) project supported dental hygienists from each state to help promote oral health among expectant parents and children enrolled in Head Start programs.
- Through the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement, ASTDD supported the Network for Oral Health Integration (NOHI). Participating states strived to improve access to and utilization of comprehensive, high-quality oral health care for pregnant women, infants, and children at high risk for oral disease.
- ASTDD, in partnership with the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, hosted the 2025 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) in Orlando, Florida, on April 7-9, 2025, with weekend workshops on April 5 and 6. Six hundred and fifty-eight individuals attended the event, considered "the premier meeting" for those interested in continuing education and networking

opportunities within the discipline of dental public health. The conference is designed for anyone interested in engaging in collaboration to improve the oral health of the public.

By connecting members with peers and proven resources, ASTDD helps state and territorial oral health programs build on shared lessons learned. Funders can partner with ASTDD to ensure we can continue to deliver this critical support and drive progress across the nation.

Committees

- Best Practices
- Communications
- Dental Public Health Policy
- Fluorides
- Healthy Aging
- Perinatal Oral Health
- School and Adolescent Oral Health

Communities of Practice

- Basic Screening Survey
- Communications
- Fluorides
- Medical-Dental Integration
- Evidence-Based Preventive Dental Services

Focus Areas

- Data/Surveillance
- The National Center for Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety/Dental Hygienist Liaison Project
- The Improving Oral Health Integration Consortium
- New Member Services/Peer Support

ASTDD FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

A blend of membership dues and NOHC revenue supported ASTDD's core operations in 2025. Together, these sources account for approximately 12% of its annual income. The remaining – and essential – support comes from key funders, whose contributions make it possible to deliver high-quality TA, develop impactful resources, and support programs across the nation.

These funders are more than financial supporters – they are collaborators. They engage actively in the work they fund, participating through consistent and constructive communication built on mutual respect and trust.

Funders

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health
- Delta Dental Foundation of California
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) cooperative agreement to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center for the Consortium for Oral Health
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) subaward to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center for the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety oral health activities
- Gary and Mary West Foundation

Strategic Partnerships

American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)

For 26 years, ASTDD and AAPHD have co-hosted the NOHC, a multi-day event filled with continuing education and networking in the arena of dental public health.

American Dental Association (ADA)

ADA staff serve on several ASTDD committees, have presented on ASTDD Spotlight webinars, and assist by facilitating communication with their state associations. ASTDD has collaborated with the ADA on the annual Fluoridation Awards and participates in the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC) of the ADA's Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention.

American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA)

In partnership with ADHA, ASTDD recruits state dental hygienists for the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project offered by the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health and Safety. ASTDD provides ongoing TA and support for the volunteer dental hygienists who help promote oral health for pregnant women and children in Head Start.

American Fluoridation Society (AFS)

AFS collaborates with ASTDD through shared participation on the ASTDD Fluorides Committee and joint funding of Curate, a data-mining service that tracks fluoridation-related activity through local government documents such as meeting agendas and minutes.

Apple Tree Dental

Minnesota-based Apple Tree Dental served as the fiscal agent for the funding that ASTDD received from The Gary and Mary West Foundation for development of an Advocacy Guidebook for older adult oral health. Apple Tree Dental also assisted with writing the Guidebook and played a significant role on the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee.

Association for Dental Safety (ADS)

ASTDD partners with ADS to provide infection control and safety TA to state and territorial oral health programs. ADS also contributes to ASTDD's Evidence-Based Preventive Dental Services CoP.

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

ASTDD participates in monthly calls with ASTHO and its 19 affiliates to discuss and coordinate responses to ongoing federal funding and policy changes.

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

CareQuest is a key partner in the redesign and expansion of the National Oral Health Data Portal.

ASTDD FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Under a three-year cooperative agreement that began on September 1, 2024, CDC funding has supported two major components of ASTDD’s work:

- Component 1 funds national partner efforts to help states increase access to community water fluoridation and EBPDS such as sealants and fluoride varnish, while advancing health equity and systems change.
- Component 3 supports analysis and dissemination of secondary data related to medical-dental integration (especially among adults with type-2 diabetes) and EBPDS. It also includes evaluation of state activities related to fluoridation, EBPDS, and infection prevention and control.

