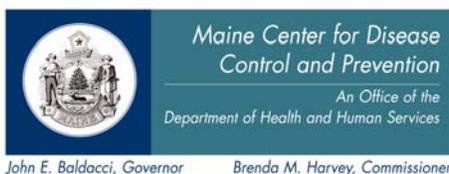


Oral Health

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services

- ❑ Dental disease is an infectious disease that affects both children and adults. It may be the most prevalent and preventable disease known, and for children, it is five times more common than asthma.
- ❑ The 2003-04 Maine Child Health Survey of kindergarten and 3rd grade students showed that, although lower-income children were more likely to have dental insurance, they have poorer oral health. Of the children screened, 73% of kindergartners had never had a cavity; by 3rd grade, only 59% were cavity-free and about 57% of the 3rd graders had at least one dental sealant.
- ❑ In 2007, the percentage of Maine people on public water supplies who have fluoridated water is about 84%. About 49% of Maine people use public water supplies.
- ❑ Few opportunities exist for low-income Maine residents to obtain affordable dental services. Only a few health departments provide an infrastructure for public health services, and there are relatively few private and public non-profit dental clinics throughout the State.



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Good oral health is integral to total health, and is a fundamental condition in healthy, productive lives. Preventive measures such as the use of fluorides, sealants and school-based education programs have greatly reduced the incidence of dental caries in children, but oral diseases still persist among many Maine residents of all ages. These diseases, such as caries and periodontal diseases, are some of the most common health problems in Maine. In the 2006-07 school year, 237 Maine elementary schools participated in the Oral Health Program-funded School Oral Health Program, providing oral health education to over 37,000 children in grades K-6. Many include a fluoride mouth rinse component, and 123 schools include dental sealant components for second-graders. Grants and technical assistance to community agencies and non-profit dental clinics support community-based oral health promotion and provide limited financial assistance in the provision of clinical services to underserved populations.

Program Goals:

The Oral Health Program seeks to improve the oral health of Maine people through:

- ❑ Public leadership to enable communities to prevent, control and reduce oral diseases;
- ❑ Planning, implementing and evaluating programs for oral health promotion and disease prevention;
- ❑ Statewide coordination and integration of community-based oral health services through increased access and removal of barriers.

Priority Populations:

All Maine residents, especially children and those with low incomes.

Program Activities:

- ❑ Providing funding and technical assistance to schools, school districts and community agencies to support school-based oral health education programs, with fluoride supplement and dental sealant components; provides funding to community agencies to support community-based oral health promotion and treatment capacity;
- ❑ Working with other programs in the Maine CDC and within DHHS to provide an oral health presence, by providing training, consultation and technical assistance to assist them in providing oral health education and disease prevention strategies to their clients.;
- ❑ Assisting communities in authorizing community water fluoridation and monitors water fluoridation compliance;
- ❑ Conducting/coordinating studies documenting oral health status and needs and providing technical assistance and consultation to public and community agencies;
- ❑ Providing training and technical assistance to dental and other health professionals on oral health issues.

Funding Sources: Funding is a combination of Maternal & Child Health and Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant funds, other federal grant funds, state special revenues, and the State General Fund.

Budget: FY 2007 - \$1,800,000 (24% Federal funds, 20% General fund, 56% Fund for a Healthy Maine)

Staff Count: 4