

# North Carolina Oral Health Section

[www.oralhealth.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.oralhealth.ncdhhs.gov)

## Serving North Carolina Preventing Dental Disease Protecting Our Children

### DENTAL DISEASE PREVENTION:



- Community water fluoridation – 86 percent of the state's population on community water systems receive the benefit of fluoridation that helps to prevent tooth decay.
- School-based dental sealant program – promotion and placement of dental sealants for children at high risk for tooth decay through community/school-based sealant projects.
- School-based fluoride mouthrinse program – serving children at high risk for tooth decay.
- *Into the Mouth of Babes (IMB)* – trains and supports physicians and nurses in medical offices to provide dental preventive services for children up to age 3½ who are high risk for tooth decay.



### ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE:

- Provide annual dental screenings and referral for dental care for children, focusing on children in kindergarten and 5th grade.
- Assist parents in obtaining needed dental care for their children.
- Work with dentists, local health departments, and safety-net dental clinics to serve as a resource for referrals.
- Identify and arrange for children to receive care during the annual N.C. Dental Society *Give Kids a Smile!* volunteer dental program.
- Build public/private partnerships to promote and support state and local programs and policies.

### ORAL HEALTH MONITORING:



- Annual kindergarten and 5th grade standardized dental screenings gather data to track dental disease levels, treatment needs and the presence of sealants.
- Periodic statewide children's dental surveys are conducted about every 15 years. They provide scientific data for program planning at the state and county levels.



### HEALTH EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION:

- Oral health education messages provide individuals with information about what causes dental disease and how to prevent it. This is achieved through classroom instruction, patient education, educational materials, etc.
- Oral health promotion activities engage individuals to initiate behavioral change to improve their dental health. This is achieved through the website, social marketing, exhibiting at events, etc.

### DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESIDENCY TRAINING:



- Dental public health is one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.
- Dentists in the residency gain advanced training and experience in the specialty. Graduates practice dental public health in an array of health care settings, plan and run community-based public health programs and contribute to the scientific knowledge of public health practice by conducting applied public health research.
- Conducted in partnership with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health.
- North Carolina is one of only a few state health departments providing this specialty training.

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