

Missouri Oral Health Plan 2020-2025



A Five-Year Plan for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Created in Partnership with the Oral Health State Plan Workgroup and Missouri Coalition for Oral Health.

Introduction and Plan Overview for the Office of Dental Health

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) sought the assistance of a multidisciplinary Oral Health State Plan Task Force in order to create a new five-year plan for the years 2020 through 2025. Task Force members were selected due to their expertise and insight necessary to create a focused, yet flexible plan. The multidisciplinary task force included dentists, dental hygienists, dental insurers, charitable foundations and both of Missouri's schools of dentistry. In addition to participating in the Task Force, the Missouri Dental Association and Missouri Primary Care Association have collaborated with DHSS on oral health projects for many years, and their contributions are noted specifically within State Plan objective and action steps.

The Missouri Foundation for Health and the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health provided additional assistance that supported the three task force meetings that were held in 2019. For more information about the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health, see page 18.

During each task force meeting, DHSS provided current statistics on Missouri's oral health status. Those findings, reported in Missouri's first comprehensive oral health burden report (www.health.mo.gov/MOHSS) provided necessary context and urgency for the state plan goals, objectives and action steps.

The result of this collaboration is the Missouri Oral Health Plan 2020-2025. The plan is intended as an update to the previous five-year plan. In contrast to the previous plan that had a broader focus, the plan presented here is intended to primarily guide efforts of DHSS. The resulting document is specific to the public health arena, expertise and areas of responsibility.

Due to this focus, it was natural to use the three public health functions (assessment, policy development and assurance) as the basis for the Plan. The Ten Essential Public Health Services that correspond to the three public health functions have been adapted for oral health programs by the Association for State and Territorial Dental Directors and other professional organizations, the Ten Essential Public Health Services for oral health programs were used as the foundation for the goals and activities included in the Plan.

Additionally, five guiding principles set the tone for the Missouri Oral Health Plan. These guiding principles include responsibility, collaboration, inclusiveness, flexibility and accountability.

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The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services sincerely thanks the members of the State Oral Health Plan Workgroup.

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Goal 1: Support and enhance access to preventive oral health services and appropriate emergency dental care.

Activity 1. Promote efficient access to quality oral health care by enhancing the capacity of the oral health system.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Encourage knowledge sharing and collaboration amongst medical and oral health providers for improved oral health status.
- ◆ Promote the use of case management, community health workers and other methods that assist patients to successfully complete and maintain dental treatment.
- ◆ Support initiatives to discourage the use of hospital emergency departments for non-traumatic dental complaints.
- ◆ Support adult dental benefits under MO HealthNet and encourage expansion of coverage for dentures, partials and other prosthetics for adults as can be done reasonably by MO HealthNet.

Activity 2. Provide Missourians with information on how to access dental services.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Provide a list of community resources that address oral health needs in each Missouri county via the Department website, including but not limited to Federally Qualified Health Centers, local public health agencies and charitable organizations.
- ◆ Provide information on transportation solutions throughout Missouri and work collaboratively with other organizations and MO HealthNet to strengthen transportation resources.
- ◆ Provide Information on MO HealthNet eligibility, covered services and special programs like the Partnership for Hope Waiver provided by the Missouri Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities.

Activity 3. Support efforts to improve access to dental care.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Promote and support the ability of Federally Qualified Health Center dental clinics to service low-income populations, Medicaid recipients and individuals without dental coverage via ongoing collaboration with the Missouri Primary Care Association.
- ◆ Promote safety net clinics and charitable events like the Missouri Mission of Mercy.
- ◆ Promote the utilization of teledentistry services across Missouri.

Goal 2: Provide up-to-date, evidence-based oral health information and best practices to medical and oral health professionals.

Activity 1. Ensure that professionals in the medical setting (including but not limited to physicians, nurses, physician assistants) receive up-to-date information on oral health topics.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Provide up-to-date information to medical professionals about the impact of oral health on overall health and well-being via Department-produced publications or links to evidence-based resources.
- ◆ At the direction of the Office of Dental Health, provide consistent, evidence-based oral health education to physicians (particularly pediatricians) and medical office staff about applying fluoride varnish to prevent tooth decay in children in their practices.
- ◆ Provide school nurses with information and resources to address oral health needs among students.
- ◆ Provide oral health education materials to alternative medical sites such as urgent care and grocery store/pharmacy minute clinics.
- ◆ Educate and promote the use of teledentistry services to medical professionals.

