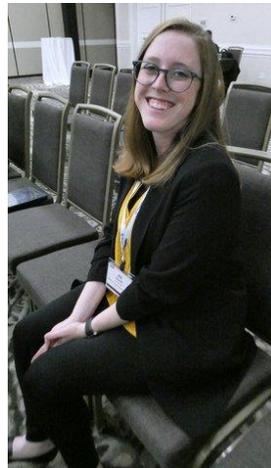


# The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

## 2023 Annual Report

### Faces of Our Family



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## Foreword

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As we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), fondly termed our Diamond Jubilee, it was with great excitement and anticipation that we embarked upon this pivotal journey of reflection and forward-thinking for this past year. "Telling Our Story and Looking to the Future" encapsulated not only our rich history but also our unwavering commitment to growth and collaboration.

In commemorating this milestone, we acknowledge the indispensable role played by our national, state, and local partners. Our collective success hinges upon the strength of these relationships. None of us can navigate the complexities of oral health advocacy and policy implementation in isolation. Instead, it is through coordination and collaboration that we can truly realize our shared vision of improved oral health for all.

Within the diverse tapestry of our membership lies a profound understanding of the necessity for partnership. Each stakeholder brings invaluable insights and expertise to the table. ASTDD recognizes and cherishes this diversity, striving to facilitate collaboration by offering resources from best practices to technical assistance.

This year's annual report serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to collaboration. It shines a spotlight on the remarkable achievements made possible through our collective efforts and underscores the deep appreciation we hold for our partners. As you peruse its pages, may you find inspiration in the success stories, and may it ignite within you a renewed zeal for collaboration.

Together, let us continue to chart a course to a future where optimal oral health is a reality for all. We invite you to join us on this journey, to share in our triumphs, and to explore new avenues for collaboration that will propel us ever closer to our shared goals.



*Warm Regards,*

*Julia Wacloff, MSPH, RDH*

*ASTDD President*

Website: [www.astdd.org](http://www.astdd.org)

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com>

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[https://www.linkedin.com/  
company/association-of-  
state-territorial-dental-  
directors](https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-state-territorial-dental-directors)

### ASTDD Central Office

Christine Wood, RDH, BS, Executive Director  
3858 Cashill Blvd, Reno, Nevada 89509  
775-626-5008/ [cwood@astdd.org](mailto:cwood@astdd.org)

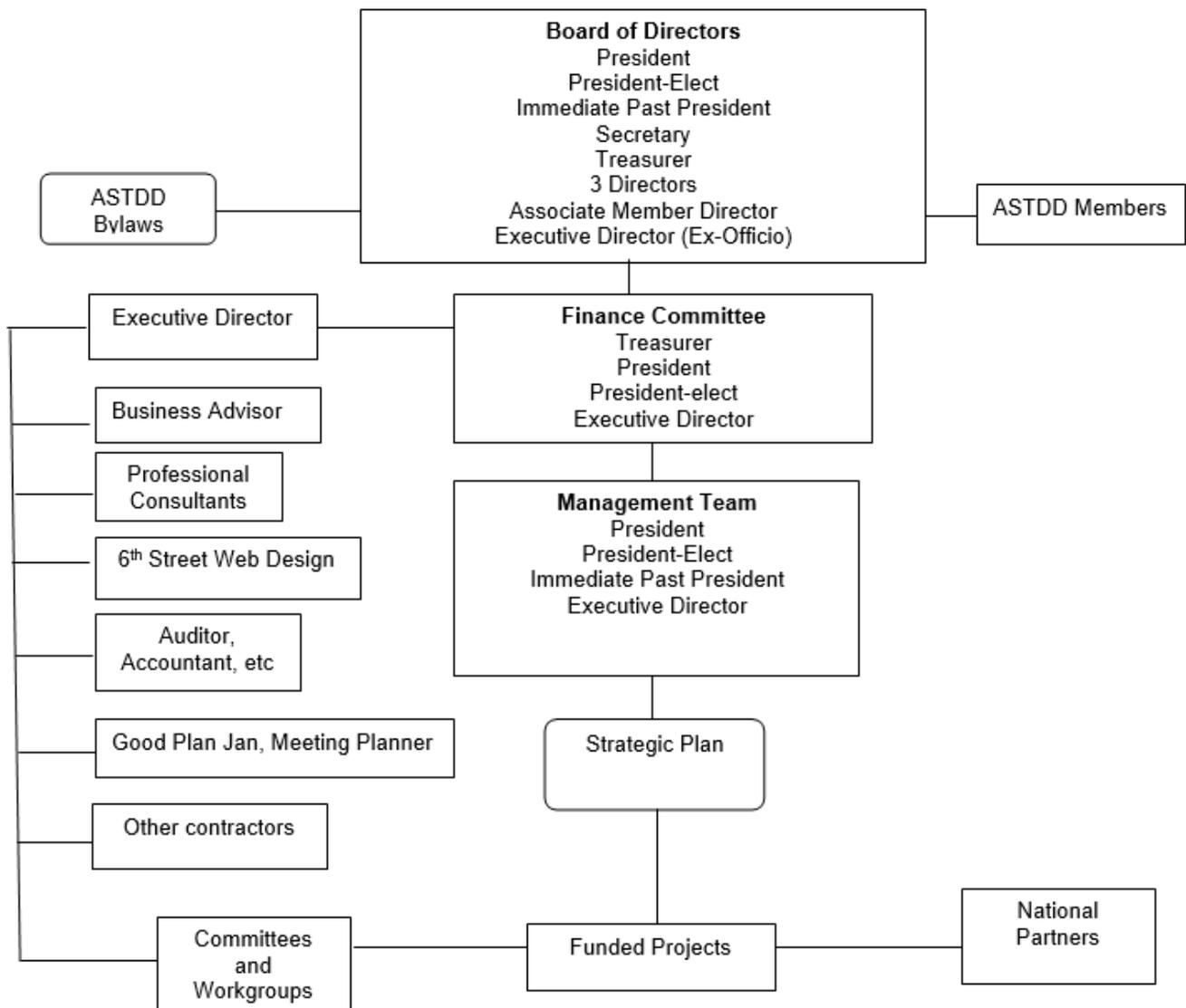
Report written by Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS

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## Who We Are

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a national non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state/territorial public health agency programs for oral health (S/TOHP). Organized in 1948, it is one of 20 affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of national dental public health policy, assists S/TOHP in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases; builds awareness and strengthens dental public health professionals' knowledge and skills by developing best practice approach reports and policy statements; provides information on oral health to health officials and policy makers, and conducts conferences for the dental public health community. Primary membership includes the chief dental public health officer (dental director) of the state/territorial health department or equivalent agency. ASTDD also offers Individual or Organizational Associate Membership to any public agency, voluntary organization, tribal entity and/or health professionals employed or interested in dental public health.



## Strategic Map 2022-2024 (to be reviewed 4/24)

**VISION:** A strong and effective governmental oral health presence in states and territories to assure optimal oral health

**MISSION:** To support state and territorial oral health programs, address health equity, integrate oral health into overall health, and promote evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices

<b>Build Infrastructure &amp; Capacity of S/TOHPs</b>	<b>Provide Guidance &amp; Resources to S/TOHPs</b>	<b>Assure ASTDD Organizational Effectiveness &amp; Sustainability</b>	<b>Serve as the Collective Voice for S/TOHPs</b>
<p>Strengthen &amp; Maintain S/TOHP Leadership &amp; Help Build S/TOHP Workforce Competence</p> <p>Support Professional Development &amp; Mentoring for S/TOHP Leadership &amp; Staff</p> <p>Assess &amp; Respond to Member Needs Related to Infrastructure &amp; Capacity</p> <p>Promote &amp; Enhance Peer Connections &amp; Communication among S/TOHPs</p> <p>Build Support among National, State &amp; Territorial Policy Makers, Funders &amp; Advocates for S/TOHPs</p>	<p>Promote Use of Evidence-based and Evidence-informed Policies &amp; Practices</p> <p>Identify &amp; Analyze Emerging Issues &amp; Promising Approaches</p> <p>Provide Tools &amp; Technical Assistance to Evaluate &amp; Improve S/TOHP Policies, Plans, Programs, Surveillance Systems, Communications, Program Accountability &amp; Partnerships</p> <p>Promote &amp; Facilitate Internal &amp; External S/TOHP Collaborations</p> <p>Promote Collection, Analysis &amp; Use of Data to Inform Planning, Decision-making &amp; Evaluation</p>	<p>Assure ASTDD Fiscal, Operational &amp; Programmatic Sustainability</p> <p>Assure ASTDD Staffing/ Consultant Capacity &amp; Expertise</p> <p>Promote Membership in ASTDD</p> <p>Engage &amp; Cultivate Leaders with Diverse Perspectives &amp; Skill Sets</p> <p>Maintain &amp; Support a Responsive Structure to Address Key Issues</p> <p>Strengthen Member Engagement</p> <p>Assure Strategic Communication</p> <p>Develop &amp; Assure ASTDD Leadership</p> <p>Maintain an Informed Board to Provide Governance, Strategic Planning &amp; Support</p>	<p>Identify &amp; Address Cross-Cutting Issues &amp; Opportunities</p> <p>Build Consensus on Key Issues</p> <p>Serve as a Leader on S/TOHP Practice, Policy, Research, Analytics &amp; Communication</p> <p>Collect, Disseminate &amp; Promote Use of Data &amp; Information about S/TOHPs</p> <p>Promote Use of State &amp; Territorial Oral Health Data</p>
Serve a Primary Leadership Role in the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC)			
Cultivate Accountability & Continuous Quality Improvement			
Identify & Strengthen Diverse & Strategic Partnerships Consistent with the ASTDD Mission			
Promote Oral Health across the Life Course through Community & Population Approaches			
Strive to Achieve Oral Health Equity			
Foster Oral Health Literacy			

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## Our Values

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### ❖ Oral Health for Everyone

Oral health is essential to health. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to achieve optimal oral health.

