

at-a-glance

2016

Ohio Department of Health

Access to Dental Care

Many Ohioans who cannot receive dental care in the private sector rely on community dental programs known as the Dental Care Safety Net. The Oral Health Program (OHP) serves as a resource to these programs by offering the following:

Online Information for Dental Safety Net Programs

The OHP helped develop and continues to contribute to Ohio Safety Net Dental Clinics (<http://www.ohiodentalclinics.com>), a one-stop website that features a large array of tools useful to Ohio dental clinics. The Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual, which provides extensive information on improving clinic operations and on starting new dental clinics, is available through this website. The site also offers distance learning curricula, with free continuing education credits, to safety net clinic staff on a variety of pertinent topics. Licensed dentists and dental hygienists may receive free continuing education credits on select curricula.



Scan to learn more about the Ohio Safety Net Dental Clinics.

Assist Safety Net Dental Programs in Recruiting Dental Professionals

Dentists and dental hygienists may qualify for loan repayment for their professional training by working in dental safety net clinics. ODH makes potentially eligible dentists, dental hygienists and dental/dental hygiene students aware of state and federal loan repayment programs that are available to them. In addition, ODH administers the Ohio Dentist and Ohio Dental Hygienists' Loan Programs.

ODH also assists local communities in applying for dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation, which may be necessary for a clinic or dental office to be an eligible worksite for a provider receiving loan repayment.

A map of the counties with one or more dental HPSAs is found on the back of this page.

Funding for Dental Safety Net Programs

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) provides funding to several of Ohio's dental safety net clinics to help offset the cost of uncompensated care, expand clinic capacity or start new clinics.

Funding supports diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic services.

Directory of Dental Safety Net Programs

The OHP maintains a directory of safety net dental programs in Ohio. The directory is published on the OHP Web site at the address noted at the bottom of this page.

Technical Assistance to Build Capacity of Safety Net Dental Programs

The Oral Health Program conducts periodic comprehensive site reviews of safety net grantees and provides technical assistance to agencies interested in starting new or improving operations of existing safety net dental clinics. The OHP collaborated with The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio and other philanthropic partners to develop a legacy report to document their combined efforts to strengthen the dental safety net.

Dental OPTIONS

OPTIONS, the Ohio Partnership to Improve Oral health through access to Needed Services, is a case management program that links eligible people with dentists who have volunteered either to donate care or provide care for reduced fees. OPTIONS is a partnership between ODH and the Ohio Dental Association. The OHP administers OPTIONS and provides funding to a non-profit agency that matches eligible patients with volunteer dentists.



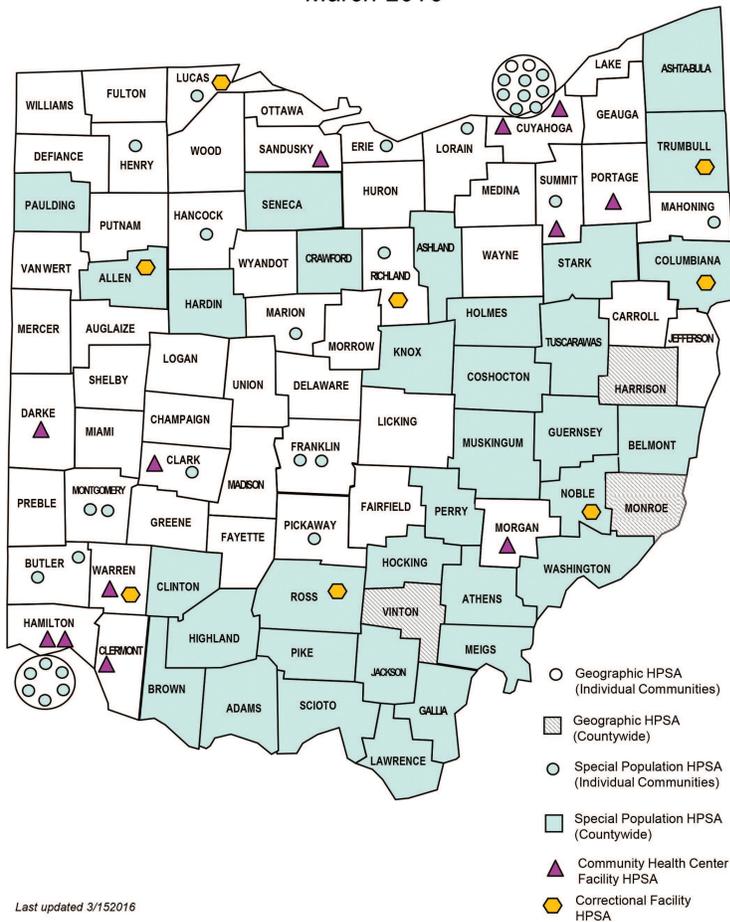
Before treatment

After treatment

Supporting Public Policy Development

The OHP works to support efforts to include oral health as an essential component of health. For example, the OHP issues data briefs on the oral health status of Ohioans and access to dental care. OHP staff are members of the Children's Oral Health Action Team, a broad-based organization that advocates and educates to improve child oral health in Ohio.

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) March 2016



For further information, please contact:



Ohio Department of Health • Oral Health Program
 246 North High Street • Columbus, OH 43215 • 614-466-4180
BCHS@odh.ohio.gov
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ohs/oralhealth.aspx>