

PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP: Shaping the Future of Oral Health



Impact Report for 2024



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WHO WE ARE



VISION

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



MISSION

ASTDD provides leadership 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 President

STRATEGIC MAP 2024–2026

Our strategic map is a visual representation of our objectives and how they relate to each other. It serves as a clear and concise way to communicate our strategic plan to stakeholders, including members, partners, and funders.

Overarching Goals:

- Play a primary leadership role in the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC)
- Cultivate accountability and continuous quality improvement
- Identify and strengthen diverse and strategic partnerships consistent with ASTDD’s mission
- Promote oral health across the life course through community and population approaches
- Strive to achieve oral health equity and reduce disparities
- Foster oral health literacy and communication

Key Direction: Build Infrastructure & Capacity of S/TOHPs	Key Direction: Provide Guidance & Resources to S/TOHPs	Key Direction: Ensure ASTDD Organizational Effectiveness, Sustainability, & Diversity	Key Direction: Serve as the Collective Voice for S/TOHPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen and maintain S/TOHP leadership, and help build S/TOHP workforce competence ■ Support professional development and mentoring for S/TOHP leadership & staff ■ Assess and respond to S/TOHP needs related to infrastructure and capacity ■ Promote and enhance peer connections and communication among S/TOHPs ■ Build support among national, state and territorial policy makers, funders and advocates for S/TOHPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Promote use of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices ■ Identify and analyze emerging issues, populations, and promising approaches ■ Provide tools and technical assistance to evaluate and improve S/TOHP policies, plans, programs, staffing, surveillance systems, communications, program accountability, and partnerships ■ Promote and facilitate internal and external S/TOHP communication and collaborations ■ Promote collection, analysis, communication and use of data to inform planning, decision-making, evaluation, and the promotion of health equity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure ASTDD fiscal, operational, and programmatic sustainability ■ Ensure ASTDD staffing/consultant diversity, capacity, and expertise ■ Promote membership in ASTDD ■ Engage and cultivate leaders with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and skill sets ■ Maintain and support a responsive structure to address emerging and key issues ■ Foster and promote engagement of members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives ■ Ensure strategic communications that meet the needs of our members and the populations they serve ■ Develop and ensure diverse ASTDD leadership that reflects diversity ■ Maintain an informed board to provide governance, strategic planning, and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthen and maintain S/TOHP leadership, and help build S/TOHP workforce competence ■ Support professional development and mentoring for S/TOHP leadership & staff ■ Assess and respond to S/TOHP needs related to infrastructure and capacity ■ Promote and enhance peer connections and communication among S/TOHPs ■ Build support among national, state and territorial policy makers, funders and advocates for S/TOHPs

■ = Objectives



VALUES AND BELIEFS

The following values and beliefs inform all of ASTDD's activities and work products



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

State and territorial oral health programs 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 who 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 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Christine Wood, RDH, BS

Executive Director

When I reflect on the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), I don't just see a nonprofit organization—we are a community. A partnership. A family. One bound together by a shared mission to advance oral health through leadership, policy, and innovation.

Our strength lies in the people who power our work. In 2024, our membership continued to grow, with nearly 600 associate members joining 62 State and Territorial Dental Directors to form a vibrant, engaged network. Together, we represent a diverse range of public health professionals—from state programs to local coalitions, from academia to private practice. Nearly half of our members actively contribute through committees and communities of practice, and over 20% serve in volunteer roles. That kind of involvement speaks volumes.

What do our members value most? The opportunity to shape resources used nationwide, connect with nationally recognized leaders, and—yes—“rub elbows” with thought leaders in our field. They are deeply committed to being part

of an organization striving to improve the oral health of all of our country's residents, especially those who suffer disproportionately from oral diseases. Their engagement embodies this year's theme: Progress Through Partnership: *Shaping the Future of Oral Health*.

In 2024, our collaborations yielded meaningful impact. We published the annual ASTDD State Synopses Report and developed three data-driven infographics. We released four new policy statements on issues spanning primary care integration to tobacco prevention, and we provided states with robust planning tools—from our Seven-Step Needs Assessment Model to resources for building oral health infrastructure and coalition support.