Activity 2. Ensure oral health care providers receive up-to-date information on oral health topics.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Educate oral health professionals about the link between oral health and overall health, including HPV vaccination.
- ◆ Provide oral health professionals with information on evidence-based practices to prevent oral disease across the lifespan.
- ◆ Provide oral health professionals with up-to date information on infection control and pathogen prevention in dental settings.
- ◆ Disseminate information to oral health practitioners on opioid prescribing practices, diversion and abuse.

Activity 3. Ensure public health practitioners receive up-to-date information on oral health topics.

Action Steps:

- ◆ At the direction of the Office of Dental Health, disseminate information to public health practitioners on oral health topics such as community water fluoridation, the burden of oral disease in Missouri, the importance of maternal oral health, the long-term consequences of poor oral health and ways to prevent oral disease.
- ◆ Provide oral health education materials to community health workers for utilization in community-based settings.
- ◆ Educate and promote the use of teledentistry services to public health practitioners.

Activity 4. Provide long-term care facility administrators and staff with up-to-date information about oral health.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Survey older adults to determine oral health status of Missouri.
- ◆ Disseminate information to long-term care facilities about the importance of oral health, basic oral hygiene, how to locate dental services for residents and availability of Medicaid resources.
- ◆ Provide technical assistance and education on the incorporation of teledentistry into long-term care facilities.

Activity 5. Provide one centralized clearinghouse for oral health informational materials to be housed.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Create and manage one online database for oral health informational materials and links to materials from outside resources including MO HealthNet.



Goal 3: Support the development of the oral health workforce.

Activity 1. Support and promote incentive programs that encourage oral health professionals to work in rural and underserved areas.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Cooperate with and promote the Student Loan Repayment Program and National Health Services Corps with the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.
- ◆ Promote incentive programs for oral health students that encourage students to practice in rural and underserved areas.

Activity 2. Support the recruitment and retention of oral health professionals to work in rural and underserved areas.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Collaborate with the Missouri Primary Care Association, Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and the upcoming KCU College of Dental Medicine to recruit, place and retain students that are more likely to provide care to rural and underserved areas.
- ◆ Support dental schools to educate dental students on public oral health programs such as becoming a Medicaid providers and safety net clinics.
- ◆ Support dental school faculty lunch and learns to provide the pros and cons of public health and safety net dental practices that can be later shared with dental students and faculty.
- ◆ Support and promote an increase in dental residency programs in areas of need within the state.
- ◆ Work with community organizations to find ways to support dentists in rural and underserved areas with economic challenges.

Activity 3. Support programs that encourage students to pursue oral health careers.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Collaborate with the Missouri Area Health Education Centers that sponsor pipeline programs that encourage students from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds to pursue oral health careers.
- ◆ Encourage oral health professionals to participate in community-based programs to inform and assist students in choosing oral health as a career.

Activity 4. Explore strategies to expand access to care through innovative approaches to oral health.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Research and promote strategies such as teledentistry that seek to expand access to oral health care in underserved areas.
- ◆ Promote the use of community health workers to promote quality oral health care and education to people in underserved areas.
- ◆ Support initiatives that utilize oral health professionals to the full extent of their education and legal scope of practice.

Activity 5. Assess the capacity and distribution of the oral health workforce.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Compile and analyze data via an integrated, statewide database on the number, profession, practice characteristics, accepted payment sources and geographic distribution of oral health professionals in Missouri.



Goal 4: Identify, investigate, monitor and report on oral health problems, determinants and disparities.

Activity 1. Update and maintain the Missouri Oral Health Surveillance System.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Update the Missouri Oral Health Surveillance system to provide the most up-to-date data possible at the lowest geographic level available.
- ◆ Utilize the Missouri Oral Health Surveillance system to guide implementation changes to address oral health disparities.
- ◆ Increase availability and accessibility of Missouri oral health surveillance data.

Activity 2. Assess oral health status, needs, determinants and disparities.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Acquire data on oral health status, oral health insurance coverage, determinants and other indicators from diverse data sources.
- ◆ Seek out detailed demographic data in order to describe disparities in oral health status by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, region of residence and other social determinants of oral health.
- ◆ Utilize oral health data to implement program and policy changes to improve the oral health status of all Missourians.
- ◆ Monitor oral health status among individuals with chronic diseases, disabilities and other co-factors that adversely affect oral health.
- ◆ Conduct basic screening survey of children, adults and older adults in Missouri to assess oral health status.

