

2013 CLALLAM COUNTY HEALTH PRIORITIES

BACKGROUND: In August and September 2013, a Partnership Group reviewed and discussed community health assessment data to guide prioritization of health issues. In October 2013, Community Participants voted for final Health Priorities at a Community Health Summit. Multi-disciplinary groups are meeting to determine strategies to address the priorities.

PRIORITY: **ORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL ACCESS**

GOAL: Prevent Oral Health Disease and Increase Access To Dental Services

NOVEMBER 2014 Overview: Oral health disease is the leading communicable disease problem of children and causes significant suffering, disability, and stigmatization of all age groups. Oral health disease is also linked to other health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, pregnancy complications, and impaired nutrition. Oral health disease is largely preventable and yet many community members lack access to these preventive services.

ACTION AREAS (as of November 2014, not updated):

Preserve Access to Optimally Fluoridated Water in Port Angeles and Forks

- Remobilize the taskforce that successfully advocated for Community Water Fluoridation in 2003 to counter the pseudoscience and misinformation of anti-fluoride activists
- Provide regular testimony to the Port Angeles City Council and the general public on the safety and benefits of Community Water Fluoridation

Promote Expanded Access to Dental Care for Infants and Children

- Continue implementation of the ABCD (Access to Baby and Childrens' Dentistry), now entering its third year
- Expand training of primary care practitioners to provide oral health screening exams, fluoride varnish, and appropriate dental referrals to children ages 1-5
- Support expansion of specialized pediatric dental services on the Olympic Peninsula

Increase Access to Dental Care for Low Income Adults

- Promote expansion of Federally Qualified Health Centers offering comprehensive dental services
- Develop non-profit dental clinic models specialized in the delivery of care to Medicaid insured clients and underserved Seniors
- Develop programs targeted for Pregnant Women, People with Developmental Disabilities, and Seniors with Dementia and other Memory Disorders

UPDATED FACTS

WEST END DENTAL PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA; FOR LOW-INCOME IN PORT ANGELES/SEQUIM¹

65% OF ADULTS HAD A DENTAL VISIT IN THE PAST YEAR; 43% OF ADULTS WITH INCOME <\$25,000²

71% OF EIGHTH GRADERS AND 74% OF TENTH GRADERS HAD A DENTAL VISIT IN THE PAST YEAR³

57% OF 3RD GRADERS HAVE HAD A DENTAL SEALANT⁴

LESS THAN 3 IN 10 PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID DENTAL SERVICES ACTUALLY RECEIVED SERVICES⁵