These efforts reflect not only productivity, but purpose.

Yet, as we look ahead to 2025, we face significant uncertainty. Despite securing two cooperative agreements with the CDC's Division of Oral Health, federal staffing changes and funding disruptions threaten core support for our programs and infrastructure. These agreements help fund critical technical assistance to states and cover essential operational costs. Their potential loss is deeply concerning.

Still, ASTDD has always been resilient. We are launching an environmental scan to hear directly from our members about what support they most value and where we should focus next. This input will guide our response and our future.

We remain steadfast in our mission. The path forward will require adaptation, creativity, and above all—collaboration. That is what defines public health. That is what defines ASTDD.

With gratitude for your continued support and partnership,

Christine Wood

Christine Wood, RDH, BS

Executive Director, ASTDD

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA,
FACP, FICD, FPFA**
President, ASTDD

As you explore the ASTDD 2024 Impact Report, I encourage you to reflect on the accomplishments and unwavering commitment of our community. Every page is a testament not only to the individuals featured, but to each of you who contribute—day in and day out—to advancing the mission of public health through oral health. This work matters deeply, and your dedication is what keeps it moving forward.

As we entered 2025, we found ourselves navigating turbulent and uncertain times. The state and national public health landscape continues to shift, often rapidly. In such moments, the strength of our partnerships—within ASTDD and with allies across the country—becomes even more vital. Our unity, our shared expertise, and our collective voice are what sustain progress.

Despite these challenges, ASTDD has remained steadfast. We continue to amplify the voices of state and territorial programs, support innovation, and foster collaboration across sectors. This report highlights not only what we've achieved, but how we've achieved it—through partnerships, perseverance, and a shared vision for a healthier, more equitable future.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the remarkable efforts of our consultants, volunteers, members, and our executive director, Chris Wood. Your passion, professionalism, and resilience have been both inspiring and essential.

It has been a true honor to serve as ASTDD president alongside such an extraordinary group of people. I look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

Please take care of yourselves—and thank you for all that you do.

With gratitude,

Dr. Russell Dunkel

Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACP, FICD, FPFA
President, ASTDD

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024, ASTDD was awarded two new cooperative agreements (CA) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health – marking the sixth multi-year, CDC CA awarded to ASTDD. These new agreements continue to build on our longstanding commitment to supporting state and territorial oral health programs. They focus on four critical areas: community water fluoridation, evidence-based preventive dental services, medical/dental integration with a focus on diabetes, and program evaluation.

Community Water Fluoridation



In 2024, ASTDD provided extensive technical assistance, training, and resources to both CDC-funded and non-funded states. Resources included talking points on controversial CWF publications, fluoride modality fact sheets, curated

resource lists, and partner materials. For the 15 funded states, ASTDD hosted Community of Practice* sessions that offered interactive learning—100% of participants reported plans to apply what they learned.

To support timely response to potential challenges, ASTDD monitors CWF activity through a data mining subscription and Google Alerts. When alerts signal relevant developments, such as local government meetings or proposed policy changes, ASTDD notifies state program leads and fluoridation contacts. This early warning system often is the first notice that a state receives about a planned public meeting on CWF and allows them to attend and be prepared.

Medical Dental Integration and Diabetes



In partnership with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), ASTDD supported 15 states funded by a CDC grant, *State Promotion of Strategies to Advance Oral Health* by

analyzing 2022 BRFSS data related to oral health and diabetes. We facilitated a Community of Practice session, providing templates for data products, strategic guidance on messaging to target audiences, and key resources linking oral health to diabetes outcomes, including effects on glycemic control (HbA1c).

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ASTDD and NACDD strengthens cross-sector collaboration, improving communication between oral health programs and diabetes educators, and increasing awareness of oral-systemic health connections. These efforts aim to enhance outcomes and reduce health care costs for individuals with type 2 diabetes.