Activity 3. Assess community water fluoridation (CWF) status and needs.

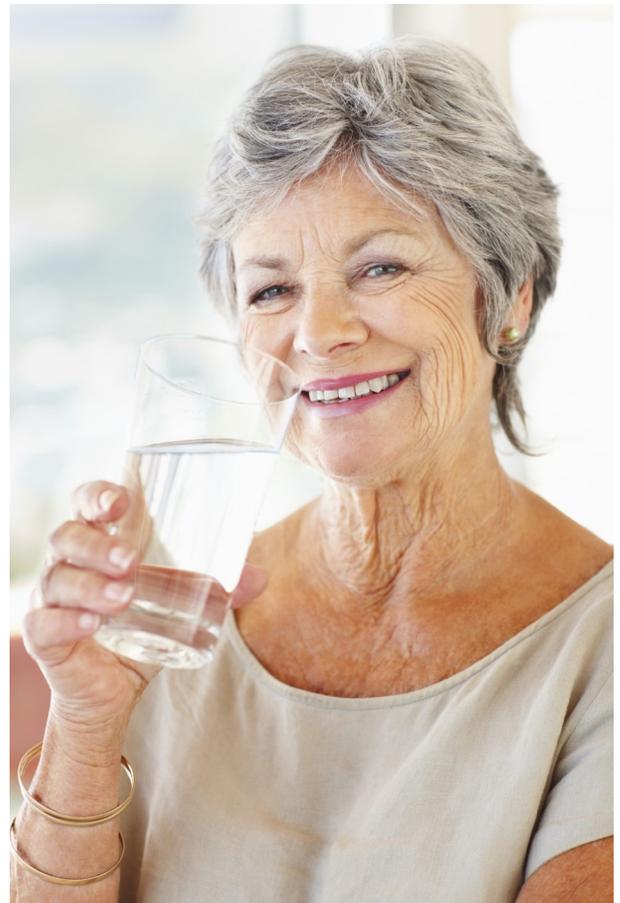
Action Steps:

- ◆ Collaborate with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to acquire CWF data at the water system level and ensure Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Water Fluoridation Reporting System receives updated CWF data for Missouri.
- ◆ Collect information on CWF infrastructure and challenges in order to support communities that choose to fluoridate their water supplies.
- ◆ Implement formation of a statewide fluoridation action committee.

Activity 4. Gather, formulate and disseminate oral health-related data via publications, presentations, data requests, social media and the Missouri Oral Health Surveillance System.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Update and disseminate Oral Health Status in Missouri, such as Missouri’s Oral Health Burden Report.
- ◆ Utilize social media platforms for oral health information sharing.
- ◆ Create and disseminate special reports on oral health-related topics.
- ◆ Provide appropriate interpretation and context for data provided via the Oral Health Surveillance System, publication, presentations and data requests.



Goal 5: Coordinate and participate in policy development aimed at improving oral health in Missouri.

Activity 1. Provide leadership to address oral health-related issues.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Maintain a fully staffed Office of Dental Health and retain State Dental Director position.
- ◆ Actively participate in oral health-related organizations such as the Missouri Dental Association, Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, Missouri Primary Care Association and other oral health organizations.
- ◆ Actively participate in the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health.
- ◆ Provide oral health representation and active participation in organizations that are dedicated to improving Missouri Medicaid programs.
- ◆ Provide oral health representation and active participation on the Medicaid Transformation Program workgroup.
- ◆ Disseminate best practices, models and policy changes with Local Public Health Agencies and other interested organizations.

Activity 2. Develop plans and policies that address oral health issues.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Update, publish and publicly disseminate the Missouri Oral Health Plan at least annually and document process toward accomplishing goals.
- ◆ Participate in the development of MO HealthNet policies related to oral health services including the use of value-based care items.
- ◆ Upon the request of other state agencies, policymakers and/or stakeholders, engage and participate in planning and policy development sessions.

Activity 3. Support partnerships that address oral health needs.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Engage and inform communities that implement oral health projects via technical assistance, letters of support and data.
- ◆ Encourage and collaborate with partners, policymakers, organizations, professionals and other stakeholders on oral health.
- ◆ Support local public health agencies participation in community partnerships related to oral health and encourage inclusion of oral health experts on local coalitions, commissions and advisory boards.