### ❖ State and Territorial Oral Health Programs

State and territorial oral health programs do the challenging work of assuring the oral health of populations, especially those who experience the greatest disparities. We believe they should have the resources required to be effective in their work.

### ❖ Prevention

Almost all oral disease is preventable. We believe that there should be broad awareness of and support for prevention and that oral health problems should be addressed as early as possible to reduce their severity and related health issues.

### ❖ Diversity

We value the individuality, culture, professional backgrounds, and competencies of our members and the diversity of the populations who they serve. Our combined perspectives can strengthen the ability to create a strong and effective governmental oral health presence in every state and territory.

### ❖ Member Contribution

We value and depend upon the involvement of our members, both in the work of our organization and in national efforts to promote optimal oral health.

### ❖ Competency

We value a knowledgeable and skilled public oral health workforce. We believe that achieving a highly competent workforce requires formal education, continuous learning, mentoring, and leadership development, as well as policies, programs, and resources that promote and support increased competency.

### ❖ Science-Based Learning

We value lessons learned from the application of scientific principles. We believe the work we do should be grounded in data, research, and rigorous evaluation.

### ❖ Collaborative Leadership

We value those individuals, agencies, and organizations with whom we interact. We believe that together we can successfully carry out our unique missions and achieve our shared vision.

### ❖ Accountability

We value being as good as our word and good stewards of our resources. We believe that our focus should always be on the results of our activities.

### ❖ Integrity

We value fairness and impartiality and seek to engender the respect of all with whom we interact.

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## Leadership, Subject Matter Expertise and National Presence

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### Members of the Board of Directors (BOD) as of April 2023

Pictured in order left to right. President: **Julia Wacloff, MSPH, RDH (AZ)**; President-Elect: **Russ Dunkel, DDS, BS, BA, FACD, FAID (WI)**; Immediate Past President: **Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA (MI)**; Secretary: **Robin Miller, RDH, MPH (VT)**; Treasurer: **Mona Van Kanegan, DDS, MS, MPH (IL)**; Director: **Debony Hughes, DDS, MPH (MD)**; Director: **Tommy Johnson, DMD (AL)**; Director: **Angela Filzen, DDS (MS)**; Associate Member Director: **John Welby, MS (MD)**; Ex Officio Member: **Christine Wood, RDH, BS**, Executive Director. The Annual Business Meeting was attended via ZOOM on March 2 by 29 dental directors or their proxies and 57 associate members. New BOD members were installed at an in-person ceremony on Sunday prior to the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) on April 16, and the BOD met in person on April 15 and 16 to conduct business. The BOD met monthly via ZOOM to conduct business and communicated regularly via email.



### Administrative



Left to right:

- Christine Wood, RDH, BS**, Executive Director
- Cheryl Thomas**, Business Manager
- Bradley Cummins, BA, BS** Sixth Street Design & Marketing, LLC, Website and Listserv Hosting/Maintenance

### Committees

#### Standing Committees

**ASTDD Awards Committee:** ASTDD President; **Nominating Committee:** ASTDD Past-President; **Annual Meeting Committee:** President and President-Elect

#### Ad-Hoc Committee Chairs

**Pictured from left to right. Best Practices:** Steven Geiermann, DDS; **Communications:** John Welby, MS; **Dental Public Health Policy:** Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH; **Fluorides:** Bruce Austin, DMD; **Healthy Aging:** Samuel Zwetchkenbaum, DDS, MPH; **Perinatal Oral Health:** Mark Moss, DDS, PhD; **School and Adolescent Oral Health:** Rudy Blea, BA



Ad-hoc Committee activities are led by the Chairperson and a Subject Matter Expert (SME) with more than 150 ASTDD members and non-members participating in committee activities throughout the year. Some committees also have working groups for specific projects or Communities of Practice (CoP) and may invite guest speakers to provide expertise on a specific topic or enlist the help of dental public health professionals or graduate students to serve as authors or reviewers for documents. See more information in the Committee Activities section.

## Subject Matter Experts

In addition to coordinating committee activities, subject matter experts (SME) provide technical assistance (TA) to S/TOHP and other ASTDD members; provide input into ASTDD grant applications and progress reports; interface with other state, regional and national groups; serve as SME/authors for documents and online curricula; serve as presenters, facilitators or moderators for webinars, NOHC sessions and other conferences; and provide monthly and annual reports of their activities that are shared with each other, with the BOD, and in *Roundup* and the *ASTDD Annual Report*.

**Best Practices:** Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH; **Children with Special Health Care Needs:** Jay Balzer, DMD, MPH; **Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement:** Kimberlie Payne, RDH, BA; Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH; Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH; **Health Communications:** Kimberlie Payne, RDH, BA; Matt Jacob, BA; **Data and OH Surveillance:** Michael Manz, DDS, MPH, DrPH; Kathy Phipps, DrPH; Sahiti Bhaskara, BDS, MPH; Brooke Mehner, BS, MPH; **Dental Public Health Infrastructure:** Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS; Julie Ann Janssen, RDH, MPH; **Dental Public Health Policy:** Judith Feinstein, MSPH; **Evaluation/Quality Improvement:** Emory Centers for Training and Technical Assistance: Mary Davis, DrPH, MSPH; JoAnna L. Hillman, MPH; Maggie Pustinger, MPH, CHES; Kristin Giordana, MPH; **Fluorides:** Judith Feinstein, MSPH; **Head Start:** Kathy Hunt, RDH, ECPII; Gina Sharps, BSDH, MPH; Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS; **Healthy Aging:** Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH; **Maternal and Child Health:** Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH; Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH; Kimberlie Payne, RDH, BA; **Peer Support:** Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH; **School and Adolescent Oral Health:** Lori Kepler Cofano, RDH, BSDH; **School-based Dental Sealant Programs:** Sandy Tesch, RDH, MSHP; **Territorial Support:** Reginald Louie, DDS, MPH; Ohnmar Tut, BDS, MPhil; **Writer/Editor:** Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS.



## National Presence

Many ASTDD members served on the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) Response Teams and participated in OPEN webinars, calls, and on OPEN Communities. Chris Wood continued on the National Oral Health Connection Team (NOHCT) and Kimberlie Payne served on a Regional Oral Health Connection Team (ROHTC) as the state representative for Arizona.

ASTDD held quarterly calls with Natalia Chalmers, Chief Dental Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She discussed the results of a spring 2022 CMS survey, Oral Health Human-Centered Design Customer Engagement, where they engaged directly with a broad range of external customers. Angela Filzen, dental director and an ASTDD BOD member, was nominated and selected to serve on the 2026 Medicaid and CHIP and Adult Core Sets Annual Review Workgroup. Chris Farrell was selected to participate in the 2023 Medicaid and CHIP Oral Health Initiative Workgroup convened by Mathematica. The Workgroup's task is to assess current gaps related to oral health and access to care for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries and to recommend strategic priorities for the next phase of the CMS Oral Health Initiative.

The ASTDD leadership and consultants participated in regular calls with the CDC's Division of Oral Health (CDC) leadership and staff around national issues and our cooperative agreement activities.

ASTDD leadership held collaboration calls with Indian Health Service (IHS) representatives in June, July and October.

In preparation for our new collaboration with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and their Health Equity Council, Robyn Taylor, Vice President of NACDD's Center for Justice in Public Health, conducted a wonderful webinar on November 15 on *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice, and Dental Public Health* with 82 ASTDD member attendees.

ASTDD continues to collaborate with the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health on a revamp of the National Oral Health Data Portal, funding for selected documents, and support for the National Oral Health conference (see separate updates).

The BOD voted to join the [American Teledentistry Association](#). Their mission is to improve access to care for patients without restrictions by boards and/or legislation limiting access to alternative delivery sites.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is in the process of developing guidance for their members on the implementation of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) application in pediatric practice, with funding from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. Harry Goodman, ASTDD consultant and previous MD dental director, and Lori Cofano, consultant, agreed to participate on behalf of ASTDD. It will be finalized in early 2024.

Harry Goodman, presented on August 30, *Jack of All Trades, Master of None: One State Dental Director's Perspective*, as part of CDC's Dental Public Health Webinar series. He included information on *ASTDD Competencies and Guidelines for State Oral Health Programs*. ASTDD was also represented on the August 30 Healthy People 2030 webcast, *Increasing the Proportion of Children & Adolescents Who Have Dental Sealants on 1 or More Molars (OH-10)*, by Amy Umphlett, Oral Health Operations & Policy Analyst at the Oregon Health Authority and acting dental director in Oregon.

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## New Beginnings, Awards, Membership, Peer Support, Funding and Sustainability

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### Some Retirements and New Beginnings in 2023

**JoAnn Hillman, MPH** retired after seven years of working with ASTDD and Emory to pursue some more personal time with her family, especially her newest one, Luca, and contemplate the next phase of her career. At the same time, we want to welcome **Kristin Giordana, MPH** to the ASTDD Emory evaluation team. For the past four years she has managed and contributed to mixed methods evaluation and learning projects for multisector partnerships including work in community health, education, and economic opportunity.

