

Oral Health

(Approved by Board 08/08; Reviewed and Re-approved 07/11)

The New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) recognizes that oral health is linked with overall health. Dental caries, an easily-transferable bacterial infection of tooth enamel, affects individuals throughout the lifespan.

Untreated dental disease can result in pain, infection, poor nutrition, tooth and tissue loss, absence from school or employment, and death. Despite state-wide efforts at increasing access to dental care, low income children and many elderly remain at high risk of untreated dental disease and its sequelae. NHPHA supports adequate access to preventive and therapeutic care for all.

The NHPHA recommends traditional and innovative initiatives to:

- Increase access to evidenced-based preventive care through regulatory change, workforce development, and provision of alternate screening and treatment settings;
- Provide education for caregivers, providers, policy-makers, and the public;
- Establish optimal fluoridation through community-water treatment, commercial products and provider intervention
- Make available appropriate and timely use of preventive and restorative interventions

Resources

Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors, Best Practice Approaches, “State Oral Health Plans and Collaborative Planning”, (May 27, 2008 – updated as of May 27, 2011)
<http://www.astdd.org/state-oral-health-plans-and-collaborative-planning/>

Association of State a& Territorial Dental Directors, Practice Approach Reports, “Access to Oral Health Care Services: Workforce Development”, (December 1, 2006 – updated May 27, 2011)
<http://www.astdd.org/access-to-oral-health-care-services-workforce-development/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oral Health: Preventing Cavities, Gum Disease, Tooth Loss, and Oral Cancers, (February 19, 2010).

Coalition for New Hampshire Oral Health Action, “New Hampshire Oral Health Plan: A Framework for Action”, (July 2003) <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/pdfs/NHOralHealthPlan.pdf>

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, NH Oral Health Data 2010
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/bchs/rhpc/oral/documents/oralhealthdata.pdf>

New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, “Dental Services and Workforce in New Hampshire,” (January 2010) <http://www.nhpolicy.org/report.php?report=230>

U.S. Department of Health And Human Services, “Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General” (May 25, 2000) <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/access/NNBBJT.pdf>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS Oral Health Initiative 2010: “Promoting and Enhancing the Oral Health of the Public” <http://www.hrsa.gov/publichealth/clinical/oralhealth/hhsinitiative.pdf>