
Future Directions at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)

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Promote, Monitor and Improve Oral Health Across Massachusetts

- Maintain current burden document
 - Update expected soon
 - Emphasize evidence-based prevention and screening
 - Support expanded treatment using community standards where needed
 - Support workforce development
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Population Based Prevention Activities - Fluoridation

- Continue to work directly and collaboratively to support efforts to maintain and expand fluoridation in Massachusetts
 - Continue our funding of wellness grant to Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to support fluoridation efforts
 - Survey of Boards of Health
 - Most recent community to move to complete fluoridation was Woburn in 2008
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Screen and prevent disease among neediest populations

- Developmentally disabled
 - Elders
 - Children
 - Low-income uninsured
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Developmentally Disabled

- Continue our work with Tufts to support delivery of services for screening, prevention and treatment for developmentally disabled persons
 - Work cooperatively with EOHHS, MassHealth, DMR (DDS) and organized dentistry to ensure coverage of services to this population
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Elders

- Statewide assessment of elders underway in partnership with Harvard Dental School
 - Random sampling of at least 42 sites including community-based and residential sites
 - Assessment period March-July, 2009 and report expected in fall
 - Support work of ombudspersons who monitor care of elders in nursing homes
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Children

- Goal to ensure all children receive evidence-based screening and prevention services
- Work collaboratively through school-based programs
- Use of portable dental equipment and dental hygienists to expand access
- Example: Springfield – currently at 13 schools and expanding next year

Low-income uninsured

- Bi-annual assessment of Community Health Center (CHC) Dental Programs
- Assessment tracks
 - overall capacity at each CHC;
 - foreign language skills;
 - annual patient visits
 - patient payor mix; and
 - presence of school programs
- Directory planned in conjunction with Mass League

BLOCK toolkit

- Educates child health providers on the oral health needs of children with special health needs
 - Supports training of doctors and nurses to provide fluoride varnish
 - 280 child medical providers trained to date
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Collaborate on planning efforts

- Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition
 - Massachusetts Coalition for Oral Health
 - Continue partnerships within state government to promote oral health including:
 - Office of Acute and Ambulatory Care (MassHealth)
 - DMR (DDS), DCF, DESE, EEC, EOEA
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Build upon new legislation:

Chapter 530 of the Acts of 2008

- New law to support dental hygienists work as public health dental hygienists (PHDH) and career ladder for dental assistants
 - Working on regulations related to PHDH
 - Supporting implementation of new law with respect to registration of dental assistants
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Integrate efforts

- Insure oral health is part of integrated efforts and broader goals including:
 - Wellness
 - Chronic disease integration
 - Reduction/elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities
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