**Casey Hannan, MPH**, who served as Acting Director of CDC's Division of Oral Health from April 2016 to April 2020 and as Director from April 2020 to December 2023, has retired after serving in many other administrative rolls during 27 years of federal service at CDC. We would like to thank Casey for all the contributions he made nationally and to the states.

**Gina Thornton-Evan, DDS, MPH**, previously the Director of the Dental Public Health Residency Program and Team Lead for Surveillance, Investigations, and Research for the Division of Oral Health, will now serve as Acting Director until a full-time Dental Director can be hired.

**Lynn Bethel Short, RDH, MPH** recently stepped down having served as the School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee chair for many years, most recently as chair of the Social Meia Workgroup. She previously was dental director for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and as faculty with the School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Reno. We'd like to thank Lynn for her dedication and hard work in those roles!

**Renee Joskow, DDS, MPH** left the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to serve as Dental Officer/Clinical Reviewer at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We always appreciate her support for various projects and at the NOHC.

### ASTDD Awards

**NOHC Awards Ceremony** (see more details and photos in the 2023 [Roundup special issue](#))



#### ADA/ASTDD/CDC

#### COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION (CWF) AWARDS Honoring 78 Years of Community Water Fluoridation in the United States

**Special Merit Award:** Given to recognize an outstanding contribution toward the progress of fluoridation, **Gwen Sullentrup**, is the Community Water Fluoridation and Dental Sealant Coordinator in the Office of Dental Health for the State of Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services.

#### CWF Community Awards

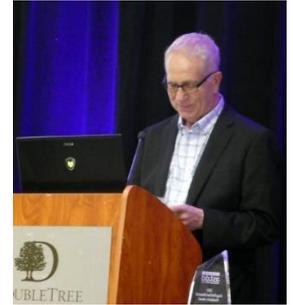
- **Fifty Year Awards:** 106 water systems in 26 states (see list of states in the 2023 [Fluoridation Awards brochure](#))
- **Systems Reaching 75 Years of Continuous Water Fluoridation:** Evanston, Illinois

- **2022 Community Fluoridation Initiation Awards:** Camden County Public Water Supply District #4, Shawnee Bend, Missouri
- **2022 Community Fluoridation Reaffirmation Awards:** 7 cities in 4 states
- **2022 State Fluoridation Quality Awards:** Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan

### ASTDD Outstanding Achievement Award

Given to a state/territorial dental director in good standing for at least 5 years who has made a significant contribution to ASTDD programs, initiatives, or the field of dental public health.

**Rudy Blea, BA**, recently retired as New Mexico Department of Health’s Oral Health Program Manager but continues to serve as Chair of ASTDD’s School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee.



### ASTDD Distinguished Service Award

Given to an individual or an organization that has made a significant contribution to ASTDD programs, initiatives, or the broader field of dental public health—this year to **Matt Jacob, BA** of Jacob Strategies and an ASTDD Communications Consultant, and **John Welby, MS**, Director of Social Marketing and Health Literacy for the Maryland Office of Oral Health and chair of ASTDD’s Communications Committee.



### Greg McClure Memorial President's Award

**M. Dean Perkins, DDS, MPH**, was previously the Missouri Dental Director from 1991 to 2003, serving in all ASTDD leadership positions on the BOD, and served as the ASTDD Executive Director from 2000-2009. Dean retired in January 2023 as ASTDD’s Webmaster and Executive Director Emeritus. ASTDD also is renaming the Distinguished Service Award the M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award starting in 2024. We applaud Dean for his lifetime of dedication to public service and improving the oral health of our nation as well as the infrastructure that is needed to advance improvements.



### Membership and Peer Support

In 2023 we added 176 new Associate Members bringing our total Associate Membership at the end of 2023 to 558, with more than half associated with S/TOHP. Other membership categories include State/Territorial programs—Dental Directors (62), Life Members (26), Organizational Associate Members (15); 59 associate members are under organizational memberships and are included in the Associate Members not affiliated with an S/TOHP.

We now routinely track some dental director demographics to assess how well states are addressing diversity goals. For the 62 who were asked, many provided information but some declined each question; we discovered that not much had changed in the past year:

- 40 directors identified as female and 12 as male
- Race/ethnicity was noted as 30 White/Caucasian, 8 Black/African American, 4 Asian/Asian American or 8 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 3 Hispanic/Latinex or Hispanic mix, 1 Arab/Middle Eastern, and 1 multi-racial
- Age ranges: 8 were born in the 1950s, 13 in the 1960s, 16 in the 1970s, and 11 in the 1980s

- Credentials: 37 have some form of DDS/DMD/BDS, 13 with an additional Masters degree; 8 RDH, 5 with an additional Masters degree; 5 MPH or other Masters; 3 PhD 1 JD; 1 BSN, 3 Other degree

We don't have any authority over health departments to increase their diversity although we encourage them to widen their hiring pool. We also are beginning to track demographics on our subject matter experts and BOD. Note that 3/9 BOD members are non-Caucasian.

Dental directors held three peer support ZOOM calls this year.

- February 17 call featured a presentation by Burt Edelstein on *MySmile Buddy*. *MySmileBuddy* is a mobile application to guide health workers assessing a child's risk for early childhood caries (ECC) and counseling that child's family on preventive lifestyle changes.
- On September 27 Deborah Vishnevsky, Khalil Hassam, and Danyelle Gowie from the DC health department presented their Community Dental Health Coordinator pilot project including preliminary evaluation findings. Other participants mentioned their attempts at using CDHCs and shared resources.
- The December 20 call was on the Indian Health Service Multi-Directional Integration Projects, presented by Dr. Tim Ricks with 35 people attending. He led us through the myriad possibilities of integrating primary care and behavioral health screenings by oral health professionals, sharing IHS stories and asking states to contribute their stories.

In 2023 states participating in the mentoring program either as mentees or mentors included: Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont. Orientation for new state oral health program leads included Colorado, District of Columbia, Montana (2), New Mexico (2), North Carolina (2), Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee. Three states had two new leads in 2023.

The Peer Support Discussion Group met in January, May, and September for 1.5 hours via Zoom. In January, Cheri Kiefer and Jackie Nord from ND presented a program created to recruit dentists. In May, Sarah Kolo from the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) presented resources available on the OHRC website. Sarah will continue to participate on these calls to inform the OHRC of the type of information new oral health program leads are looking for. September's call focused on the integration of oral health and behavioral health. Ashleigh Kirk from CO presented a pilot project being done in her state. Testimonials from the peer support program are shared in the boxes.

Angela is a wealth of knowledge and I've learned so much from her. I am able to bounce ideas off her and get great feedback. She is willing to share her connections and resources with me. She is very supportive and passionate about oral health.

ASTDD is such a great organization! I appreciate all you do and all the information you have on your website. I also want to thank you for the personal contact you offer for the new associate members, I have utilized this benefit often.

It's great to have a guide to provide ideas, methods, and strategies. Having someone in your corner to listen to ideas or offer direction for projects is so beneficial. Chris is fantastic! I really value her and all she has done for me.

## 2024 National Oral Health Conference



APRIL 17-19, 2023  
AT THE DOUBLETREE BY HILTON  
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS, ORLANDO, FL  
WEEKEND WORKSHOPS  
APRIL 15-16, 2023



PRESENTED BY:



2023 - Celebrating 75 Years  
astdd  
Where oral health lives

The 24th joint meeting of the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) co-sponsored by ASTDD and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) was held in-person at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando, FL April 17-19 with weekend workshops; BOD meetings of ASTDD, AAPHD, and the American Board of Dental Public Health (ABDPH); the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) annual meeting; and other functions on the weekend. About 740 people attended. Our Community Service Project recipient this year was Florida Voices for Health, a nonprofit



advocacy organization working to improve health care outcomes for all Floridians. Part of their mission is Florida Voices for Oral Health and the Florida Oral Health Alliance. Henry Schein donated oral hygiene supplies and attendees stuffed 500 kits to donate.

You can access the session listings and abstracts on the 2023 NOHC app and on the [2023 National Oral](#)

[Health Conference site](#). A summary of some of the sessions and photos are in the [March/April special issue of Roundup](#). Attendees could earn up to 18 hours of continuing education credit for the Monday through Wednesday sessions and an additional 15 hours for the weekend sessions. Three plenaries started each day; the one on Monday, *A Diamond Jubilee: Telling Our Story and Looking to the Future*, honored ASTDD's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and AAPHD's 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and featured three current or former state dental directors in addition to other panelists. Sessions also included 27 concurrent seminars including three sessions of oral presentations, 60 roundtables, and a poster session covering 77 posters. Seminars and roundtables sponsored by ASTDD or involving ASTDD consultants are included under the committee and project activities. Thirty exhibitors/sponsors /non-profit supporters also participated in the conference. Thanks to the meeting planning staff of Jan Aument, Leticia Harnung, and Aly Brazil. Seminars and roundtables sponsored by ASTDD or

