



Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

UPDATE: OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH

Rudy Blea, Director
Office of Oral Health Program

NMDOH Office of Oral Health (OOH)

Our Mission: Prevent oral disease and contribute to a healthier New Mexico.

Our Vision: Promote oral health as part of general health, improved oral health outcomes and to assure safety net services.

Chapter 24 of the New Mexico Health and Safety Code mandates that the Department of Health operate a dental health program.

Prevention efforts are cost effective and contribute to a healthier New Mexico.

OOH Operating Budget

Office of Oral Health Program Budget Source	Amount
General Fund	\$1,785,000*
CDC Preventive HHS Block Grant	\$17,900
Material and Child Health Grant Title V	\$50,000
Total	\$1,852,900

*New Mexico's state oral health program is one of the few states that is supported by the General Fund.

Office of Oral Health Staff	# of Positions
Program Director	1
Dental Case Manager	1
Registered Dental Hygienists	3
Dental Assistants	3
Dental Consultant (contractor)	0.40
Social Worker (contractor)	0.25
Total	8.65 (8 FTE, 0.65 contractors)

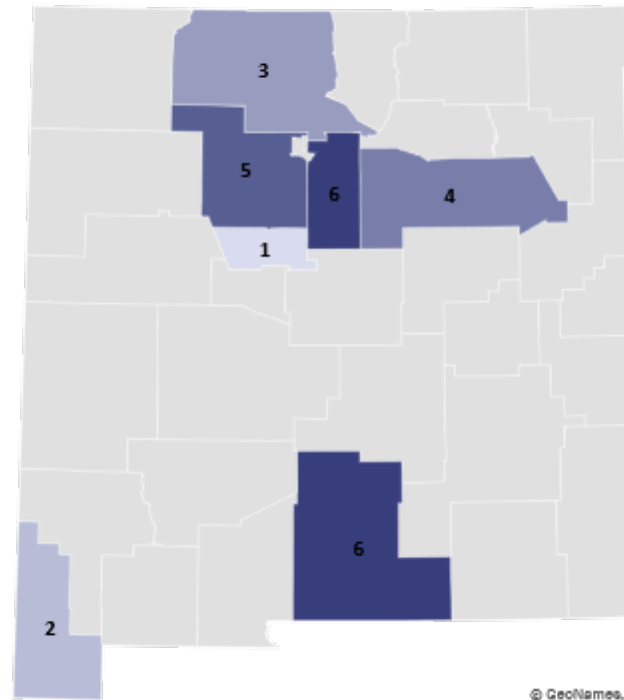
OOH School Mobile Dental Service Program

- Pre-K, Early Head Start, and Head Start programs throughout New Mexico are eligible to participate in the School Mobile Dental Service Program if they have a 50% participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- For eligible programs, dental services are offered 3 times a year
- Basic preventive and treatment services offered to students:
 - Oral health education
 - Oral health assessments
 - Application of dental sealants or fluoride varnish
 - Dental Case Management – working with families to ensure a treatment plan is completed

OOH Community Oral Health Program

- The NMDOH oral health program contracts with seven providers to provide preventative dental services to pre-school and school aged children.
- Services are provided to uninsured and low-income children and adults in rural and urban areas.
- Community oral health programs assess the oral health needs of children, adolescents, and adults. Education is designed to improve oral health literacy.

Providers by County



Powered by Bing
© GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom

- 1 - UNM Dental Services/Community Dental, MIRA Inc.
- 2 - Hidalgo Medical Services
- 3 - El Centro Family Health
- 4 - MIRA Inc.
- 5 - Participa Inc.
- 6 - NM Office of Oral Health