National Oral Health Conference



Co-hosted annually by ASTDD and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the 2024 National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) was held in St. Louis, MO on April 15-17, with weekend workshops on April 13 and 14. This 25th

joint meeting welcomed 740 attendees from across the dental public health field.

NOHC continues to be “the premier meeting” for those interested in continuing education and networking opportunities within the discipline of Dental Public Health. Attendees included state, territorial, county, city, and local dental directors; dentists and dental hygienists; public health officials and researchers; dental and/health educators; students; legislators, Medicaid/CHIP dental program staff or consultants; community health center personnel; students; school-based and school-linked health center personnel; federally employed dental personnel; and dental manufacturers/distributors and dental insurance companies – in short, anyone interested in collaborating to improve oral health across the nation.

*A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people who share a common concern, passion, or interest, and who interact regularly to learn and improve their practice in that area.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Investing in Success

In 2024, ASTDD produced and disseminated a wide range of high-impact resources to inform programs, strengthen partnerships, and support evidence-based planning. In 2024 we produced:

- **The 2023 Annual Report**
- **Six Issues of the ASTDD newsletter, The Roundup** (available to members)
- **The 2024 ASTDD State Synopses Report**
- **Three Infographics based on data from the State Synopses**
 - The Importance of State Oral Health Surveillance Systems
 - Collaborations Around Oral Health and Chronic Disease
 - Importance of State Oral Health Program Plans
- **Four policy statements**
 - Integrating Oral Health into Primary Care (February 2024)
 - Integrating Oral Health into School Health Education Curricula Using the Whole School. Whole Community, Whole Child School Health Model (December 2024)
 - Older Adults and Oral Health: A Continuing Challenge (December 2024)
 - Preventing Tobacco/Oral Nicotine Use to Promote Oral Health (June 2024)
- **Issue Brief on Minimally Invasive Care**
- **Resources to support the development of state oral health plans, including:**
 - Seven-Step Needs Assessment Model
 - Guidebook for the Policy Consensus Tool
 - State Oral Health Plan Improvement Toolkit
 - Public Health Policies: A Key Element of State Oral Health Infrastructure
 - Oral Health Coalitions and Community Advocates: A Key Element of State Oral Health Infrastructure
- **Seven Spotlight presentations**
- **Updated our list of State Added BRFSS, PRAMS, YRBS Questions**

ASTDD COMMITTEES, COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE, AND FOCUS AREAS

ASTDD's committees focus on developing resources for our members and the broader dental public health community.

Our communities of practice offer opportunities for individuals to engage with others who share similar concerns, challenges, and a passion for specific topics – this not only helps members deepen their knowledge and strengthen their expertise but go on to achieve a more significant impact in their work.

In 2024, ASTDD's expertise in data collection and surveillance enabled us to provide 385 hours of technical assistance for the Basic Screening Survey and other oral health surveillance issues to 21 states.

Through the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety, the Dental Hygienist Liaison project supports dental hygienists from each state who 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 supports the Network for Oral Health Integration (NOHI). Participating states strive 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.

In 2024, 17 states brought on new dental directors/program leads. We provided every new leader with an orientation and an opportunity to participate in the ASTDD peer support/mentoring program. Additionally, we welcomed 135 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.

ASTDD's ability to support state and territorial oral health programs is key to their success. By connecting

members with peers and proven resources, we help programs build on shared lessons learned rather than "starting from scratch."

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
- Dental Sealant Programs
- Evaluation
- Fluorides
- Medical Dental Integration

Focus Areas

- Data/Surveillance, including a complete rebuild of the National Oral Health Data Portal
- The National Center for Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety/Dental Hygienist Liaison Project
- The Improving Oral Health Integration Consortium
- New Member Services/Peer Support
- In 2024, 148 members served on our committees and more than 300 participated in our communities of practice.

ASTDD FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

ASTDD's core operations are supported by a blend of membership dues and NOHC revenue, which together account for approximately 30% of our annual income. The remaining – and essential – support comes from our funders, whose contributions make it possible for us to deliver high-quality technical assistance, develop impactful resources, and support programs across the nation.