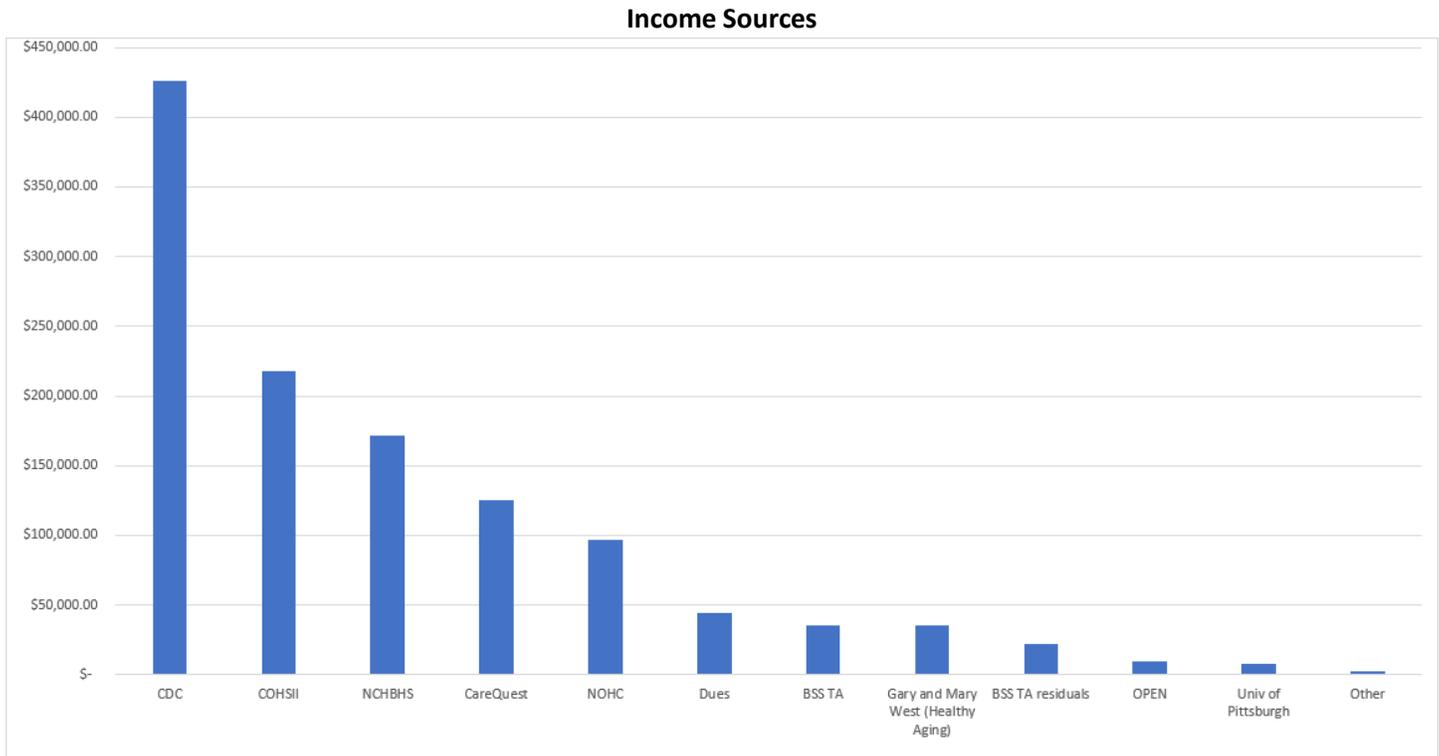


involving ASTDD consultants are included under the committee and project activities. Attendees networked during a New Attendee Welcome Reception, the Sunday Opening Reception, two Networking Lunches and three Continental Breakfasts, along with two Afternoon Receptions with Exhibitors. AAPHD and ASTDD held an informal joint reception on Saturday night for their respective boards, committee chairs and consultants.



## ASTDD Funding Sources

Income in 2023 was \$1,194,138; 2023 Expenses: \$910,091; Net gain: \$284,047; Equity as of Dec 31, 2023: \$525,699



ASTDD remains financially stable with diverse funding sources and a sustainability plan for the future.

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## Committee Activities

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Of the many people participating in ASTDD committees throughout the year, about 16 of them were non-ASTDD members representing partner organizations or areas of expertise. This section describes some of the specific committee activities and resources; see the 2023 issues of *Roundup* newsletter for more details.

### Best Practices

The Best Practices Committee (BPC) supports effective state, territorial and community programs through the development and sharing of [Best Practice Approach Reports \(BPARs\)](#). The collection of Descriptive Reports (DR) increases awareness and promotes the integration of oral health best practices into programs. The BPC approved the revised DR form in January 2023. Input from users had indicated the previous form was too repetitive and long. Input from several ASTDD partner organizations was used to inform this project. As a reminder, the Committee decided to discontinue the collection of State Activity Submissions. Starting in January 2023, only descriptive reports are posted on the BPC webpage moving forward. The BPC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidenced-informed policies and practices, identifying emerging issues and promising approaches, identifying cross-cutting issues, and providing tools and technical assistance to improve state and territorial oral health program policies, plans, programs, and partnerships. Best Practices held two virtual meetings in January and August, and its annual in-person meeting at the NOHC.

- In February, Beth Lowe from the OHRC presented a webinar, *Best Practices and Innovative Approaches to Strengthen School-Based Dental Sealant Programs*. The webinar announcement was shared with the National Association of School Nurses and the School-Based Health Alliance. More than 1,000 people registered and more than 600 participated. Lori Cofano, ASTDD SME, presented to the Connecticut Dental Sealant Advisory Workgroup on the [School-Based Dental Sealant Programs BPAR](#) during their April meeting.
- Funding from the OHRC and the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health supported the [Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management BPAR](#). This was an update to a previous BPAR. It was posted in October 2023 and includes sixteen DR. The primary author was Brian Novy who will present an ASTDD Spotlight on February 7, 2024 as part of Children’s Dental Health Month. An abstract was submitted and accepted for the 2024 NOHC entitled: *Early Childhood Caries: A Paradigm Shift*.
- Funding from the Gary and Mary West Foundation supported the update to the *Oral Health in the Older Adult Population (Age 65 and older)* BPAR, retitled, [Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults BPAR](#). It was posted in December 2023 and includes eleven DR. Dr. Lenny Brennan was the primary author with support from Drs. Steffany Chamut and Lisa Thompson. An abstract was accepted for the 2024 NOHC related to this BPAR. The session is entitled: *If I Had Known I Was Going to Live This Long, I’d Have Taken Better Care of Myself!*
- Three new state DRs from Arkansas, Idaho and Vermont were added to the [State-Based Oral Health Surveillance Systems BPAR](#).
- The *Statutory Mandate for a State Oral Health Program BPAR* was archived.

## Communications

The purpose of the ASTDD Communications Committee is to oversee the various communication activities of the organization. Accomplishments this year included:

- Published four regular issues and one special NOHC issue of [Roundup](#) highlighting ASTDD’s accomplishments.
- Published the [ASTDD 2022 Annual Report](#).
- Enhancements to the website, including the [Health Communications page](#).
- *Weekly Digest* published; all issues are archived and are searchable in the Members only section; members report this is an important source of information.
- Posted, maintained, and added new social media platforms including Facebook (Heather Beavers and Matt Jacob), LinkedIn (Heather). We removed Twitter due to a BOD request.
- Established the ASTDD Excellence in Communication Award to be awarded at the 2024 NOHC.
- Members were busy at the 2023 NOHC presenting roundtables (*Creating Your Best Messages*, and *ASTDD Resources Galore*), workshops, and panels as well as coordinating the ASTDD exhibit table. To save some trees, we primarily provided display copies of exhibit materials with QR codes for easy retrieval from our website.
- Held five [Spotlights](#) available on the Archived Webcasts and Audioconferences page in Members Only:
  1. *Leveraging the MNOHI Environmental Scan in Ohio*. (June) Presenters Marla Morse and Susan Lawson; 72 participants
  2. *Healthy Mouth for Everybody, A HRSA Oral Health Literacy Campaign*. (August) Presenter Adam Barefoot; 77 participants
  3. *OHRC, We’re Here to Help*. (September) Presenter Sarah Kolo; 62 participants
  4. *Social Determinants of Health and Improving Oral Health Equity*. (November) Presenters Catherine Simpson, Stephanie Yang, Harvard dental students; 84 participants



5. *Amalgam and Resin Based Composites, an Overview of Environmental and Health Impacts*. (December)  
Presenter Linda Kaste; 97 participants
- Held three interactive Communications Community of Practice (CCoP):
  1. Building a robust communications component within your office. (January); 27 participants
  2. Everything you want to know about QR Codes. (May); 28 participants
  3. Getting communication materials through the review process. (November); 24 participants

Matt Jacob and John Welby conducted an interactive workshop virtually in two sessions in December and January on *Foundational Strategies for Effective Communication* for dental public health residents at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR). Session one provided an overview of the fundamental principles of strategic communication while also recommending strategies for preparing briefings and responding to the media. These strategies included tips for creating effective soundbites and staying on message. The second session saw participants put their communication skills into practice as they engaged in one of three media scenarios:

- a mock radio interview on exposure to fluoride and neurotoxicity
- a briefing on emerging science and promising technologies in oral health; and
- drafting an e-newsletter article on oral health and aging.

Members of the group shared their scenario experiences and the instructors pointed out strengths and weaknesses as group learning took place through lively discussion and robust interaction.

The Social Media Workgroup meets bi-monthly. Congratulations to Heather Beavers who is now the new chair of the SMWG! The group developed messaging for Childrens Dental Health Month and other calendar observances and developed a landing slide and supported social media messaging for NOHC.

The Social Media Work Group has been offering technical assistance to three states. The goal is to help oral health leaders raise awareness on one or more social media platforms.