Delta Dental Foundation of California and The Gary and Mary West Foundation

These funders supported development of an advocacy playbook. The playbook offers a structured framework with tools for educating advocates, crafting legislative asks, engaging stakeholders, and navigating policy windows using public value language.

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)

NACDD is an active partner in ASTDD’s Medical-Dental Integration CoP, particularly in efforts to raise awareness of the oral health-diabetes connection. It also facilitated connections with diabetes educators and state program leads to support coordinated care and communication.

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC)

ASTDD partners with OHRC on two federally funded initiatives:

- The National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS): ASTDD coordinates the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project. NCHBHS is funded by the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start.
- The Consortium for Oral Health (COH): ASTDD provides TA to professionals serving the maternal and child health population, supporting the integration of preventive oral health care into primary care. Funding also supported updates to two ASTDD resources: Best Practice Approach: Perinatal Oral Health and the Perinatal Oral Health Policy Statement. COH is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)

ASTDD, in partnership with NNOHA and AAPHD, released a Call to Action highlighting the urgent need and opportunity for the philanthropic community to invest in prevention, workforce, research, and systems-building as federal support for oral health is drastically reduced.

POSITIONING ASTDD FOR PROGRESS

In 2026, ASTDD will:

- Finalize and begin to execute a strategic vision, multi-year strategic plan, and implementation guide
- Continue building the ASTDD Foundation, Inc.—the philanthropic arm of ASTDD, dedicated to “Strengthening Leaders. Improving Oral Health”
- Modernize financial and operational systems to support ASTDD’s sustainability and nimbleness
- Focus on core, high-impact, member-driven programs and activities that directly support state and territorial oral health programs
- Unveil a new logo, website, and refreshed visual identity to better tell ASTDD’s story

SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS

Supporting the work of 2025 Executive Directors Chris Wood and Matt Zaborowski, and Business Manager Cheryl Thomas, were the following 22 subject-matter experts/consultants:

Best Practices

Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH

Consortium for Oral Health

Kimberlie J. Payne, RDH, BA

Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH

Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Jay Balzer, DMD, MPH

Communications

Grace Linn, BS, BA, MA

Matt Jacob, BA

Kimberlie J. Payne, RDH, BA

Data & Oral Health Surveillance

Kelly Braun, RDH, MSDH

Brooke Mehner, BS, MPH

Kathy Phipps, Dr.PH

Dental Public Health Policy

Judith Feinstein, MSPH

Evaluation

Emory Centers for Training and Technical Assistance:

Kristin Giordano, MPH

Kendra Piper, PhD, MPH

Maggie Pustinger, MPH, CHEH

Evidence-Based Preventive Dental Services,

Data and Partnership

Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH

Fluorides

Judith Feinstein, MSPH

Head Start

Carla Basett, RDH

Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECPII

Gina Sharps, BSDH, MPH

Healthy Aging

Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH

Maternal and Child Health

Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH

School and Adolescent Oral Health

Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH

School-based Dental Sealant Programs

Sandy Tesch, RDH, MSHP

Territorial Support

Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH

Ohnmar Tut, BDS, MPhil, Pacific Islands Consultant

Writer/Editor/Dental Public Health Infrastructure Specialist

Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS

ASTDD Website Support

Bradley Cummings, 6th Street Web Design and E-Marketing, LLC



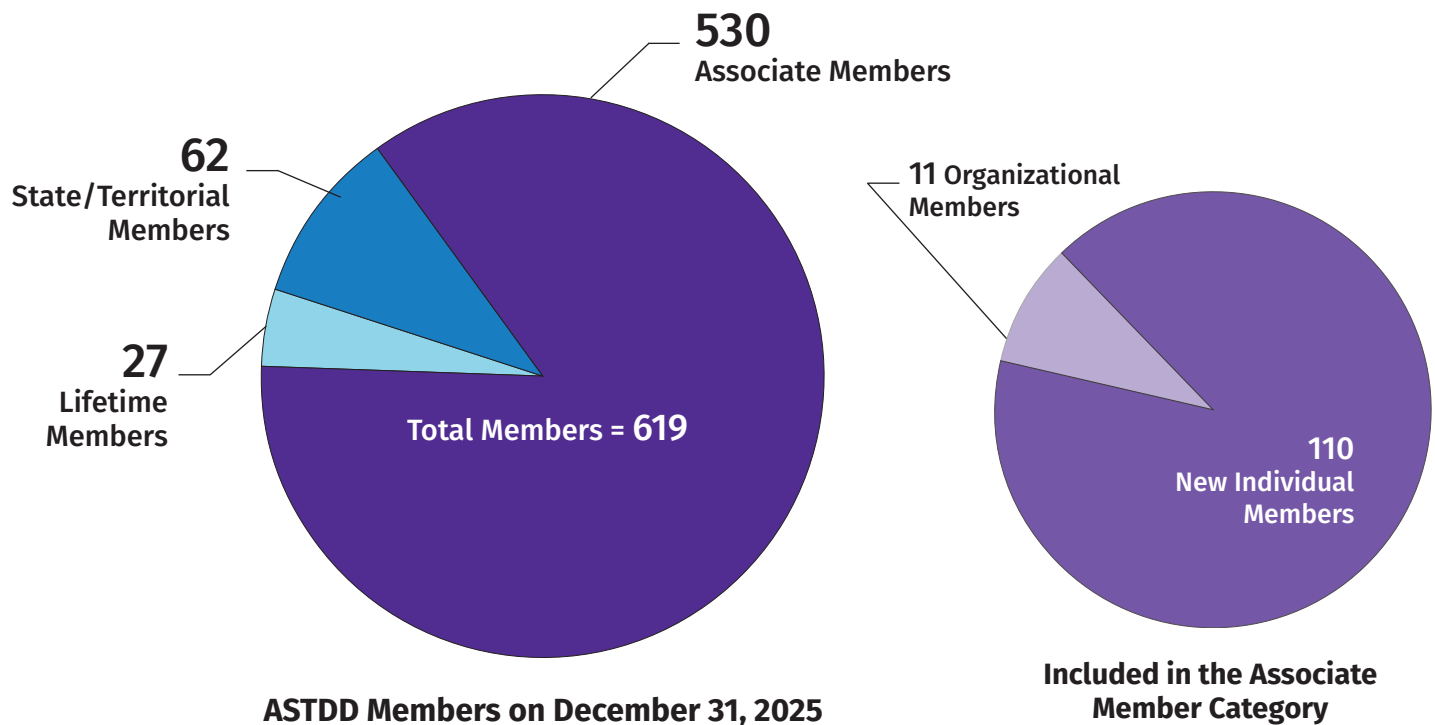


MEMBERSHIP



ASTDD's membership includes the chief dental public health officer of each state or territory — typically the state/territorial dental director or designated oral health program lead within the state health department or equivalent agency. Associate membership is also available to individuals affiliated with public agencies, voluntary organizations, tribal entities, or the broader health professions, as well as others with an interest in dental public health.

2025 Membership



POSITIONING ASTDD FOR PROGRESS

ASTDD's work in 2025–2026 is grounded in six guiding principles:

- Clarity
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Connection
- Consistency
- Compassion

These principles guide how ASTDD designs systems, makes decisions, and supports members — keeping transparency and trust at the center of our work.

 FINANCIALS



	2025 Income	\$1,025,601.63
	2025 Expenses	\$965,132.56
	Net Gain	\$60,469.07
	Equity as of Dec 31, 2025:	\$595,309.38

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ASTDD is governed by a nine-member board comprising five elected officers, three regular member directors, and one associate member director.



Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FICD, FPFA (WI), President



**Robin Miller, RDH, MPH (VT)
President-Elect**



**Julia Wacloff, MSPH, RDH (AZ)
Immediate Past President**



**Shelley Guinn, RDH, MPH (WA)
Secretary**



**Matt Horan, DMD, MPH (MA)
Treasurer, January - November 2025**



**Rachel Sizemore, DDS, MHSA (AR)
Treasurer, as of December 2025**



**Debony Hughes, DDS, MPH (MD)
Director**



**Tommy Johnson, DMD (AL)
Director, January 1 through April 5**



**Cheri Kiefer, BRN, BSN, RDN, RD (ND)
Director, April 6 - December 31**



**Frances Wise, PhD (AK)
Director**



**Tooka Zokaie, MPH, MAS, CPH (CA Dental Assoc.)
Associate Member Director**



**Christine Wood, RDH, BS,
Executive Director, January 1
through October 15, Ex Officio
Member**



**Matthew Zaborowski, MPH, CPH
Executive Director, October 16 through
December 31, Ex Officio Member**

IN MEMORIAM: BEVERLY A. ISMAN

June 6, 1950 – March 16, 2026

In Loving Memory of Beverly Ann Isman, MPH, RDH

Beverly Ann Isman was a cherished colleague, mentor, and friend whose leadership helped shape ASTDD and the broader dental public health community for more than 25 years. Her wisdom, generosity, and unwavering commitment to improving oral health left an indelible mark on our Association and on countless people across the country.

A Leader in Dental Public Health

Bev earned a BS in Dental Hygiene in 1972 and an Masters in Public Health in 1976 from the University of Michigan, where she began her career at the Institute for the Study of Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities and in private dental practice. She went on to hold significant academic and public health roles, including faculty and leadership positions at the University of Colorado, the Maine Department of Human Services, and the Indian Health Service, where she supported tribes and clinics across multiple states and coordinated oral health promotion and disease prevention activities.

Bev brought the same rigor and compassion to her editorial and writing work, earning national certifications in scientific and medical writing and contributing to leading public health journals. She developed education curricula, led interdisciplinary teams, and advanced equity-focused approaches to care for older adults, people with disabilities, and other historically underserved communities.

Bev and ASTDD

Starting in 2000, Bev served as a self-employed consultant with ASTDD, focused primarily on grant writing and reporting, cooperative agreement management, and TA to states. Her relationship with ASTDD spanned more than 25 years, during which she served as:

- Longtime editor of ASTDD's *Roundup*
- Trusted mentor to many new dental directors
- A strong, engaged member and advisor across multiple projects and initiatives

Through her thoughtful policy guidance, clear writing, and generous mentoring, Bev helped shape ASTDD into the organization it is today. Her contributions were recognized many times over the years, including with the Greg McClure Memorial President's Award and other honors that reflected only a portion of her impact.

A Life of Curiosity, Travel, and Connection

Born on June 6, 1950, in New London, New Hampshire, Bev grew up on Star Island in Lake Sunapee, spending summers on the lake and winters in Florida, where her father worked

at Cypress Gardens. She was active in school and community life, participating in book clubs, music, sports, and leadership activities, and even serving as the Sunapee Bicentennial queen while working as a dental assistant.

Over the course of her life, Bev lived and worked in Michigan, Colorado, Maine, Oregon, and California, always combining her love of public health with a deep commitment to communities. With her husband, Dr. Robert (Bob) Isman, she traveled to more than 50 countries and islands, collecting stories, friendships, and art that filled their home in Davis, California. She remained closely connected to her hometown in New Hampshire and was devoted to her patients, colleagues, friends, and many beloved cats.

Bev passed away on March 16, 2026, with Bob at her side, after a courageous, three-year battle with pancreatic cancer. She faced her illness with the same grace, humor, and determination that characterized her life.

A Living Tribute

To honor Bev's life and legacy, the ASTDD Board of Directors has made a memorial gift through The Trees Remember, purchasing 100 trees to be planted in California. On behalf of the ASTDD Board, members, and consultants, this living tribute reflects Bev's legacy, leadership, caring spirit, and love for nature. May this gift grow and flourish as a reflection of the many ways Bev enriched the ASTDD community and the lives of those around her, and as a reminder that she will always remain rooted in ASTDD's history.

At Bob Isman's request, those who wish to further honor Bev's amazing life and lasting legacy may consider making a personal donation to benefit ASTDD through the [ASTDD Foundation – Honoring Bev Isman with a Memorial Gift](#). Bev's full [obituary](#) is available online for those who wish to learn more about her remarkable journey.

Closing

Bev's impact on ASTDD—and on so many of us personally—is immeasurable. She leaves behind a legacy of equity-driven public health, thoughtful policy, clear communication, and genuine kindness. May we honor her by continuing the work she cared about so deeply and by carrying forward her example of service, curiosity, and compassion.





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