

**Delaware Oral Health Plan 2014
Goals and Objectives**

VISION

All members of the Delaware population, regardless of age, ability, or financial status, will achieve optimal oral health through an integrated system which includes prevention, education and appropriate treatment.

Goal 1: Increase the awareness of the importance of oral health to general health across all sectors of the Delaware population, to build both systems and individual behavioral change.

Recommended Action 1. Increase the oral health literacy of all Delaware residents.

Recommended Action 2. Utilize proven strategies to achieve behavior change to support improved oral health.

Goal 2: Integrate oral health care into a comprehensive health care system.

Recommended Action 1. Assure that oral diseases, including caries, periodontal disease and oral/pharyngeal cancer, are recognized and integrated into chronic disease programs.

Recommended Action 2. Build a culture of integrated care throughout Delaware.

Recommended Action 3. Create a supportive environment to identify children who are at risk, and develop an early referral model from primary care practitioners to a dental home.

Goal 3: Promote evidence-based oral health and disease prevention programs to reduce the burden of oral disease among the Delaware population.

Recommended Action 1. Identify and integrate the best available science and evidence-based practices into population-based interventions, clinical practice, and policy.

Recommended Action 2. Maximize successful disease and injury prevention strategies.

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Recommended Action 3. Promote and implement compliance with standards of care to ensure quality in the delivery of oral health care and disease prevention services.

GOAL 4: Assure that the oral health workforce composition is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire population.

Recommended Action 1. Support and coordinate the access initiatives of government and private non-profit organizations with the Delaware Institute of Dental Education and Research (DIDER).

Recommended Action 2. Continue to monitor the workforce capacity and identify future needs to ensure that demands for oral health care are met.

Recommended Action 3. Maximize the availability of oral health care by utilizing providers to the full extent of their training and/or licensure.

Recommended Action 4. Encourage and sustain volunteerism among oral health providers to enhance the ability of the safety net to meet the need of vulnerable populations.

Recommended Action 5. Increase the number of Delaware students who pursue dental careers.

Recommended Action 6. Establish effective recruitment strategies to ensure a workforce that can address dental shortage areas and cultural needs.

Recommended Action 7. Train providers to deliver culturally competent care.

GOAL 5: Develop financing strategies that support coverage and reimbursement for oral health services.

Recommended Action 1. Maintain competitive reimbursement for oral health care.

Recommended Action 2. Expand Medicaid coverage to include basic dental benefits for eligible adults.

Recommended Action 3. Promote commercial dental insurance for families.

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Recommended Action 4. Maximize opportunities within the Affordable Care Act to increase access to oral health care.

GOAL 6: Assure access to oral health care, particularly for those who are vulnerable.

Recommended Action 1. Identify social, economic, environmental and programmatic barriers to oral health.

Recommended Action 2. Pursue strategies to overcome barriers to oral health and improve oral health outcomes.

Recommended Action 3. Assure that all children are receiving necessary oral health services and have a dental home.

Recommended Action 4. Identify and engage community organizations to champion oral health access and disease prevention activities at the local level.

Recommended Action 5. Deliver care in traditional and non-traditional community-based settings (where the people are).

Recommended Action 6. Ensure that oral health care is delivered in the most appropriate and cost effective setting.

Recommended Action 7. Build information and referral systems to link at-risk and vulnerable populations to care.

GOAL 7: Sustain the appropriate infrastructure within state government to provide quality assurance through monitoring and supporting the oral health of the population.

Recommended Action 1. Ensure the allocation of funding from the Delaware state budget for a robust oral health program.

Recommended Action 2. Develop and maintain a comprehensive epidemiological oral health surveillance system to identify, investigate, measure, monitor and prioritize oral health and oral health services.

Recommended Action 3. Utilize surveillance data to guide the development of programmatic interventions.

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Recommended Action 4. Utilize surveillance data to educate and guide the development of policies and initiatives for improving oral health.

Recommended Action 5. Develop the capacity to document, monitor and regularly update information regarding the number of oral health providers, such as dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, practicing in Delaware.

Recommended Action 6. Assure that current and new oral health performance measures, including *Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set* (HEDIS), are included in program planning, implementation, and that the outcomes are measured and reported.

Recommended Action 7. Facilitate public/private partnerships to address oral health needs.

Recommended Action 8. Develop and coordinate population-based oral health programs to assure assessment of needs, availability of services, and development of appropriate policy.

Recommended Action 9. Improve the efficacy and quality of oral health services by developing and implementing evaluation protocols for use in all service settings.

Recommended Action 10. Create a statewide clearinghouse to serve as a resource for information on existing oral health programs, technical support, funding consultation and successful public health models.

Recommended Action 11. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the state oral health plan.

Goal 8: Increase partnerships and collaborations to build and maintain a coordinated advocacy initiative to improve oral health systems in Delaware.

Recommended Action 1. Enhance and sustain the Delaware Oral Health Coalition.

Recommended Action 2. Foster partnerships among agencies and organizations to include oral health in general health programs.



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Recommended Action 3. Develop and recommend oral health policy initiatives for implementation statewide.