- Missouri's oral health program was the first to participate in this TA project. During this phase, two members of the Work Group coached and encouraged the oral health team in Missouri. The oral health program successfully engaged the social media team within their state health department, prompting it to participate in two social media events. One event was to observe Children's Dental Health Month and the other event was last September's "awareness day" for older adults' oral health.
- The Work Group has concluded its monthly web-calls with Minnesota, having worked with both the state oral health program and the state's oral health coalition. During this period, the state oral health director stepped up her visibility on LinkedIn and even received a direct message through the platform from an influential leader of a health system in Minnesota.
- On Valentine's Day, the Minnesota Oral Health Coalition coordinated a #LoveYourTeeth day. Participants were urged to post messages to promote Children's Dental Health Month while also using that hashtag. Dozens of messages were posted on Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media platforms, and these messages were viewed more than 1,000 times.
- The Work Group recently began working with the Arkansas oral health program. Last year, the state's oral health coalition was organized, and that organization is likely to be the vehicle for raising oral health visibility on social media.

### Quotes from Members

*Thank you ASTDD for all your support, I look forward to the Spotlights.*

*ASTDD is amazing, I appreciate all the information especially the Weekly Digest.*

*I use ASTDD information and the website all the time.*

*The Roundup is such a nice review of ASTDD, I love the personalized touch.*

## Data and Oral Health Surveillance

Due to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) restrictions on making changes to the annual *State DPH Synopses* or *Basic Screening Survey (BSS)*, the ASTDD Board dissolved the data committee in 2022 and established a BSS Community of Practice (COP). Robin Miller (VT) is leading the BSS CoP, and all states are welcome to participate, therefore the membership is fluid. The focus of the BSS CoP is to share best practices for planning, conducting, and disseminating a BSS. ASTDD will convene workgroups for specific data related projects "as needed." Dropbox files for CoP members include sample gifts for participating in BSS, contracts, invitation letters for schools, permission slips, result letters, and survey reports and dissemination materials.

Data and Surveillance SMEs Kathy Phipps, Mike Manz and Brooke Mehner provided about 328.75 hours of technical assistance on BSS and oral health surveillance issues to the following states: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Wisconsin. Ohnmar Tut also provided significant BSS and oral health surveillance TA to the US Affiliated Pacific Islands (see the Territorial section). View the status as of January 2024 of [States with BSS Data](#) for various age groups and years; if available, links to state BSS reports are provided. TA feedback from the states was gathered from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 and shared with the SMEs and CDC.

Other data committee/SME activities included:

- Mike Manz and Kathy Phipps co-presented the preconference workshop at NOHC over two half-days, *From Sampling to Analysis, a Hands-on Workshop for Epidemiologists and Analysts*.
- Mike Manz and Brooke Mehner held a Zoom meeting with key stakeholders from Tennessee on the benefits of completing a BSS.
- Kathy Phipps, Mike Manz, Shannon Conroy (CA) and Maryann Gross (CT) presented a panel at the 2023 NOHC on *Optimizing Methods to Collect Demographic Data for the Children's Basic Screening Survey*.
- Kathy Phipps provided training to Brooke Mehner on how to distribute, analyze, and report data from the *State Synopses of Dental Public Health Programs*. Brooke completed the *2023 State Synopses Report* (posted in Members Only) and the [Summary Report](#), and updated the 2024 Synopses questionnaire including the online submission process to be reviewed by webcast in January 2024.
- Mike Manz provided training to Brooke Mehner on the emergency department and non-traumatic dental conditions surveillance documents housed on the ASTDD website.
- Kathy Phipps completed an analysis and three reports using data from the environmental scan of COHSII states (see COSHII section).





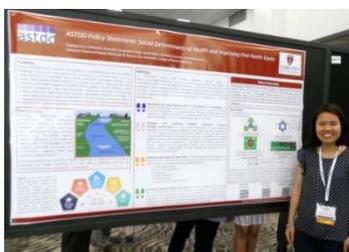
## Infrastructure and Capacity

In January, ASTDD SME Bev Isman field tested the ASTDD Competencies process and materials onsite with the California Oral Health Program. Jay Kumar, dental director, and most of the 25 staff members have been telecommuting since the start of the COVID pandemic so this was the first time the whole team met in person and got to know each other. The agenda included time for expanded introductions, networking, and discussions about personal strengths and opportunities for teambuilding and professional development. Each team member completed the Individual Competencies Assessment form, and the leadership team completed some of the other Program Assessment tools. Discussion during the five-hour session focused on program accomplishment and future plans, how each person can contribute unique skills and complementary skills to activities and projects, and how to best use the skills and resources of community and health department partners. Several resources were shared before and after the meeting. Since then the Oral Health Program contracted with Matt Jacob to accomplish their highest priority, a social media campaign that will continue into 2024. The management team is continuing to meet to review the other needs identified from the Needs Assessment results.

Bev Isman, Kimberlie Payne and Sahiti presented a workshop, *ASTDD Resources for Conducting Community Needs Assessments and Developing State Oral Health Improvement Plans*, at the 2023 NOHC with 36 participants. Sahiti Bhaskara is in the process of updating the ASTDD 7 Step Needs Assessment Model and Bev and Kimberlie are developing a State Oral Health Improvement Plan Toolkit; to inform those tools, participants provided feedback on content and worksheets.



Feedback from Needs Assessment/Planning workshop. *Experts for sure. Thanks for sharing very impactful information. Presentations and visuals were good. Looking forward to hearing and learning more in future webinars and toolkit. I need to compare previous plan to reflect on developing new plan. I will have a conversation with stakeholders' leadership and others to determine feasibility of updating needs assessment and plans.*



## Dental Public Health Policy

The purpose of the Dental Public Health Policy Committee (DPHPC) is to develop, promote and support resources and policy-related documents to assist S/TOHP to improve oral health. The DPHPC met ten times during 2023. Activities included:

The committee posted two documents to ASTDD's website: [Social Determinants of Health and Improving Oral Health Equity](#) (March); and [Dental Amalgam and Resin-Based Composites: Environmental and Health Impacts](#) (August). Both new policy statements were co-presented as ASTDD Spotlights, garnering about 90 to 100 participants. One of the writers, Yuying Guo, Harvard DMD candidate, presented a related poster for the Social Determinants paper at the 2023 NOHC (pictured). Linda Kaste and her student, Lydia DeJonge, a pediatric dental resident/MPH candidate at the University of Illinois-Chicago, revised/updated the Dental Amalgam paper. Judy Feinstein and Harry Goodman provided input for Lydia's competitive poster at UIC COD 2023 Clinic and Research Day, which received the "Best Resident Literature Review" award! Congratulations to Lydia!

Harry Goodman and Judy Feinstein worked with other ASTDD consultants throughout the spring and summer in collaboration with McAllister Castelaz, the president of the American Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance, to produce a

new issue brief, [Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents](#), posted in August. This brief updates and replaces older papers, *School-Based or School-Linked Mobile or Portable Dental Services Policy Statement* and the *Mobile and Portable Dental Services in Pre-school and School Settings: Complex Issues Issue Brief*. A Spotlight will be held on this topic in January.

The Committee reviewed proposed resolutions as presented to the ADA's House of Delegates for their Annual Session in October, and prepared ASTDD comments on six of them. ASTDD provides simple statements of support to "get on the record" on issues that may have an impact on dental public health. These resolutions concerned including preventive coverage in dental benefits plans; defining and expanding Medicare coverage for dental care services; emphasizing the importance of dental benefits as Essential Health Benefits; supporting the ADA in retaining its 2018 policy encouraging education of the dental profession on the importance of preventing HPV cancers and collaborating with other health care organizations to support patient education on HPV prevention; supporting the ADA to encourage private dental practitioners to contract and collaborate with FQHCs and CHCs; and supporting the ADA in affirming that the determination of Health Professional Shortage Area designations should be accurate, timely, and objective, taking into account a full range of key data points

*Participant comments provided thoughtful questions and suggestions for potential follow-up.*

*I really appreciate hearing about the policy needs for program support.*

## Fluorides

The Fluorides Committee (FC) provides ASTDD membership with the partnerships, policies and guidelines needed for appropriate use of fluorides in community/population-based programs designed for dental caries prevention. The Committee works to assure that ASTDD positions and policies are presented in all appropriate venues, and coordinates, reviews, or provides input for all activities that ASTDD may be involved in regarding fluorides. In addition, technical support is provided as needed to state dental directors and fluoridation contacts. The Fluorides Committee met eleven times during 2023.

The FC also coordinates annual fluoridation awards in collaboration with the ADA and CDC (see awards section). The awards brochure is posted on the [ASTDD Fluoridation webpage](#). State dental directors again received a toolkit (by email) including templates and instructions for award certificates along with sample cover letters and media release materials with ideas for recognizing awardees to promote increased recognition and/or media coverage.

The Committee revised its 2016 fact sheet, [Naturally Occurring Fluoride in Drinking Water](#), updated the *State Fluoridation Fact Sheet*, a one-page (front and back) template that can be modified by inserting your state information and used as an educational/information tool (Contact the ASTDD Central office for a copy.) They also updated the 2017 [Silver Diamine Fluoride Fact Sheet](#), and with assistance from Virginia Health Catalyst, created a new resource, *Communicating About Water Fluoridation Disruptions: A Tip Sheet for State Oral Health Programs, Community Water Systems, and State and Rural Water Associations* (only available on Members Only webpage).

