

State Action Plan Table

State Action Plan Table (Georgia) - Cross-Cutting/Life Course - Entry 1

Priority Need

Promote oral health among all populations

NPM

A) Percent of women who had a dental visit during pregnancy and B) Percent of children, ages 1 through 17 who had a preventive dental visit in the past year

Objectives

11.1. By 2020, develop a collaborative partnership working with women's health partners and the Chronic Disease Section to promote perinatal oral health

11.2. By 2020, develop an oral health resource database for CYSHCN

11.3. By 2020, increase the education and promotion activities regarding oral health among low-income Hispanic mothers and children from 0 to 8

Strategies

11.1.a. Partner with public health districts, private practices, dental hygiene programs (the Augusta University, Dental College of Georgia) to promote perinatal oral health screenings

11.1.b. Offer comprehensive educational webinars/presentations

11.2.a. Educate public health district oral health staff on special considerations and treatment needs for special needs patients

11.2.b. Determine data sources and begin collecting data to develop a special needs dental access database with location of practices serving special needs children and adults/special services offered, such as general anesthesia, orthodontics, insurance accepted and other specialties

11.3.a. Improve the Oral Health Education Initiative program to include culturally competent messages for low-income Hispanic children and adolescents

ESMs	Status
ESM 13.1 - 11.1.1. Number of comprehensive webinars/presentations offered	Active
ESM 13.2 - 11.1.2. Number of dentists, hygienists and staff educated on four specific dental services for individuals with special needs and the oral health connection and services	Active

NOMs
NOM 14 - Percent of children ages 1 through 17 who have decayed teeth or cavities in the past 12 months
NOM 19 - Percent of children in excellent or very good health

Cross-Cutting/Life Course - Plan for the Application Year

Plan for the Coming Year: Oct 2017 – Sep 2018

Oral health across all MCH populations is a priority for the MCH section and a strategic focus to improving health outcomes for infants and young children.

In the coming year, the Oral Health Program will support four districts to train and educate providers on the health outcomes for pregnant women with poor oral healthcare and tobacco use, and process for using the tobacco quit-line. The Oral Health Program will also educate public health district oral health staff on the special considerations and treatment needs for special needs patients. Education and training on caring for special needs will be condition specific and include evidence-informed practices. Education and training for school-based programs that include all children will continue.

In the coming year, the Fluoridation Specialist will provide 4 – 6 training classes for Georgia water plant operators in conjunction with Georgia Rural Water Association. Routine fluoride advisory meetings will be held in June, September, and December. There will also be coalition and coordinator meetings held in the summer of the upcoming year.

In the 2017-2018 school year, the Oral Health Program plans to open a school-based sealant pilot program in Forsyth County. The Oral Health Program will also work with the Fulton county school district to improve collaboration between public health oral health programs and Fulton county schools. The collaboration will help schools and the Fulton County Oral Health Program identify student eligibility, school specific responsibilities, program responsibilities, estimated costs, and liability for both the program and schools.

Cross-Cutting/Life Course - Annual Report

Reporting Year Oct 2015-Sept 2016

Priority Need: Promote oral health among all populations

NPM 13: Oral Health

Promoting oral health among all populations was determined as a priority need through the 2015 Title V Needs Assessment. The Title V Maternal and Child Health 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. The Oral Health Program focuses on preventing disease and actively engaging partners in private practice (dental and medical), schools, public health, Women, Infants, and Children Food and Nutrition Services Program (WIC), college and university dental and dental hygiene programs, Head Start, and other areas to support prevention education and services.

During the reporting year the Oral Health Program made several accomplishments in their routine program initiatives. Some of those highlights include:

- School-linked Fluoride Programs for high-risk children – Providing approximately 12,000 school-aged children with fluoride treatments.
- Dental Sealants – Placing more than 14,000 sealants on the permanent molars of Georgia's children.
- Dental Health Education – Teaching more than 90,000 school-aged children the importance of proper brushing, flossing, and good nutrition for good dental health.
- Community Water Fluoridation – As of December 2014, over 96% of Georgia's population using public water systems have access to fluoridated water; saving Georgians \$38 in future dental expenditures for each \$1 invested in fluoridation.

Community Water Fluoridation

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 who adjust their fluoride level 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, EPD, Department of Public Health (DPH), DNR, GDA, and GDHA. 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 Fluoridation Program. No major changes have occurred in this program this year.

Children

Georgia legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 12 allowing dental hygienist to practice under "general supervision" at approved dental facilities of the Department of Public Health, Boards of Health, or the Department of Corrections. SB 12 also allows dental hygienist working within the stated parameters to bill Medicaid for reimbursable services. Public health will be able to directly expand preventive oral health services to underserved, children and families. The Oral Health Program has already begun expansion and expansion plans. A clinic in Houston, GA staffed with a dental hygienist opened in January of 2017. The Oral Health Program intends to also expand school-based programs in LaGrange, GA and is mapping underserved areas to determine new locations where dental hygienist could close the gap in access to preventive oral health care.

A presentation was offered twice during the Region IV Head Start Association meeting in Atlanta on the importance of preventing oral disease and community water fluoridation. In addition, the Oral Health Program completed two presentations during an 8-state meeting in Atlanta for Head Start Directors and Educators on pregnancy and infant

oral health.

