

Nevada State Health Division
 Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness
 Oral Health Program
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“Optimal Oral Health for all Nevadans.”

The Oral Health Program collaborates with other programs within the Health Division, other state agencies outside of the Health Division, the federal government, the private sector, and the non-profit sector to develop programs and policies to address the oral health needs of the people of Nevada. Funding to support programs and activities is derived through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and from the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.

Activity	Description
Oral Health Plan	The Nevada Oral Health Plan articulates goals, priorities and strategies to improve the oral health of all Nevadans. Multiple stakeholders, using the National Call to Action as a framework, developed the State Oral Health Plan. The plan is updated periodically and the Oral Health Program, in collaboration with local oral health coalitions, monitors and evaluates its implementation.
Oral Health Surveillance	The Oral Health Program monitors the oral health of Nevadans through telephone surveys, oral health screenings, Medicaid data and data collected from safety-net providers throughout the state. This information is published in an annual report used by the private sector, non-profits, government agencies and the legislature to plan and evaluate programs.
Fluoridation	Community water fluoridation is the most effective public health measure to prevent and control dental caries (tooth decay.) The Oral Health Program in cooperation with the Bureau of Health Protection Services, monitors training of water plant operators and inspection of fluoridation equipment. The Program is responsible for maintaining current and accurate data in the national Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS.) In addition the Program provides education regarding community water fluoridation.
Dental Sealants (Seal Nevada)	Dental sealants are a thin plastic coating applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth to reduce tooth decay. In the Seal Nevada program, volunteer dental hygienists use portable dental equipment to apply dental sealants to the permanent molars of second graders in schools where 50% or greater of the children

	enrolled are eligible for the Free and Reduced Meal Program or in rural schools where access to care is limited. The Oral Health Program provides financial, technical and administrative support for Seal Nevada.
Healthy Smile-Happy Child	Early Childhood Caries (ECC), also known as baby bottle tooth decay, is a type of tooth decay found in very young children. The Healthy Smile-Happy Child is an educational program to reduce the incidence of ECC. Training is targeted towards health care professionals, childcare providers and social workers. Participants are able to describe the etiology of tooth decay, identify risk factors associated with ECC, describe the effects of ECC, recognize ECC, teach clients how to examine children for signs of ECC, select appropriate anticipatory guidance to promote good oral health through appropriate feeding practices and hygiene, refer appropriately and apply fluoride varnish if it is within their scope of practice.
Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness (P.A.N.D.A.)	Over 70% of cases of abuse and/or neglect have signs and symptoms in the area of the head, neck or face. In the P.A.N.D.A. Program, training on the recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect is provided to dental and medical professionals, childcare providers, and social workers.
Oral Cancer Prevention and Detection	The Oral Health Program provides training to medical and dental professionals on the detection and prevention of oral cancer. In addition, the program works with agencies such as the Lung Association and Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) to educate consumers on the risk factors associated with oral cancer and the need for oral cancer examinations.
Oral Health Education	The Oral Health Program works to raise consumer awareness of the importance of oral health. This is done through radio and television spots, brochures, direct consumer education in community-based settings such as Family Resource Centers, and participation in health fairs
Coalition Support	The Oral Health Program assists local oral health coalitions by providing technical and administrative support, identifying resources and assisting with evaluation (www.nvoralhealth.org).