Judy Feinstein coordinated a CWF Community of Practice (CoP) In May with 47 participants where Gwen Sullentrup (Missouri) presented the "toolkit" she has developed when working with communities dealing with challenges to water fluoridation as well as in efforts to initiate fluoridation. Johnny Johnson (American Fluoridation Society) offered a short version of the concurrent session he organized for the NOHC, *Are Your Water Systems Properly Fluoridating*, explaining

why it's important (even critical) for states to turn on the Advanced Level of reporting in My Water's Fluoride and how the information can be used. Judy Feinstein spoke briefly about ASTDD CWF resources as well as the function and use of ASTDD's fluoridation-focused listservs and participated in Zoom calls with fluoridation contacts in several states to discuss mutual issues of concern. A second small collaboration workgroup organized by Gwen Sullentrup and others this summer touched on operator training manuals, tracking for local system test results, and getting state approval for the CDC's FLO training.

We continued using an enhanced and more comprehensive version of Curate, a data-mining company that provides a searchable database of local government meeting agendas and minutes and scans meeting minutes, agendas, planning documents, etc. from local government entities. ASTDD shares a subscription with the American Fluoridation Society. Reports combining Curate findings with postings from Google Alerts were sent at least once but sometimes more often to multiple stakeholders; (states are listed in *Roundup* issues). These reports can serve as an early warning system on fluoridation-related activity. The posts are recorded on a spreadsheet and maintained cumulatively in the Members Only section of the website, thus providing an ongoing resource and record of activity. Currently, this function replaces the *Fluoridation Rollback Catalog* that was posted on the ASTDD website.

In collaboration with the American Fluoridation Society, the Committee co-sponsored a preconference workshop at the 2023 NOHC, *Using Targeted Briefings to Strengthen Partners' Knowledge of Water Fluoridation*, facilitated by Matt Jacob and Johnny Johnson. Other fluoridation sessions included three that Judy Feinstein moderated:

- *Are Your Water Systems Properly Fluoridating? What to Know and How to Educate*, seminar with Tracy Boehmer (CDC), Johnny Johnson (AFS) and Sarah Peterson (IA)
- *Water Fluoridation 101*, Greg Holder and Tracy Boehmer from CDC and Matt Zaborowski from ADA
- *CDC Community Water Fluoridation Update* with Tracy Boehmer and Steve Mc Carter from KC Industries.



TA/Consultation was provided during the year as follows (email unless otherwise noted):

- AFS: provided additional history, background, and links regarding suspension of fluoridation in Buffalo, to assist in TA that AFS is providing to CWF advocates there.
- AZ: provided SDD with introductions to contacts working on CWF mapping in CO: responded to questions about SDF and the 2023 NOHC workshop on CWF, provided assistance in accessing partner website materials and provided resources for CWF regulations in other states.
- KY: phone call to discuss potential legislative changes, following up on previous call; clarification of fluoridation awards.
- MA: responded to questions about WFRS and other issues.
- ND: education resources for water operators.
- OK: provided materials (PowerPoints) on messaging.
- RI: Provided feedback on a draft "fact sheet" type document.
- VA: Virginia Health Catalyst regarding state fluoridation plans.
- Washington, DC: clarification of fluoridation awards for the Oral Health Program.
- WV: suggestions for following up on potential challenge. Committee members also provided assistance throughout the year, e.g., Johnny Johnson, who continues to provide support to states facing CWF challenges.

## Healthy Aging

The Healthy Aging Committee (HAC) is a focal point for healthy aging issues including chronic diseases and resources for S/TOHP. The HAC includes subject matter experts in healthy aging and oral health as well as state oral health program directors/program managers and staff interested in advancing statewide efforts to improve the oral health of the older adult population. The HAC supports the ASTDD Strategic Plan by encouraging the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed policies and practices, identifying emerging issues and promising approaches, providing tools and technical assistance to improve policies, plans, programs, and partnerships, promoting and facilitating internal and external collaborations, promoting the collection of data such as the older adult ASTDD Basic Screening Survey (BSS) to inform planning and decision making. The HAC held six meetings as well as a face-to-face gathering at the 2023 NOHC.

The HAC was supported through December 2023 by a grant from the Gary and Mary West Foundation (GMWF). The funding supported the development of the [Improving the Oral Health of Older Adults BPAR](#) disseminated to state oral health programs in the *ASTDD Weekly Digest* and various social media outlets and other entities with an interest in older adults and the relationship of oral health to overall health.

- In April, Lori Cofano presented a roundtable at the National Oral Health Conference (NOHC) on the [Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration](#) document. A QR code was provided to participants to simplify access to the document. In May, the *Older Adult Oral Health Resources for Collaboration* was sent to various partners for dissemination during Older Americans Month. Sam presented the document to the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Oral Health Interest Group in May.
- Lori attended quarterly Medicare Action Learning Collaborative meetings held by the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN). In July, Judith Jones presented to the HAC on updates to Medicare and potential changes related to oral health.
- In September, Matt Jacob provided messages to be shared via social media outlets and with partners for Healthy Aging Month.
- A grant application was submitted to the Gary and Mary West Foundation for 2024 to allow for an update to *Improving Oral Health Access and Services for Older Adults white paper*. This project will be a collaboration between ASTDD's HAC and Dental Public Health Policy Committees and Apple Tree Dental. In December, ASTDD received confirmation of funding. Work has begun to find a primary author for the project, and a small advisory workgroup will be formed to assist with the update.



## Perinatal

The Perinatal Oral Health Committee (POHC) continues to serve as the primary ASTDD focal point for issues and resources for S/TOHP relating to perinatal oral health. Most activities are accomplished in partnership with the OHRC, especially the Consortium on Oral Health Integration and Improvement (COHSII). POHC's and other ASTDD members' participation in various program activities focus on perinatal oral health centered on assisting COHSII in providing TA to three MCHB-funded Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI) within the MCH Safety Net (NOHI); (see page 27 for more information).

## School and Adolescent Oral Health and Dental Sealant Programs

The ASTDD School and Adolescent Oral Health Committee (SAOHC), coordinated by ASTDD SME Lori Cofano, serves as a resource to S/TOHP and works to ensure a strong oral health component in all school and adolescent health initiatives. Sandy Tesch,



Dental Sealant Coordinator and SME, facilitated six dental sealant Community of Practice (CoP) and/or sealant-related webinars for CDC-funded school sealant programs (SSPs) during 2023. SAOHC held an informal face-to-face meeting at the NOHC in 2023. Guest presenters on the five SAOHC calls included:

- In January, Matt Zaborowski, the Preventive Health Activities Manager at the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention (CAAP), presented the results of an ADA survey on dental sealant programs. SAOHC members offered input on the survey questions they would like to see included on a future sealant survey.
- In March, Melissa Fahrenbruch from the CDC Healthy Schools Division and Marcia Parker from the CDC Division of Oral Health offered information on opportunities for state oral health programs and State Departments of Education to collaborate.
- In May, Liz Clark from the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) presented on how school-based sealant programs can collaborate with school nurses.
- In September, Beth Lowe and Sarah Kolo from the OHRC presented various resources offered by the OHRC such as Seal America.
- In November, Bianca Rogers, the Project Manager at the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health talked about the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN).

Several requests were handled via continuous monitoring and correspondence to TA questions posted on the CDC-funded dental sealants group listserv and the ASTDD sealant coordinator's listserv, while several school-based resources were shared via the SAOHC listserv, and the [Dental Sealant Resources webpage](#) on the ASTDD website was updated. As noted previously, the SAOHC collaborated with the ASTDD Best Practices Committee on the update to the [School-Based Dental Sealant Programs BPAR](#). Sandy Tesch worked with the OHRC to update three training modules within the [Ohio School-Based Dental Sealant Programs Curriculum for Dental Providers](#). She is also currently working on revisions to the online national *SEAL America Oral Health Manual*.

- Lori participated in the CDC coordination team calls to review and provide input on the presentation being prepared on school fluoride varnish programs. The goal is to have the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommend the use of two fluoride varnish applications per year as a preventive tool in school prevention programs. Recommendations will be presented to the committee in April 2024. Lori participated in two Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) listening sessions pertaining to CDC infection prevention documents and guidance.
- The Sealant Retention workgroup met several times. The group was formed to assist Oregon with the development of a sealant retention guidance template. Oregon is still in the process of finalizing the guidance document. Once it is approved by Oregon's administration it will be shared with the SAOHC.
- As noted previously, the ASTDD SAOHC and DPHPC and the America Mobile and Teledentistry Alliance (AMTA) collaborated on the [Mobile and Portable School-Based/School-Linked Oral Health Programs: Delivery Models to Expand Care for Children and Adolescents Issue Brief](#). The author will present an ASTDD Spotlight on the document on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Sandy attended the National Mobile and Teledentistry conference in Frisco, Texas on behalf of ASTDD on March 1-5.
- Lori, Sandy, and Matt Jacob began strategic planning for a sealant communication technical assistance (TA) project for three CDC-funded states. Matt will provide TA on three to four communication pieces for each state.

A survey was sent to all CDC funded states in late November and three states were selected in early December, Idaho, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. An orientation is slated for January 11, 2024.