In addition, the state staff worked with the Georgia Institute of Technology industrial modeling team on access to services. The university has access to county Medicaid oral health data and they are using the data to determine needs, dentist access, barriers to services and assisting our oral health team in most efficient and effective preventive services for those with the most need. This effort will support our ongoing needs assessment for the oral health priority need. Now we have access to this data and dental hygienists in DPH can be reimbursed for preventive services without direct supervision of a dentist therefore, we can expand our reach to the disparate communities the Georgia Tech team has indicated with the biggest access problems.

Pregnant Women

Through partnerships with districts, private practice, education at dental hygiene programs, and in partnership with the Augusta University College of Dental Medicine, the Oral Health Program promoted perinatal oral health screenings, education on caring for pregnant women's oral care needs, guidance on infant oral health home care and pregnancy dental visits.

The MCH section contracts with the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians (GAFP) to promote medical guidelines and health education that improve health outcomes for women and children. The education contract with GAFP resulted in four oral health articles for the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians newsletter. These articles are available to over 2300 members and medical students. In addition to the articles, a face-to-face training on oral health, risk factors, and fluoride varnish was offered on March 5, 2016 at a conclave board meeting. Attendees indicated an intention incorporate fluoride varnish education into their routine visits.

During the reporting year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a funding opportunity announcement to strengthen the partnership between oral health programs and chronic disease programs and develop a collaborative health promotion project. CDC's FOA aims to address common risk factors shared between oral health and chronic diseases; such as tobacco use and obesity. The Oral Health Program collaborated with DPH's Chronic Disease Section to co-author and administer a grant application. Through this project, DPH's oral health program selected one chronic disease risk factor (tobacco use) and worked with chronic disease staff to develop and implement a pilot project targeting young women at high risk of tobacco use during pregnancy.

The grant was awarded to and administered by the Chronic Disease Section who hired a project manager and partnership facilitator to guide the development of the collaboration.

Current Activities: Oct 2016 – Sep 2017

Priority Need: Promote oral health among all populations

NPM 13: Oral Health

The Oral Health Program continues its work to promote preventive oral health among Georgia's underserved populations.

Children

As of October 2016, the district staff partnering with dental hygiene programs will reach more than 20 low-income elementary schools across Georgia and place more than 3,000 sealants on more than 2,000 vulnerable children. In June 2017, the Oral Health Program will be partnering with two dental hygiene programs to place sealants on children in Moultrie, GA.

In January 2017, the sealant coordinator targeted Spanish speaking families for oral health education at Hightower Elementary School where approximately 90% of the students are Hispanic and 94% of the students are eligible for the free and reduced lunch.

In May 2017, the Oral Health Program participated in a book fair for parents and students at Norcross Elementary; a school where according to Department of Education 90% of the students use Spanish as their home language and 86% are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

In January of 2017, GAFF published another encouraging family physicians to include the oral health assessment in routine visits and promote fluoride varnish for among children. In May 2017, GAFF aired a webinar on fluoride varnish. The webinar was recorded and will be available for family practice offices.

All eighteen public health district oral health staff continue to work with local Head Start Programs to promote oral health education, preventive fluoride treatments, and referrals for treatment. The Oral Health Program "Brush-Up" newsletters are distributed quarterly to DPH district staff to share with Head Start programs.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Oral Health Program and Children's Medical Services Program partnered to identify dental offices serving children and youth with special health care needs and create a web-based referral resource (database). Within the current year, the Oral Health Program determined and defined data variables. The database will house information on dental practices offering services to clients with special needs, the form of insurance they accept, whether they are general family practice or a pediatric practice, if they offer general anesthesia, and where they are located. The Georgia Academy of Pediatric Dentistry provided a list of member dentists who treat special needs children. To date data has been collected on providers in six counties.

Pregnant Women

Within the current year, the Oral Health Program and Maternal, Infant and Early Child Home Visitation Program (MIECHV) began a partnership to promote oral health among children and pregnant women. Home visiting nurses will receive a toolkit and training on oral health screening for pregnant women.

MIECHV contractors, the University of Georgia, will include the toolkit and educational plan into the Home Visitation newsletter.

Within the current year, Oral Health Program staff, Chronic Disease staff, and a staff member of Perinatal Health met routinely over the course of several months to learn how to collaborate with one another, define the common agenda, determine the projects vision, mission, goals and objectives, and develop a provider toolkit.

The Georgia Oral Health Coalition and the Georgia Dental Hygienists Association are professional groups that have been targeted to disseminate the tobacco cessation dental provider toolkit. The Oral Health Program presented the oral health chronic disease collaboration to the Georgia Oral Health Coalition and will continue to disseminate information during the regular scheduled meetings. Continuing education credits for learning more about using the DPH Quit-line are offered to the dental health professionals.

Local Oral Health Program staff continue to promote oral health provider training to WIC staff. WIC staff can also receive training online through a recorded webinar. In addition to training WIC staff, local Oral Health Providers began training public health colleagues on condition specific care for CYSHCN.

Teledentistry

The Georgia Department of Public Health champions the use of telehealth to serve Georgia's rural communities. In recent years, the public health telehealth system began expanding to include teledentistry. DPH's teledentistry program at the Waycross Public Health District has been gaining national attention and was recently published in the Oral Health Workforce Research Center's Report; *Case Studies of Six Teledentistry Programs: Strategies to*

Increase Access to General and Specialty Dental Services, December 2016. Georgia currently has two teledentistry programs in Waycross and Dublin that both successfully reach rural clients; women and children.