

Cross-Cutting/Systems Building

Cross-Cutting/Systems Building - Annual Report

Priority Need: Promote Oral Health Among All Populations

NPM 13: Preventive Dental Visit

Promoting oral health among all populations was determined as a priority need through the 2015 Title V MCH Needs Assessment. The Title V MCH Section includes DPH's Oral Health program that oversees the agencies statewide oral disease prevention activities. The Oral Health program coordinates school-based oral health clinics, the state water fluoridation program, mobile oral health clinics, and co-leads coalitions, partnerships and stakeholder groups that promote oral health within Georgia. Dental (Oral) diseases are a major health concern affecting almost every person in Georgia. Dental caries and periodontal diseases have an economic and social cost and can result in serious systemic problems, pain, and suffering. Most oral diseases are preventable, and DPH's Oral Health program makes every effort to promote and implement preventive measures for all of Georgia's citizens. In the reporting year, the Oral Health Program served a total of 34,095 people.

Community Water Fluoridation

As of December 2014, 96% of Georgia's population using public water systems received fluoridated water. Water fluoridation has been shown to reduce dental decay by 20-40% in fluoridated communities, and results in a saving of \$20 in future dental expenditures for every \$1 invested in the Community Water Fluoridation Program.

Teledentistry

In the reporting year, the Waycross DPH Teledentistry program presented at a national meeting, *Case Studies of 6 Teledentistry Programs: Strategies to Increase Access to General and Specialty Dental Services* at the Center for Health Workforce Studies, School of Public Health University at Albany State University of New York. The report was published in December 2016.

Current Year: Oct 2017 – Sept 2018

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Community Water Fluoridation Program

The Community Water Fluoridation program (CWF) in Georgia is mandated through state legislation requiring all public community water systems serving over 25 non-transient people to adjust their fluoride levels to the state mandated level. The Oral Health Program contracts with the Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) to monitor and train water plant operators on the safety, benefits, and value of CWF. Water systems with adjustable fluoride levels are required to monitor their fluoride level daily. Each month the Oral Health program monitors the water systems to ensure fluoridation levels are within the recommended range. The Oral Health program also leads the Georgia Fluoride Advisory Committee comprised of GRWA, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Georgia Dental Association (GDA), Georgia Dental Hygienists' Association (GDHA) and DPH. The committee guides the development of policies and advises on the daily operations of the CWF program. Currently, almost 97% of Georgia residents on community water system enjoy the benefits of fluoridated water. The Oral Health program in collaboration with GRWA teaches six fluoridation training classes each year for water plant operators on the safety, benefits, and value of the Community Water. Eighteen trainings and presentations were provided during the current reporting year.

Teledentistry

In the current year, the Teledentistry programs operating in Waycross and Dublin are successful in reaching rural clients.

Family Engagement

Oral Health district coordinators provide outreach to families at the district level. Oral health partners with local schools, and local community organizations to engage and support families around oral health issues. Oral Health strategically partners with Georgia Head Start to deliver evidence-based family engagement strategies to families at the district level.

Georgia Oral Health Coalition (GOHC) The GOHC's mission is to increase access to dental care, prevent and reduce dental caries, periodontal disease, oral-facial trauma, and tobacco use, and detect oral cancer in early stages and reduce its incidence thus, improving oral health and quality of life for all Georgians. Family and community-based organizations are invited to participate in regional oral health coalition meetings and activities.

Oral Health partners with schools, colleges, faith-based organizations, WIC clinics, Special Olympics, senior citizen homes, and other community-based organizations to conduct oral health education and training sessions.

In the current year, Oral Health district staff reached approximately 2,500 families and students, and provided approximately 1,500 oral health supplies, i.e., toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, and distributed approximately 1,000 flyers and brochures.

Cross-Cutting/Systems Building - Application Year

Priority Need: Promote Oral Health Across all Populations

NPM 13: Preventive Dental Visit

Oral health across all MCH populations will continue to be a priority in the coming year for the MCH section with a strategic focus on improving health outcomes for women, infants and children. In the coming year, the Oral Health program will also educate public health district oral health staff on the special considerations and treatment needs for special needs patients.

Community Water Fluoridation

The Fluoridation Specialist will provide six water operator fluoride trainings, participate in ASTDD fluoride committee conference calls each month, attend quarterly fluoride advisory committee meetings, and attend the DRWA Fall and Spring conferences.

Teledentistry

In the coming year, the Oral Health Program plans to expand Teledentistry to additional public health districts. A meeting will be held in August 2018 to discuss this opportunity and plan for the coming year.