

## **State Oral Health Plan Comparison Tool Summary Analysis** *Updated June 28, 2011*

The *State Oral Health Plan Comparison Tool* (“Comparison Tool”) documents the 40 states with state oral health plans.. The plans range in (latest) adoption date from 2002 to 2011. Seventeen of these states are among the group of 19 states<sup>1</sup> currently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the State-Based Oral Disease Prevention Program.<sup>2</sup>

In order to better analyze the oral health plans, 22 categories were created in addition to a miscellaneous category. Some notable trends are:

- Of the states with oral health plans, 73% address at least 15 of categories within their plans’ objectives.
- The categories most often addressed in state oral health plan goals and objectives are:
  - Access to care (93%);
  - Fluoridation (93%);
  - Increasing policymaker and public awareness of oral health (90%);
  - Surveillance/data reporting/outcomes targets (88%);
  - Workforce issues (88%); and
  - Sealants (88%).
- The categories least often addressed in state oral health plan goals and objectives are:
  - State leadership (45%);
  - Pregnant women (53%);
  - Tobacco and alcohol users/Cancer prevention (55%);
  - Cultural competence of care (55%)
  - Disabled/special needs (58%); and
  - Seniors (60%).

Many state plans generally discuss addressing at-risk populations, although fewer raise specific oral health issues related to seniors, disabled/special needs, and pregnant women.

When comparing CDC-funded states versus non-CDC-funded states, the Comparison Tool indicates that CDC funded states have more extensive oral health plans than states which have not received CDC funding. Most notably:

- 79% of states currently funded by CDC listed objectives in 15 or more categories identified in the state oral health plan matrix.
- 62% of states which are not funded for infrastructure listed objectives in 15 or more categories in the state oral health plan matrix.

Comparisons between thematically similar categories were also performed. Notably:

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<sup>1</sup> The current CDC-funded states are Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Wisconsin and Georgia are the current CDC-funded states without a state oral health plan.

<sup>2</sup> A program focused on building state oral health program infrastructure and capacity to prevent oral disease and promote oral health.

- Objectives for fluoridation programs and sealant programs: 92% of states with objectives related to fluoridation programs also do so for sealants programs. Conversely, 97% of states that note goals towards the use of sealants also do so for fluoride.
- Objectives for management/integration of health services/continuity of care and safety-net/underserved areas: 90% of states with stated objectives to increase care management/integration of health services/continuity of care also do so for safety-net/underserved areas. Conversely, 90% of states with stated objectives to improve care in the safety-net/underserved areas also do so for case management/integration of health services/continuity of care.