## Evaluation Support

The ASTDD Evaluation team provides general evaluation, performance management, and quality improvement TA to support ASTDD and state oral health efforts, the ASTDD cooperative agreement with CDC, and state oral health programs that receive funding from the CDC. Although initially concentrating webinars on CDC-funded states, these were later open to all states/territories. ASTDD works closely with CDC staff to coordinate efforts. Activities included:

- Posted 11 listserv announcements to CDC funded evaluators and six listserv announcements to all state oral health evaluators
- 32 attendees from 18 states participated in the February webinar on *Evaluation Plan Reboot*. Provided direct TA to ten states:
  - Participated in QI planning for CA on performance management
  - Corresponded by email about qualitative coding with MN and about an evaluation progress update for ND
  - Held TA Meetings with NH, MO, CT, and RI during NOHC to discuss staffing updates, existing evaluation plan, and new metrics
  - Hosted office hours and email support to states to answer questions and better facilitate Year 5a Reporting
  - Supported four states through a review of Year 5a progress updates (AR, CT, PA, RI), which resulted in more complete report submissions from these states
  - Supported CDC to host webinar with states on cooperative agreement final report requirements
  - Delivered webinar to states on revising evaluation plans
- Provided general assistance to ASTDD on cooperative agreement reporting and planning
- Drafted and revised a sample Health Impact Statement with CDC as an example for states to use in their final reports
- Developed and piloted a Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) demographic data collection tool for ASTDD consultants and board members, with DEI workgroup
- With COHSII, Mary Davis conducted interviews with territories on their NPM 13 activities (see COHSII section).

Since equity is essential to any program, the evaluators wanted to address how people integrate equity into evaluation. Via the discussion listserv, they shared some helpful resources for navigating the realm of equity in oral health evaluation. Recent listserv posting emphasized *Evaluation as a Team Sport, Reminder About the Evaluation Resources on the ASTDD website, and Year 5b Reporting Guidance*. They also developed a listserv post: *Qualitative Coding Toolkit*. Qualitative coding is a multi-step process that generally follows the same sequence of (1) reading through data, (2) applying codes to excerpts, (3) grouping codes according to themes, (4) conducting multiple rounds of coding, and then (5) making interpretations that lead to your research findings.

The consultants also assisted ASTDD in conducting a member Qualtrics survey to gain feedback on selected ASTDD materials, communication pathways, and professional development offerings. There were 112 responses from all membership categories from 40 states. Three key findings: members appreciated ASTDD resources; members suggested a refresh and updating of some ASTDD resources; many members are unaware of the available resources or they don't look at them.

ASTDD members use resources to:

- Inform program activities
- Write practice guidelines
- Support funding
- Direct standards within state programs
- Inform and learn, personal and to share with others
- Share with partners
- Program management
- Policy making
- Make a case for funding and positions
- Write state oral health plan and improvement plan
- Prepare presentations
- Provide information to upper management/governor's office
- Support research and educational activities
- Program evaluations
- Benchmark to other state oral health programs
- Create scopes of services.

For many of our regular materials, e.g., website, *Roundup*, *Weekly Digest*, *ASTDD Annual Report*, members noted most useful aspects and areas for improvement. They also noted 16 ways they use ASTDD Resources (see box). The Communication Committee used the findings to initiate changes. ASTDD leadership, consultants and committees already have begun to prioritize improvements.

At the 2023 NOHC, Joanna Hillman, Maggie Pustinger, and Mary Davis facilitated a workshop, *Evaluation Report Makeover Bootcamp*, with 20 participants working in small groups and in larger group discussions. JoAnna Hilman's two-year old son Luca showed his enthusiasm for attending his first NOHC. The team developed examples of alternative reporting methods as a follow-up to the workshop. This year they drafted a proposal for an evaluation workshop, *Making the Most of Your Evaluation Plan*, that was accepted for NOHC 2024.



*This was the most fun and engaging workshop I have ever attended!*



## Territorial and Freely Associated States Issues

At the 2023 NOHC, Ohnmar Tut, assisted by Reg Louie and Peter Milgrom, presented the Roundtable *Public Oral Health Crisis in Guam and Efforts to Facilitate Preventive Oral Health Care to Children*. Dr. Tut also met with Reg Louie and Bev Isman to brainstorm future efforts in the USAPI.

The Guam Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program developed an oral health plan for 2022-24 that focused on integrating oral health into "sister" programs such as well-baby/WIC clinics and school health programs. Specifically, they would train non-dental public health staff on oral health risk assessment, teaching proper oral hygiene care, the application of fluoride varnish (FV) and using silver diamine fluoride (SDF) to arrest caries. In addition, the MCH program would enhance its referral system for private practice dentists to provide needed follow-up care. As a key step, the MCH program planned and implemented the training of staff to apply SDF. Due to Typhoon Mawar, the training sessions had to be cancelled for the summer at the last minute. They were rescheduled and conducted including a refresher for fluoride varnish (FV) on November 29-30, 2023 in Guam. Faculty included Ohnmar Tut, BDS, MPhil, ASTDD Consultant for the USAPI, and Peter Milgrom, DDS, Professor, School of Dentistry, University of Washington. Funding and support for the training were provided directly by Guam MCH, and by ASTDD/OHRC and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Nineteen local individuals participated in the training sessions including nurses, CNAs, and social workers from the MCH program and CNAs from the Guam CHC. The training spanned two days and included didactic presentations, lab exercises and direct patient care. Follow-up consultation and technical assistance in Guam for both SDF and FV will be provided by Dr. Tut in February 26-27, 2024.

COHSII, involving ASTDD CMEs, produced the report, [Snapshot of the U.S. Jurisdictions' Activities Addressing Title V National Performance Measure 13 \(Oral Health\) During Fiscal Year 2022](#). It highlights activities conducted by American Samoa, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands addressing the national performance measure (NPM) on oral health. Many jurisdictions are more similar to counties or nations than to states and have nation-like functions and responsibilities. The report presents a snapshot of jurisdictions' experiences with implementing strategies to promote preventive dental visit for pregnant women, children, and adolescents. Challenges, accomplishments, and technical assistance needs related to each jurisdiction are discussed.

National Center on Health,  
Behavioral Health, and Safety



### Dental Hygienist Liaison Project

and child health and children and adolescents with special health care needs, ASTDD SMEs provided services for two national center projects led by the OHRC.

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## Projects and Partnerships

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### National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC)

ASTDD continued to partner with the OHRC on many projects and activities. In addition to updating ASTDD webpages related to maternal

### National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety (NCHBHS)

Funded by the Office of Head Start (OHS), the NCHBHS ended Year Three on September 29, 2023 and began Year Four of a five-year grant on September 30, 2023. ASTDD oversees the Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) Project in partnership with the OHRC and the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) to provide oral health training and TA to Head Start programs across the US. Kathy Hunt, Gina Sharps and Beverly Isman serve on the Oral Health Leadership Team with OHRC staff Katrina Holt and Beth Lowe to coordinate the DHL Project. Through the project, one dental hygienist from each state (two in CA and two in NY), the US Virgin Islands, and DC volunteer to help promote oral health for children and expectant people enrolled in Head Start, serving as a communication link between NCHBHS and Head Start programs. Twelve Regional DHL Coordinators (RDHLCs) including those for Hispanics and American Indians provide mentorship to state DHLs and serve as a contact for Head Start regional staff.

DHLs gave 26 presentations to 706 participants including Early Head Start and Head Start program staff, early childhood professionals, and oral health professionals. The team conducted the 2023 DHL annual assessment to gain feedback on the DHL role and ways that the RDHLCs and the oral health leadership team can help support their efforts. Results included:

- 40% of DHLs reported they receive 1-2 requests per quarter from Head Start programs to provide presentations or TA, attend meetings, or to share resources.
- 36% of DHLs reported an increase in access to oral health care as a result of their involvement with the DHL project. Program practice changes included: established or changed a policy or procedure related to toothbrushing in the Head Start classroom; reported implementing an on-site fluoride varnish program; incorporated a social media campaign into educational programming and messaging; included oral health practices as part of a staff Wellness program.
- DHLs report that the most rewarding aspects of being a DHL are: providing assistance by giving back to their communities; being able to provide a high level of expertise in a manner that is practical for families to adopt and incorporate into their daily lives; connecting/networking with other DHLs; increasing oral health awareness; and improving access to care.

The ASTDD team coordinates an active DHL discussion list with more than 164 postings this year and maintains a [DHL webpage](#) and several subpages on the ASTDD website. RDHLC calls are held monthly, and leadership calls are held biweekly. An annual in-person meeting with all RDHLCs and the Oral Health Leadership Team was held in Salt Lake, UT in August. Four one-hour webinars were offered for state DHLs this past year. Topics included *Oral Health Messaging for Children's Dental Health Month*, *Effective Use of Head Start Program Information Report Data*, *Practical Applications of Teledentistry*, and *Locating Oral Health Resources on the [Early Childhood Learning And Knowledge Center Website](#)*. All webinars were recorded and archived on the DHL webpage.

Many of the RDHLCs hold quarterly calls with state DHLs in their regions where they share information and ideas and respond to questions. This year we also included advanced skill building in using Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data to help identify and support Head Start programs with improving oral health for their enrollees.

The ASTDD DHL project leads presented a roundtable, *Oral Health and Head Start: Something to Smile About*, at the 2023 NOHC and met with DHLs in attendance (see photos). They also exhibited at the ADHA Conference in July in Chicago, IL as ADHA is a key partner. ADHA recorded a podcast featuring the DHL project and Renatta Hayes, Oklahoma DHL, hosted by Matt Crespino. ADHA featured Celeste Terry, Louisiana DHL, last summer, in their *Member Monday* digital newsletter. The project leads also worked with the ADHA Education and Learning Technology staff to provide continuing education credits for DHL webinars and met with ADHA leadership about future collaboration efforts.