These funders are more than financial supporters – they are collaborators. They are engaged actively in the activities 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
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) cooperative agreement to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center for the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) cooperative agreement 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
- University of Pittsburgh

Strategic Partnerships

American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD)

ASTDD and AAPHD have co-hosted the NOHC for 27 years, establishing it as “the premier meeting” continuing education and networking in dental public health. A joint planning committee with six members from each organization selects the educational content. In 2025, attendees could earn up to 28.75 hours of continuing education credit.

American Dental Association (ADA)

ADA staff serve on several ASTDD committees, have presented in ASTDD Spotlight webinars, and facilitate communication with their state associations. ASTDD also

collaborates with ADA on the annual Fluoridation Awards and participates in the National Fluoridation Advisory Committee (NFAC) of 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, part of the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health and Safety. Hygienists help promote oral health for pregnant women and children in Head Start. ASTDD provides ongoing technical assistance and support for these volunteers.

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 and meeting alerts.

American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC)

ANOHC collaborates with ASTDD on strategic initiatives, including assisting in the development of a database of potential funders for state and territorial oral health programs.

Apple Tree Dental

Serves as the fiscal agent for the funding that ASTDD receives from The Gary and Mary West Foundation for development of an advocacy playbook for older adult oral health. In addition, they are lending the expertise of some of their staff and consultants to the writing of the playbook. They also participate on, and make significant contributions to the work of the ASTDD Healthy Aging Committee.

Association for Dental Safety (ADS)

ASTDD is currently partnering with ADS to provide infection control and safety technical assistance to state/territorial oral health programs. ADS also contributes to our School-Based Prevention Programs community of practice and previously collaborated on reviewing and disseminating infection control materials tailored for school-based programs.

ASTDD FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

ASTDD participates in twice-weekly calls with ASTHO and its 19 affiliates to discuss and coordinate responses to ongoing changes at the federal level. ASTDD also worked closely with ASTHO during the latter's update of the ASTHO Oral Health Policy Statement.

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

CareQuest and ASTDD have partnered on numerous projects, most recently developing an Issue Brief on Minimally Invasive Care. CareQuest is also a key partner in the redesign and expansion of the National Oral Health Data Portal.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Under a three-year cooperative agreement that began on September 1, 2024, CDC supports two major components of ASTDD's work:

- **Component 1** funds national partner efforts to help states increase access to community water fluoridation and evidence-based preventive dental services (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 are supporting development of an advocacy playbook. The playbook will offer a structured framework with tools for educating advocates, crafting legislative asks, engaging stakeholders, and navigating policy windows using public value language.

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC)

ASTDD partners with OHRC on two key initiatives:

- **The National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS):** ASTDD coordinates the Dental Hygienist Liaison Project.
- **Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement:** ASTDD provides technical assistance to professionals serving the maternal and child health population, supporting the integration of preventive oral health care into primary care. Funding also supports updates to two ASTDD resources: *Best Practice Approach: Perinatal Oral Health* and the *Perinatal Oral Health Policy Statement*.

National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)

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

National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)

ASTDD and NNOHA collaborate through the Multi-Agency Public Health Response Group to develop a multi-agency response statement and call to action regarding recent federal actions. We have also invited NNOHA to participate in a Medical/Dental Integration Community of Practice call to promote their own *Diabetes and Oral Health Learning Collaborative*.

University of Pittsburgh

ASTDD served as a consultant on the University's School of Dental Medicine project, Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Acute Dental Pain: Development, Implementation, and Evaluation Using Data Analytics to Target An Implementation Strategy.

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

In addition to the Executive Director Christine Wood and Business Manager, Cheryl Thomas, ASTDD contracts with 18 highly skilled subject matter experts/consultants who support our mission across a wide range of focus areas.

Many of our consultants have worked with ASTDD for over a decade. Their deep institutional knowledge, long-standing relationships with members, and understanding

of the evolving challenges in public oral health make them invaluable assets. Their expertise allows them to rapidly identify evidence-based resources, foster strategic partnerships, and provide tailored guidance to help state and territorial oral health programs achieve meaningful impact in their communities.