Goal 6: Implement and collaborate with programs that focus on prevention of oral disease.

Activity 1. Support school-based oral disease prevention and education programs.

Action Steps:

- ◆ As funding allows, continue to implement the Preventive Services program, an evidence-based fluoride varnish and oral health education program.
- ◆ Seek funding to promote and administer school-based dental sealant programs, particularly in economically disadvantaged schools.
- ◆ Promote school-based dental clinics to children and communities at-large.
- ◆ Provide oral health take-home education materials for parents of children being seen in school-based programs.

Activity 2. Support tobacco cessation programs at DHSS as measures to prevent periodontal disease and cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Support programs that aim to reduce tobacco and electronic cigarette use.
- ◆ Support initiatives that aim to limit children's access to tobacco products (including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes).
- ◆ Encourage oral health providers to include tobacco cessation in their practice.

Activity 3. Collaborate with programs that outreach to low-income children and their mothers in order to get oral health educational materials, supplies and resources to mothers and children in need.

Action Steps:

- ◆ As funding allows, collaborate with Women, Infants and Children, and the Home Visiting Programs within DHSS to provide oral health education and resources to high-risk mothers and children using materials developed in conjunction with the Missouri Dental Association and other organizations.
- ◆ Outreach to families of young children about oral health via collaborations with Head Start, Title I Preschools and similar educational settings.
- ◆ Outreach to physicians and women about the importance of good maternal oral health care for the health of mothers and infants.
- ◆ Participate with the Missouri Primary Care Association to encourage oral health be addressed in Federally Qualified Health Centers, particularly among pregnant women and children.
- ◆ Collaborate with Bureau of Immunizations within DHSS to educate and disseminate HPV education materials and encourage vaccinations to oral health providers.
- ◆ Outreach to senior population via Area Agencies on Aging to educate on the importance of oral health.
- ◆ Seek funding for home visiting programs to provide information on fluoride varnish applications, other oral health education materials and oral health supplies for families as funding allows.

Activity 4. Promote and support community water fluoridation.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Provide technical support and education to communities that adjust fluoride to maintain or initiate the optimal fluoridation of their water systems.
- ◆ Coordinate among partners to provide educational and technical assistance to address questions about community water fluoridation.
- ◆ Provide education and information on community water fluoridation to improve community perceptions.
- ◆ Develop and disseminate a statewide water fluoridation action plan.
- ◆ Provide education to elected officials and communities regarding the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation for the prevention of tooth decay.



Goal 7: Increase awareness to reduce oral health disparities across the lifespan.

Activity 1. Educate Missourians about oral health.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Educate the public about the keys to good oral health including proper brushing and flossing techniques using culturally and linguistically appropriate literature and messages via outreach, social media and the DHSS website.
- ◆ Educate children about oral health in school, and community based oral health programs and events.

Activity 2. Increase awareness among the general public about the long-term consequences of poor oral health.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Educate the public about the impact of oral health status on overall health especially among expectant mothers and young children, individuals with chronic disease and other high-risk groups.
- ◆ Educate and promote the adoption of healthy eating habits and good nutritional practices including but not limited to reduced sugar sweetened beverages and acidic food/drink consumption.

Activity 3. Ensure educational materials and outreach strategies are culturally, educationally and linguistically appropriate for target populations.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Create educational materials that will communicate most effectively to the population selected for each oral health message, taking culture, gender, age and reading level into consideration.
- ◆ Seek funding for the translation and printing of educational materials into Spanish and other languages needed to target messages optimally.
- ◆ Collaborate with community organizations that have conducted successful outreach to populations selected for education or initiatives, such as faith-based organizations and local partnerships.
- ◆ Study and inform community organizations about oral health racial and minority disparities in the State of Missouri.

Activity 4. Train medical and oral health professionals to educate their patients on oral health topics.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Educate caregivers of intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals on proper oral hygiene techniques and the impact of oral health on overall health.
- ◆ Promote the usage of optimally fluoridated water by children and pregnant women.

