

Performance Measure 7: Percentage of 3rd grade children with untreated caries

Plan for the Coming Year

A. Encourage and enable Ohio communities to prevent dental caries through community-based fluoride promotion.

This population-level strategy will be accomplished through the following activities:

- 1) improve public access to high quality information on fluorides and water fluoridation by maintaining on the BOHS website, current data, information and links to other resources;
- 2) maximize the impact of Ohio's fluoridation statute through fluoridation promotion and education efforts;
- 3) provide limited reimbursement for start-up and maintenance costs of water fluoridation.

B. Strengthen and support the dental care safety net.

This infrastructure-level strategy will be accomplished through the following activities: 1) fund subgrants for support to safety net dental clinics; 2) continue to collaborate with private foundation partners to implement and evaluate the technical assistance program of the Oral Health Capacity Building project and continue to provide technical assistance to agencies interested in operating efficient safety net dental clinics; 3) continue to collaborate with the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center on development of a Web-based Ohio Dental Safety Net Clinic Information Center and distance learning curriculum; 4) administer the Ohio Dentist Loan Repayment Program; and 5) prepare and submit renewal and new applications for federal Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations in Ohio.

C. Assist communities in taking action to improve oral health.

This infrastructure-level strategy will be accomplished through the following activities: 1) make data and other information available to help communities describe local oral health status and access to dental care in order to assess community oral health needs; 2) encourage and support community oral health partnerships/coalitions and initiatives; and 3) enable non-dental health professionals (home visitors and physicians' offices) to improve the oral health of the populations they serve.