Best Practices

Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH

Improving oral Health Integration Consortium

Kimberlie J. Payne, RDH, BA
Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH
Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH

Children with Special Health Care Needs

Jay Balzer, DMD, MPH

Communications

Jacob Strategies, Matt Jacob, BA
Kimberlie J. Payne, RDH, BA

Data & OH Surveillance

Michael C. Manz, DDS, MPH, DrPH
Brooke Mehner, BS, MPH
Kathy Phipps, DrPH

Dental Public Health Policy

Judith Feinstein, MSPH

Evaluation

Emory Centers for Training and Technical Assistance
Kristin Giordano, MPH
Maggie Pustinger, MPH, CHEH
Kendra Piper, PhD, MPH

Evidence-Based Preventive Dental Services, Data, and Partnership

Jayanth Kumar, DDS, MPH

Fluorides

Judith Feinstein, MSPH

Head Start

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
Pacific Islands Consultant – Dr. Ohnmar Tut, BDS, MPhil

Writer/Editor/Dental Public Health Infrastructure Specialist

Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS

ASTDD Website Support

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



MEMBERSHIP



ASTDD's membership includes the chief dental public health officers – commonly the state or territorial dental directors – of each state or equivalent public health agency. In addition, individuals associated with public agencies, voluntary organizations, or tribal entities, and/or health professionals who are employed or interested in dental public health are eligible to join as associate members.

In 2024 ASTDD added 134 new associate members, bringing our total to 575 associate members as of December 31, 2024. This includes 14 organizational associate members. We also maintained 62 states/territorial Members and 28 Life Members (retired directors who served in the role for 10 or more years).



ASTDD's membership has more than doubled in the last five years, reflecting growing interest and engagement across the public oral health landscape:

Dec 31, 2024	Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022	Dec 31, 2021	Dec 31, 2020
 575 Associate Members	 558 Associate Members	 511 Associate Members	 458 Associate Members	 250 Associate Members

This growth highlights ASTDD's expanding role as a national hub for dental public health leadership, collaboration, and innovation.



FINANCIALS



2024 Income

\$967,205



2024 Expenses

\$931,824



Net Gain

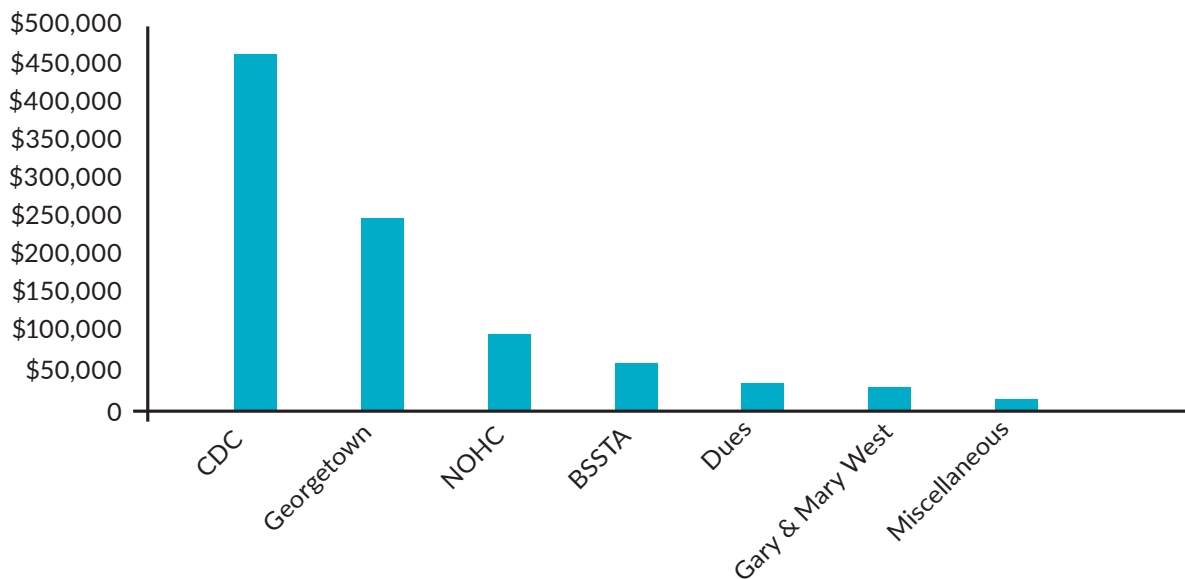
\$35,381



Equity as of Dec 31, 2024:

\$561,201

Financials



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FICD, FPFA (WI)
President
State Dental Director, Public Health
Department of Health Services



Robin Miller, RDH, MPH (VT)
President-Elect
Oral Health Director, Vermont
Department of Health



Julia Wacloff, MSPH, RDH (AZ)
Immediate Past President
Chief, Office of Oral Health, Arizona
Department of Health Services



Shelley Guinn, RDH, MPH (WA)
Secretary
Oral Health Program Coordinator,
Washington State Department
of Health



Matt Horan, DMD, MPH (MA)
Treasurer
Dental Director, Massachusetts
Department of Public Health



Debony Hughes, DDS, MPH (MD)
Director
Dental Director, Maryland
Department of Public Health



Tommy Johnson, DMD (AL)
Director
Dental Director, State of Alabama



Frances Wise, PhD (AK)
Director
Public Health Specialist, State of
Alaska Oral Health Program



**Tooka Zokaie, MPH, MAS, CPH
(CA Dental Assoc.)**
Associate Member Director
Senior Policy Analyst, California
Dental Association



Christine Wood, RDH, BS,
Executive Director
Ex Officio Member

COLLABORATING FOR PARTNERSHIP AND ACTION

Together, we can strengthen the future of oral health. By partnering with ASTDD, you'll help equip state and territorial programs with the leadership, tools, and connections they need to address today's challenges and anticipate tomorrow's needs. Your investment will foster innovation, advance evidence-based solutions, and expand access to care for communities across the nation. Join us in building a stronger, more equitable oral health system – one that delivers lasting impact for every generation. ASTDD is seeking partners to support these initiatives:

1. Establish an ASTDD Leadership Academy (OHLA)

The Leadership Academy will be a 12-month immersive leadership development program designed to build the leadership skills and capacity of State Oral Health Program (SOHP) staff. The OHLA will focus on developing essential leadership skills, enhancing strategic thinking, fostering collaboration, and building a strong foundation for achieving sustainable improvements in statewide oral health. Areas of leadership focus will align with core competencies and leadership priorities identified by ASTDD.

The cohort-based curriculum will include:

- Group learning and problem-solving
- Sharing of best practices
- State-level team learning projects
- Individual exploration of leadership strengths and growth opportunities

2. Promote the Oral Health of Older Adults.

Serve as a primary convener and thought leader to unite organizations and individuals committed to advancing oral health for older adults.

3. Revise the Basic Screening Survey Toolkit.

Update the Basic Screening Survey Toolkit to reflect changing technology such as the use of black lights to detect caries and sealants and the changing environment including increasing difficulty obtaining permission to enter schools to conduct the survey.

4. Develop new Best Practice Approach Reports and Policy Statements.

Focus on priority topics identified by ASTDD members and partners.

5. Update the Annual ASTDD State Synopses.

Update the questions in the Annual ASTDD State Synopses to assess the impact of the loss of federal support for oral health and other topical areas that are not addressed in the current state synopses survey, fielding the survey, analyzing the results, and disseminating the findings. *Note: Because the current survey was supported by federal funds, the Office of Management and Budget approved all questions and did not allow any changes for three years.*

6. Develop resources promoting the importance of State/Territorial Oral Health Programs.

Explain how their work intersects with the work of other programs such as Maternal and Child Health, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, HIV, Radiology, Infection Control and Prevention, and Emergency Preparedness.

7. Support efforts to strengthen partnerships between State/Territorial Oral Health Programs and their Dental Associations and Oral Health Coalitions.

8. Monitor and track legislative and other policy efforts that focus on fluoridation.





astdd

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