OOH During the COVID-19 Pandemic

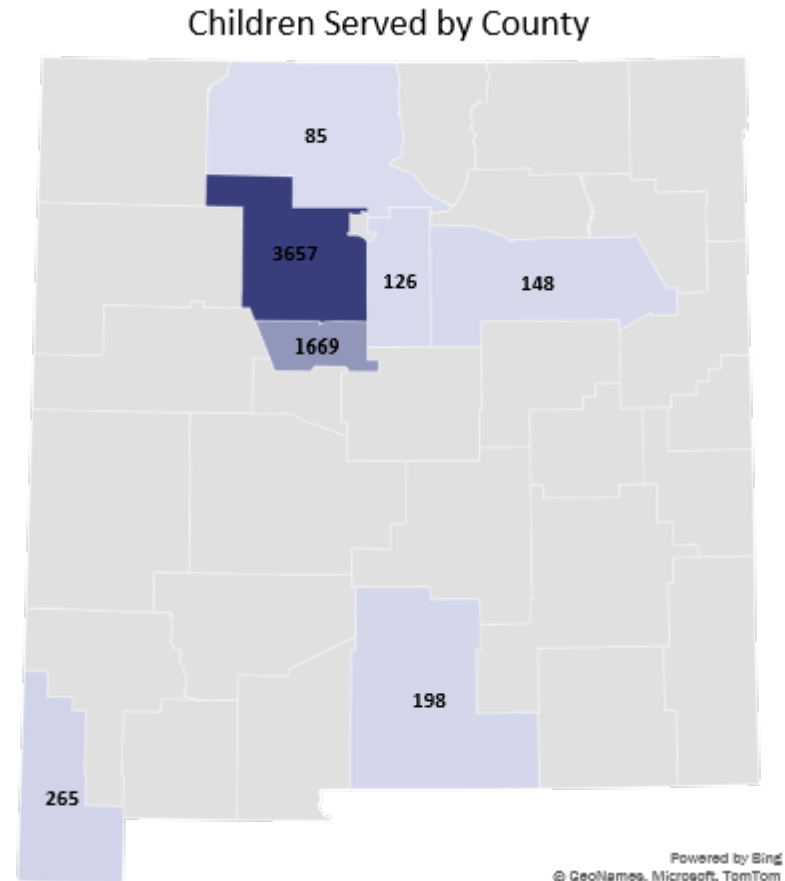
- Continuation of services offered by the Community Oral Health program
- PSA 2021 promoted the importance of oral health during the pandemic (closure of schools and businesses)
- PSA for February Children's Oral Health Month
 - Smile Campaign. Partnership with NM Delta Dental, KOAT TV Hearst corporation conducted Smile Campaign. Oral health messages via anchors, affiliated Facebook, Twitter, and Estrella television. Messages on nutrition by Jeremy Dye DDS, Dental Director, First Choice Health Center. Spanish oral health message was presented by Charles Tatlock DDS retired UNM Dental Sciences
- PSA for Children's Oral Health Month
 - Partnered with the Native American Parent Resources Inc. addressing the importance of oral health during COVID among Native Americans
 - Personal message by Dr. Begay Director, Canoncito, New Mexico (see right link)
- PSA for Oral Health: partnered with KRQE to promote oral health



https://www.dropbox.com/s/7y73z7cxrnt5dns/NAPPR_Dr_Begay_REV2.mp4?dl=0

OOH Patients Served

- During SFY 21 state staff and contractors during the Pandemic provided emergency and basic services to **6,142** individuals. Preventive and treatment services and oral health education were provided. Areas of service: nursing homes, school parking lots, and dental offices.
- Oral Health education was conducted later in the year virtually by state oral health staff (English/Spanish) and by contractors at school parking lots or virtually as well.



OOH Future Projects

- Conduct a pilot oral health assessment of a community's Head Start
- Provide preventive services and oral health education to as many schools in New Mexico as possible during this continued pandemic
- Increase activity with School Based Health Centers to expand the number of preventive dental visits for children and adolescents ages 1-17
- Promote oral health via PSA's
- Increase preventive dental visits for pregnant mothers and for children ages 1-17 through collaboration with the NMWIC program, including either purchasing or creating oral health modules that clients would be required to complete for continued benefits
- Promote the integration of primary care, behavioral health care, and oral health care
- Continue implementing the SM 96 recommendations to increase access to oral health care for Medicaid eligible children
- Promote the use of fluoride varnish by pediatricians

Oral Health-related Updates

- Bernalillo Water Utility and City of Santa Fe continue to provide fluoridated water to its customers
- Educational materials, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss provided to clients during outreach events, such as the Senior Olympics, Senior Day at the State Fair and various community and Pueblo health fairs
- SM96 Task Force convened and submitted recommendations to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee
- OOH and the Human Services Department will continue to address oral health access issues for children
- House Bill 308 Oral Health report was submitted to the New Mexico Legislature, which reported activities being conducted by various oral health advocates to promote oral health and prevent oral diseases