Consortium for Oral Health Systems  
Integration and Improvement  
ASTDD | DQA | OHRC

## Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII)

In 2023, Chris Wood, ASTDD executive director, and Lori Cofano, Judy Feinstein, Harry Goodman, Reg Louie, Kimberlie Payne, Kathy Phipps, Sandy Tesch, and Ohnmar Tut, SMEs and ASTDD consultants, provided support to the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, [COHSII project lead](#). Four

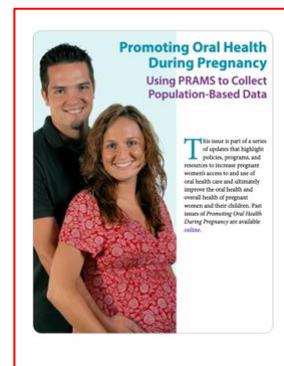
supported activities are described below.

- Provided technical assistance (TA) to states and jurisdictions that selected the Title V [national performance measure on oral health](#) (NPM 13). In federal fiscal year 2023, 28 states and jurisdictions selected NPM 13.1, preventive dental visits for pregnant women, and/or NPM 13.2, preventive dental visits for children and adolescents ages 1 through 17.
- Provided TA to the [Integrating Oral Health Care and Primary Care Learning Collaborative: A State and Local Partnership](#) focusing on integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women. The project includes both a state component and a local component in nine states. ASTDD provided TA to state oral health programs on using the [capacity inventory tool](#) to identify action strategies. COHSII staff consultants, as well as the National Network for Oral Health Access, provided TA to project teams to integrate the [interprofessional oral health core clinical competencies](#) into primary care practice.

- Provided TA to the [Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net](#) focusing on integrating oral health care into primary care for pregnant women and children. The project includes three regional networks, each consisting of four states. ASTDD consultants helped the NOHI learning collaborative share successes, lessons learned, and challenges focusing on building capacity around three core functions: (1) data, analysis and evaluation; (2) outreach and education; and (3) policy and practice.
- Supported the [Maternal and Child Oral Health Think Tank project](#) to inform discussions about integrating oral health care into safety net settings serving the maternal and child population. ASTDD consultants helped gather information from Think Tank members to help identify five successful, long-standing statewide programs to develop a report to assist with integration efforts and resource development.

In addition, ASTDD consultants were involved in developing or updating the following resources:

- [Best Practice Approach: Early Childhood Caries: Prevention and Management](#)
- [Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook](#)
  - [Midwest Network for Oral Health Integration \(MNOHI\): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook](#)—Results from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio
  - [Rocky Mountain Network of Oral Health \(RoMoNOH\): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook](#)—Results from Arizona, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming
  - [Transforming Oral Health for Families \(TOHF\): Environmental Scan 2023 Chartbook](#)—Results from Maryland, New York, Virginia, and Washington, DC
  - [Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the MCH Safety Net—Overview and Project Profiles: Update 2023](#)
- [Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy: Using PRAMS to Collect Population-Based Data](#)
- [School-Based Dental Sealant Program Training](#)
- [Seal America: The Prevention Invention.](#)



## Responsibly Employing Safe Pain Interventions (RESPITE)

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, partnering with the ADA Science & Research Institute and the University of Pennsylvania, is in the third year of a grant from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop an evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the management of acute dental pain. Through a contract, ASTDD has been providing dental public health expertise to the interdisciplinary team, helping develop and deploy dissemination and implementation strategies, and ultimately will help evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies in changing provider prescribing behavior. Bruce Austin and Beverly Isman serve as ASTDD representatives to the project. State dental directors are contributing valuable feedback about state networks and regulations. Expected outcomes are: 1)



2) guidelines for an established standard of care, 2) patients will receive safe and effective relief from acute dental pain, and 3) the risk of opioid diversion, opioid use disorder, and overdose will be reduced.

During the NOHC, Deborah Polk and Bruce Austin, with Judy Feinstein serving as moderator, presented an overview of the RESPITE project, *A Collaborative Research Project to Reduce Opioid Use by Dental Providers in Managing Dental*

*Pain*. In addition, they described ASTDD's roles in the project and referenced a 2021 ASTDD Policy Statement on [Reducing Opioid Prescribing by Oral Health Professionals](#).

The RESPITE Study published 6 manuscripts in 2023. Two additional manuscripts, including the adolescent, adult, and older adult guideline were submitted and accepted for publication. RESPITE staff also developed a majority of the CME course for emergency medicine providers on the guideline. Supplemental videos (7 total) for the course were developed and are undergoing edits. The course will launch in 2024. Published this year:

- Miroshnychenko A, Ibrahim S, Azab M, Roldan Y, Diaz Martinez JP, Tamilselvan D, He L, Urquhart O, Tampi M, Polk DE, Moore PA, Hersh EV, Carrasco-Labra A, Brignardello-Petersen R. Injectable and topical local anesthetics for acute dental pain: 2 systematic reviews. *J Am Dent Assoc*. 2023 Jan;154(1):53-64.e14. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2022.10.014. PMID: 36608963; PMCID: PMC10871026. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36608963/>
- Miroshnychenko A, Ibrahim S, Azab M, Roldan Y, Martinez JPD, Tamilselvan D, He L, Little JW, Urquhart O, Tampi M, Polk DE, Moore PA, Hersh EV, Claytor B, Carrasco-Labra A, Brignardello-Petersen R. Acute Postoperative Pain Due to Dental Extraction in the Adult Population: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis. *J Dent Res*. 2023 Apr;102(4):391-401. doi: 10.1177/00220345221139230. Epub 2023 Jan 11. PMID: 36631957; PMCID: PMC10031629. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10031629/>
- Miroshnychenko A, Azab M, Ibrahim S, Roldan Y, Diaz Martinez JP, Tamilselvan D, He L, Urquhart O, Tampi M, Polk DE, Moore PA, Hersh EV, Carrasco-Labra A, Brignardello-Petersen R. Analgesics for the management of acute dental pain in the pediatric population: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Dent Assoc*. 2023 May;154(5):403-416.e14. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.02.013. PMID: 37105668. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37105668/>
- Miroshnychenko A, Azab M, Ibrahim S, Roldan Y, Diaz Martinez JP, Tamilselvan D, He L, Urquhart O, Verdugo-Paiva F, Tampi M, Polk DE, Moore PA, Hersh EV, Brignardello-Petersen R, Carrasco-Labra A. Corticosteroids for managing acute pain subsequent to surgical extraction of mandibular third molars: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Dent Assoc*. 2023 Aug;154(8):727-741.e10. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.04.018. PMID: 37500235. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37500235/>
- Dawson T, Pahlke S, Carrasco-Labra A, Polk D. Patient Values and Preferences for Managing Acute Dental Pain Elicited through Online Deliberation. *JDR Clin Trans Res*. 2023 Aug 4:23800844231174398. doi: 10.1177/23800844231174398. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37542374; PMCID: PMC10871022. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/23800844231174398>
- Carrasco-Labra A, Polk DE, Urquhart O, Aghaloo T, Claytor JW Jr, Dhar V, Dionne RA, Espinoza L, Gordon SM, Hersh EV, Law AS, Li BS, Schwartz PJ, Suda KJ, Turturro MA, Wright ML, Dawson T, Miroshnychenko A, Pahlke S, Pilcher L, Shirey M, Tampi M, Moore PA. Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the pharmacologic management of acute dental pain in children: A report from the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, and the Center for Integrative Global Oral Health at the University of Pennsylvania. *J Am Dent Assoc*. 2023 Sep;154(9):814-825.e2. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.06.014. PMID: 37634915. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37634915/>

These two will be published in February 2024.

- Khouja T, Shah NH, Suda KJ, Polk DE. Trajectories of opioid prescribing by general dentists, specialists, and oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the United States, 2015-2019. J Am Dent Assoc. 2024 Jan;155(1):7-16.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.10.002. Epub 2023 Nov 19. PMID: 37988047; PMCID: PMC10870999. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10870999/>
- Carrasco-Labra A, Polk DE, Urquhart O, Aghaloo T, Claytor JW Jr, Dhar V, Dionne RA, Espinoza L, Gordon SM, Hersh EV, Law AS, Li BS, Schwartz PJ, Suda KJ, Turturro MA, Wright ML, Dawson T, Miroshnychenko A, Pahlke S, Pilcher L, Shirey M, Tampi M, Moore PA. Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for the pharmacologic management of acute dental pain in adolescents, adults, and older adults: A report from the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute, the University of Pittsburgh, and the University of Pennsylvania. J Am Dent Assoc. 2024 Feb;155(2):102-117.e9. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2023.10.009. PubMed PMID: 38325969. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38325969/>

## National Oral Health Data Portal

In 2023, ASTDD and CareQuest entered into a collaboration agreement for the National Oral Health Data Portal. The project is being refreshed from its initial version launched in 2021, with updates to the original datasets, inclusion of new datasets, and the creation of a single consolidated data file that will make it easier for users to find the information they need. Initial work on the second version of the portal has focused on updating the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS) indicators and standardizing the consolidated file. Later in 2024 we aim to incorporate new state-level analysis of oral health and health care access from the State of Oral Health Equity in America, Medical Expenditure Panel (MEPS), State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD), Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information Systems (T-MSIS), and commercial claims data in the CareQuest data warehouse. A recent member feedback request resulted in the following ways the portal is used:

- Scanning what is available in my state, data sets available in a state
- Understanding what's out there in terms of data, background and context
- Sharing with state partners
- Creating Data sets, reports
- Creating oral health plans, action plans, improvement plans.

## Transitioning into 2024

As we take a big collective breath and celebrate all we've accomplished in 2023, we are leaping into activities for 2024. Stay tuned for many exciting offerings and events in 2024.