



Oral Health

Oral health is an essential part of overall health. Poor oral health can escalate into far more serious problems later in life. Even though oral diseases are nearly entirely preventable, Colorado kids miss thousands of school hours every year because of mouth pain. Safe, inexpensive preventive measures such as water fluoridation and dental sealants are available, but many children lack access to these interventions, and cavities are still the most common chronic disease of childhood. An estimated 41 percent of working-age Coloradans and approximately 60 percent of Colorado adults over 65 years do not have dental benefits. Access to regular preventive care and interventions is necessary to help Colorado win the battle against oral diseases.

STATEWIDE GOAL: Increase access to evidence-based preventive oral health interventions in Colorado.

STRATEGIES:

1. Increase access to optimally fluoridated water and dental sealants.

Objective 1: By 2020, 79.6 percent of the population in Colorado will be served by community water systems receiving optimally fluoridated water. (Data source: Water Fluoridation Reporting System)

2016 Target: 75 percent of the population

Baseline: 72.4 percent of the population in 2013

Objective 2: By 2020, 52.5 percent of 3rd graders will have one or more dental sealants on permanent molars. (Data Source: Basic Screening Survey)

2016 Target: 50 percent of 3rd graders

Baseline: 45 percent of 3rd graders in 2011/12

Objective 3: By 2020, 21.9 percent of 6 to 9 year-old children enrolled in Medicaid will have received at least one sealant on a permanent molar. (Data source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services data)

2016 Target: 19.9 percent of 6 to 9 year-old children enrolled in Medicaid

Baseline: 19.4 percent of 6 to 9 year-old children enrolled in Medicaid in 2013

Coordinating Agency: CDPHE

Partners in Implementation: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), CDHS, Colorado Department of Education, HRSA Region VIII, Oral Health Colorado, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Dental Hygiene Association, Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Rural Health Center, School of Dental Medicine, graduate schools, LPHAs, regional oral health specialists, Colorado Rural Water Association, Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care, sealant providers, foundations, Oral Health Collaborative, insurers

2. Increase access to dental homes for vulnerable populations.

Objective 1: By 2020, 52.5 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid will receive a dental or oral health service by a medical or dental provider. (Data source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

2016 Target: 50.5 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid

Baseline: 50.0 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid in 2013

Objective 2: By 2020, 8.7 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid will have had a dental visit by age 1 year. (Data source: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)

2016 Target: 7.7 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid

Baseline: 7.2 percent of children enrolled in Medicaid in 2013

Objective 3: By 2020, 322 dentists will be providing a number of significant services (billing at least \$10,000 in the past 12 months) to Medicaid patients. (Data Source: HCPF)

2016 Target: 303 dentists

Baseline: 288 dentists in 2014 (HCPF provider list)

Coordinating Agencies: CDPHE, HCPF

Partners in Implementation: DentaQuest, LPHAs, Colorado Dental Association, CDHS, HRSA Region VIII, Oral Health Colorado, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Dental Hygiene Association, Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Rural Health Center, regional oral health specialists, Colorado Rural Water Association, Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care, sealant providers, foundations, Oral Health Collaborative

3. Decrease untreated dental decay and decay experience in children.

Objective 1: By 2020, 32.1 percent of kindergarteners will have experienced dental decay. (Data source: CDPHE Basic Screening Survey)

2016 Target: 35.7 percent of kindergarteners

Baseline: 39.7 percent of kindergarteners in 2011/12

Objective 2: By 2020, 11.2 percent of kindergarteners will have untreated decay. (Data source: CDPHE Basic Screening Survey)

2016 Target: 12.4 percent of kindergarteners

Baseline: 13.8 percent of kindergarteners in 2011/12

Coordinating Agencies: CDPHE, HCPF

Partners in Implementation: DentaQuest, LPHAs, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Education, Oral Health Colorado, Colorado Dental Association, Colorado Dental Hygiene Association, Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care, Colorado Community Health Network, Colorado Rural Health Center, regional oral health specialists, sealant providers, foundations, Oral Health Collaborative