**New Mexico Department of Health
Public Health Division
Population and Community
Health Bureau
Office of Oral Health (OOH)**

- Contact:
- Rudy Blea
- Program Director
- (505) 827-0837
- rudy.blea@state.nm.us



Appendix 1 – Memberships

- New Mexico Oral Health Coalition. The coalition consists of 64 oral health advocates/organizations whose goal is to promote the importance of oral health and increase access to care. <https://www.facebook.com/New-Mexico-Oral-Health-Coalition-NMOHC-1862014534047204/>
- New Mexico Primary Care Association Dental Directors work group whose goal is to improve access to care by Federally Qualified Health Centers in New Mexico.
- Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). ASTDD is a national non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for oral health. ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of national dental public health policy, assists state dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases. OOH staff chairs the ASTDD School and Adolescent Committee whose task is to develop national school oral health policies.
- Oral Health Progress and Equity Network. Our mission is to ignite change and build collective power to transform individuals, communities, and systems. Organization representing over 300 oral health advocates.
- The American Network of Oral Health Coalitions (ANOHC) is a network of 37 State Oral Health Coalitions that advocate for 294 million Americans. ANOHC members are statewide oral health coalitions that promote lifelong oral health by shaping policy, promoting prevention, and educating the public. ANOHC exists to create a reliable place for state oral health coalitions to share information, ask questions, and leverage time and resources.

Appendix 2 – Advisory Committees

- Santa Fe Community College Dental Assistant Program advisory committee. The committee works closely with the program's director ensuring that the program fulfills its goals and objectives.
- Isleta Pueblo Head Start Advisory Committee.
- Head Start Advisory Committees (city of Albuquerque Early Head Start and the county of Santa Fe). Each committee works towards improving the oral health status of children ranging from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. OOH staff provides news/updates and oral health education to these groups.
- New Mexico Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). PRAMS is a surveillance project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and health departments. Developed in 1987, PRAMS collects jurisdiction-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.
- Chronic Disease Prevention Council. The purpose of the council is to improve health with individuals and communities, through support, guidance, and direction to public health professionals, as well as resources so that they can bring back support and guidance to underserved communities. The council is developing a strategic plan for prevention and control of chronic disease. OOH is advocating for the inclusion of oral health in the strategic plan and to increase awareness of the importance and impact of oral health on overall health especially for those who are facing other chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and mental illness.
- Because of the importance of oral health during pregnancy and early childhood, the National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety, working in partnership with the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), created the Dental Hygienist Liaison (DHL) project. Under the DHL project, one dental hygienist from each state volunteers to help promote oral health for pregnant women and children enrolled in Head Start. OOH staff Registered Dental Hygienist Mariela Leyba has served as the Head Start Dental Hygiene Liaison (DHL) for New Mexico since 2016. In this role, she promotes oral health by collaborating with state organizations, serving on Head Start Committees, providing oral health presentations for health manager meetings, staff trainings, and families, and by sharing approved oral health educational materials and updates with Head Start grantees and program staff.



Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

NMDOH Special Needs Dental Clinic

Alicia A. Grady, DDS, FSCD
Clinic Director, NMDOH Special Needs Dental Clinic
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division

NMDOH Special Needs Dental

- There are appx 45,000 persons with developmental disability in the state
- 70% are treatable in a typical dental setting, if dental team has patience and heart
- Community Based Care- 30% with challenging characteristics, difficult access
- Pretend dentistry, supervised neglect
- “Dental care is the greatest unmet healthcare need for persons with disabilities.”