Activity 5. As funding allows, support and direct interventions and programs that serve individuals with disabilities.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Collaborate with the Elk's Mobile Dental Unit, which provides dental care for developmentally and intellectually disabled children and adults in underserved areas of Missouri.
- ◆ Collaborate with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide oral health education, screenings and supplies for students at State Schools for the Severely Disabled.
- ◆ As funding allows, support programs that provide specialized training for dental professionals that provide care to individuals with special health care needs.
- ◆ Seek funding to partner with the Missouri Department of Mental Health and other organizations to address oral healthcare needs among individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Activity 6. Support programs that serve older adults in the community and individuals in long-term care facilities.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Collaborate with programs within DHSS and community groups that serve older adults and individuals in long-term care facilities to address oral health issues.
- ◆ Provide education to patients, caregivers and long-term care facility staff on the importance of oral health and proper oral hygiene for those with and without natural teeth.
- ◆ Provide technical assistance to long-term care facilities looking to engage in teledentistry practices for long-term care residents.
- ◆ Seek support for the utilization of silver diamine fluoride for individuals in long-term care facilities.



Goal 8: Implement, evaluate and report on the Missouri Oral Health Plan 2020-2025.

Activity 1. Ensure the Missouri Oral health Plan is followed, updated and adapted where needed.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Use goals and objectives from State Oral Health Plan as a reference point for oral health initiatives implemented by the Office of Dental Health.
- ◆ Promote the goals and objectives from State Oral Health Plan when discussing initiative and projects undertaken by partners.
- ◆ Refer to State Oral Health Plan to develop new projects, address challenges and respond to new opportunities.
- ◆ Routinely report successes and progress on the State Oral Health Plan to stakeholders and staff.
- ◆ Gather stakeholder feedback on the Missouri Oral Health Plan effectiveness and primary plan objectives at least annually.
- ◆ Update the Missouri Oral Health Plan as needed based on guidance from stakeholders and other partners.
- ◆ Plan revision and report outcomes for revising state plan in 2025.
- ◆ Create and disseminate progress report and possible visual dashboard to public, Oral Health State Plan Taskforce members and other stakeholders.

Activity 2. Actively seek opportunities to implement goals outlined in Missouri Oral Health Plan.

Action Steps:

- ◆ Seek out new funding sources and collaborative partnerships that will allow DHSS to achieve goals stated in the Missouri Oral Health Plan.
- ◆ Encourage partners and communities that are implementing projects that align with Missouri Oral Health Plan goals.

About the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health

The Missouri Coalition for Oral Health, a private non-profit 501 (c)(3) advocacy agency, is dedicated to improving Missouri's oral health, including the uninsured, the underserved and those with limited access to health care. The Coalition works to address the significant oral health challenges faced by much of the state's population in the varied and diverse communities of rural, urban and suburban areas of the state.

The Coalition is concerned with the oral health of children, adults and the elderly; the oral health of people of all races and ethnicities; and the oral health of people with special health care needs and disabilities. The Coalition works to increase health equity.

The Coalition is funded by donations, memberships and grants from the Health Forward Foundation and the DentaQuest partnership. The Coalition is a member of the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions, The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and the Oral Health Process and Equity Network. Coalition members include organizations and oral health advocates and professionals throughout Missouri. The resources, perspectives and skills of members are used to move Coalition goals forward while increasing the salience of oral health policy issues.

The Coalition is the only organization in Missouri that is exclusively dedicated to addressing oral health policy issues. The Coalition's policy agenda is formed through a consensus process to ensure the support of a broad-based constituency that includes representation of diverse perspectives on oral health policy. This consensus process allows the Coalition to be poised to convene stakeholders in the undertaking of revising the State Oral Health Plan. The Coalition utilized diverse stakeholders from all facets of Missouri's oral health network to come together and update this plan with guidance from the Office of Dental Health. Workgroup members were selected due to their expertise and insight necessary to create a focused, yet flexible plan. The multidisciplinary workgroup included dentists, dental hygienists, dental insurers, charitable foundations and both of Missouri's schools of dentistry.

During each task force meeting, the Office of Dental Health provided current statistics on Missouri's oral health status. Those findings provided necessary context and urgency for the state plan goals, objectives and action steps. The result of this collaboration is the Missouri Oral Health Plan 2020-2025. The resulting plan is specific to the public health arena, expertise and areas of responsibility. Due to this focus, it was natural to use the three public health functions (assessment, policy development and assurance) as the basis for the Plan. The Ten Essential Public Health Services for oral health programs were used as the foundation for the goals and activities included in the Plan.

