



Section Goals

The North Carolina Oral Health Section has five goals that support its key objective to promote conditions in which all North Carolinians can achieve oral health as part of overall health.

- Goal I: Monitor the public's oral health
- Goal II: Reduce oral disease through prevention
- Goal III: Increase access to dental care
- Goal IV: Oral health education and promotion
- Goal V: Train and expand the oral health workforce

Leadership, training and partnership

Oral Health Surveillance
Previous Surveillance

In the past the OHS conducted annual kindergarten assessments.

- Data was for North Carolina
- Data was on a county level
- Each hygienist had counties for which they were responsible
- Some had only one county, others had as many as 7
- County assignment depended on proximity and population

Counties with their own Public Health Dental Hygienist conducted their own assessments and shared their data with our program.



Oral Health Surveillance
The need for innovation and change

In the past the OHS conducted annual kindergarten assessments.

- The state has 25 remaining hygienists
- These hygienists were covering two-thirds of the counties (64)
- Two-thirds of those counties made up 10% of NC population

THUS

- We have moved to a Regional Model to **cover the entire state**
- **This brings the state program to a state level**



Oral Health Surveillance
National Partners

- **ASTDD** and **CDC** created the **BSS** (Basic Screening Survey: An Approach to Monitoring Community Oral Health).
- States report their **BSS** data to the **NOHSS**

NC Oral Surveillance data has never been shared with our national partners!

- Our data didn't collect what the NOHSS data fields requested
- We are changing to collect the BSS data
- We are changing to collect data on more populations
- This BSS will be shared with the NOHSS



Oral Health Surveillance
Surveillance in other population groups

In addition to our yearly kindergarten screening will also monitor oral health status in different population groups:

- Year 1. **Frail elderly** **2015-2016**
- Year 2. **Pregnant women** **2016**
- Year 3. **Third grade** survey
- Year 4. **Early childhood/ Tenth grade** (high school)
- Year 5. **Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled (IDD)**

After five years we can begin the above rotation again.



Oral Health Surveillance

Basic Screening Survey

- The BSS measures and monitors the burden of oral disease at a level consistent with the Healthy People oral health objectives.
- Information noted through BSS tool:
 - the prevalence of dental caries experience,
 - untreated dental decay,
 - dental sealants,
 - permanent tooth loss,
 - oral and pharyngeal cancer,
 - destructive periodontal disease, and
 - use of the dental care system.



Oral Health Surveillance

Expanded Oral Surveillance

Last year we conducted the state's firsts BSS in the frail elderly. We screened in assisted living facilities

- Data is being evaluated and will be sent to NOHSS
- Reports will be used to create our Special Care Dentistry program
- Data will be used to support policy change

This summer we hope to partner with LHD offering pregnancy primary care services to conduct the state's first BSS in pregnant women

- Data will be evaluated and reported to the NOHSS
- Reports will be sent to the newly formed NC Perinatal Oral Health Task Force
- Data will support policy change



What does this look like for partnership?

- For kindergarten screening:
 - Coverage (statewide) is increasing
 - Number of schools decreasing
 - Data collection is changing
 - For now, all data we report should be recorded by Section hygienists
- For pregnancy screening:
 - Data not collected before → gather baseline data
 - Will have Section hygienists go to health departments and partner with nursing staff
- We hope to screen in all 67 Local Health Departments offering primary care services to pregnant women

Pregnancy Basic Screening Survey

- We understand that minimum disruption is essential.
- We will only ask to screen for one or two days.
 - The screening will take less than five minutes.
 - The accompanying questionnaire will take another ten minutes.
 - No x-rays will be taken.
 - No dental treatment will be provided.
- Patients will have the opportunity to participate of their own will.
- In appreciation for their time and participation we will give each participant a small gift bag
 1. with an oral health board book,
 2. adult toothbrush and
 3. toothpaste,
 4. and toddler sized toothbrush and toothpaste

Pregnancy Oral Screening

- We will need space to conduct the oral screening
 - Preferably a private exam room
 - The pregnant woman can sit
 - She can bring her other children with her if she'd like
 - We don't need a dental patient chair

- We may need health department nurses and support staff to promote our screening with pregnant patients as they arrive to their appointment
 - We may need nurses to remind their pregnant patients to visit our team on their way out of the clinic

- Our goal is to be as non-disruptive as possible, so let us know how we can best screen in your facility

Surveillance is Changing in OHS

- Innovation and growth → update our oral surveillance
 - Targeted populations
 - Sample size
 - Data collected
 - Reporting to national partners

- Please be supportive as these changes take shape
The OHS believes in Leadership → Training → Partnership

- We will need the support and partnership of locally employed dental hygienists to gain access to schools and screen at the same time they collect their OH data.
 - We will train them on our methods in the near future.
- We need the support of health department nurses as we screen in health departments this summer.