NMDOH Special Needs Dental

Oral Health Realities for Persons with Special Needs

- 66% of patients/caregivers report inadequate access to dental care
- 1 in 4 report dental pain in last 6 months
- 57% will lose their teeth due to periodontal disease
- Importance of lifelong care-few alternatives when teeth are lost
- Lifetime reliance on others for daily care

NMDOH Special Needs Dental Clinic

- National model
- Currently
 - 2 Dentists
 - 2 Hygienists
 - 2 Assistants
 - 1 Front office



Services Provided

- Preventative
 - Cleanings, X-rays, Fluoride treatments, oral hygiene instruction
- Restorative
 - Fillings, stainless steel crowns
- Periodontal therapies
 - Gum treatments
- Limited endodontics and oral surgery
 - Root canals and extractions

What's different than every other dental office

- “Routine” cleaning
 - Team approach
 - Medically complex/fragile
 - Adaptations



What's different than every other dental office



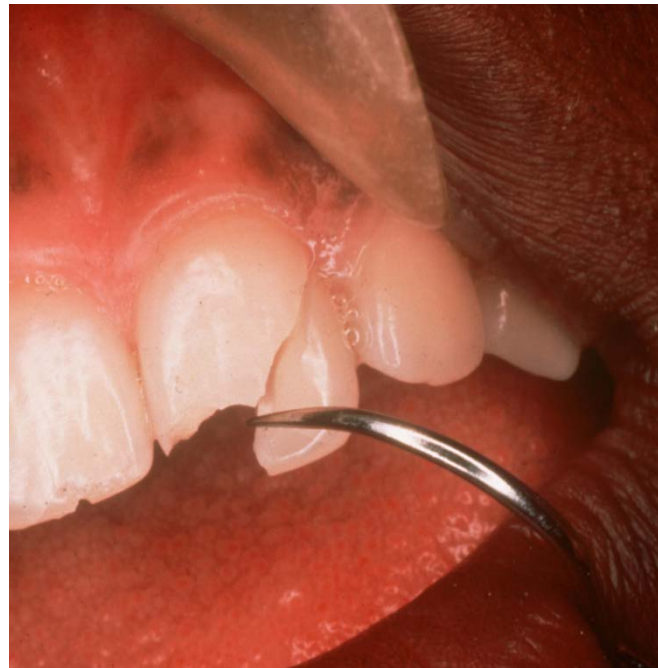
What's different than every other dental office

- Our patients mouths
 - Oral Hygiene
 - Malocclusion
 - Trauma
 - Behaviors
 - Oral Functional Deficits
 - Habits/Reflexes



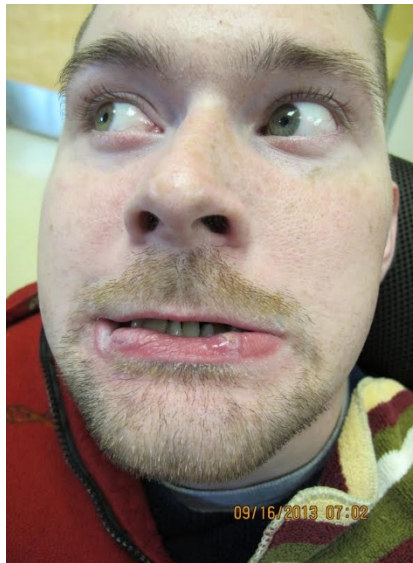
What's different than every other dental office

- Our patients mouths
 - Malocclusion and trauma



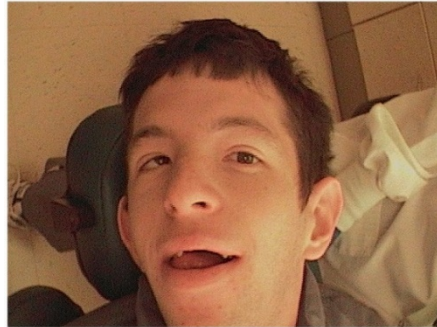
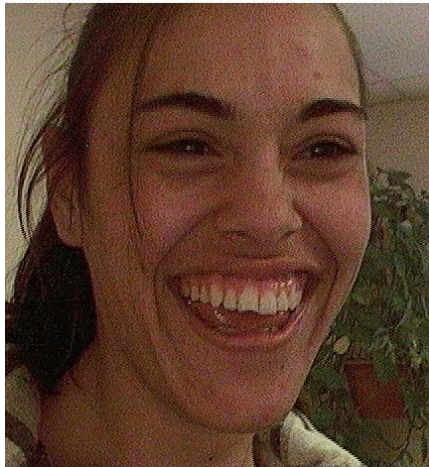
What's different than every other dental office

- Our patients mouths
 - Oral functional deficits and behaviors



What's **NOT** different than every other dental office

- Our patients smiles



Everyone smiles in the same language.

