COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS PROMOTING
HEALTHY SMILES FOR CONTRA COSTA

Funded by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) under Contract # 17–10687.
For any questions regarding this document, please contact the CCHS Community Oral Health Program at 925-313-6280.
WE WANT TO THANK CONTRA COSTA COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR COLLABORATING!

~ CCHS Community Oral Health Program (COHP)
There is a direct connection between the health of the mouth (also referred to as oral health) and a person’s daily life. Oral health affects physical and mental health and impacts health outcomes within local communities. Oral health milestones mark key points in a person’s life: baby’s first tooth, child’s first tooth loss, adolescent braces, young adult’s wisdom teeth extraction, and geriatric dentures. We often consider oral or dental health to be a marker of an individual’s health, but it is also indicative of the health of a population.

In 2018, Contra Costa County Health Services—Family, Maternal, and Child Health Programs received Prop 56 funding from the California Department of Public Health to establish a local oral health program to assess local oral health needs, develop and evaluate a community health improvement plan, implement evidence-based oral health strategies, work with partners to promote and enhance local oral health infrastructure, and mobilize on strategies in alignment with the State oral health objectives.

This report highlights Contra Costa’s oral health needs and opportunities as identified by a seven-month oral health needs assessment and community health improvement planning process driven by Contra Costa community stakeholders. Contra Costa community stakeholders noted that, despite high quality of care, too few providers accept Medi-Cal to meet the community’s need and are not accessible to residents of all regions within the County. While preventive safety-net oral health services are robust and wide-spread within the Contra Costa community and schools, continued coordination is imperative to ensure students are receiving appropriate preventive and dental treatment. Oral health is not present in most policies, although there are opportunities for policy integration amongst several local sectors. Although there is an abundance of available oral health information, consistent oral health promotion and information sharing was lacking. It was also recognized that local oral health data is limited, which prevents a true depiction of the oral health status of the Contra Costa community. Lastly, Contra Costa partners called out the importance of ensuring intentional oral health efforts and special considerations for children and adolescents with special health care needs.
Throughout the needs assessment process, Contra Costa’s Community Oral Health Program (COHP) examined qualitative and quantitative data derived from key informant interviews, community partner input, and oral health population-level data. This analysis resulted in the identification of seven oral health priorities for the County. These seven priorities will guide local action to ensure that children and youth, including those with special healthcare needs, and pregnant women in Contra Costa County will have optimal oral health.
SUMMARY
OF KEY FINDINGS

• In 2017, 105,495 people in Contra Costa (9.3% of population) lived in households below the federal poverty level and among that number 30,777 or 29% of them were children.iii

• In 2017–18, Contra Costa County’s Children’s Oral Health Program (COHP), reported that of the 3,898 children assessed, 59% had dental caries experience and 24% had untreated caries.iv

• In 2017–2018, La Clinica’s Oral Health Initiative (OHI) program screened 433 children, of whom 130 were considered “urgent cases.”v

• In 2017, there were 80,587 Medi-Cal eligible children ages 0–17vi and only 31 general dentists within the County accepting new Medi-Cal dental patients as of April 2018.vii

• An estimated 9,125 children and adolescents ages 0–17 were Medi-Cal eligible annually from 2012–2016 in East Contra Costaviii and only 1 general dentist was accepting new Medi-Cal patients as of April 2018.vii

• In 2016, only 37% of Medi-Cal eligible residents ages 0–20 visited a dentist.ix

• In 2016, only 14.4% of Medi-Cal eligible children ages 12–24 months had an annual dental visit.ix

• In 2014, 763 emergency room visits for youth under 20 years of age in Contra Costa were due to a non-traumatic dental condition.x

• In 2017, of 14,617 Contra Costa County kindergarteners, 7,198 (49%) returned a completed kindergarten oral health assessment.xi, xii

• In 2012, 49.0% of Contra Costa women with a live birth reported having a dental visit during pregnancy compared to 42.1% across California.xiii
In order to address gaps within the identified seven oral health priority areas, Contra Costa has identified the following next steps toward developing an oral health community health improvement plan in alignment with the State oral health objectives.

**Next steps for Contra Costa include:**

1. **Refine the draft goals recommended by community partners** (See pg. 8).

2. **Prioritize 2019 oral health implementation objectives within the seven oral health priorities areas.**

3. **Build capacity and engage stakeholders by organizing a regular oral health meeting for Contra Costa community partners/stakeholders to move the oral health priorities to action.**

4. **Facilitate care coordination discussions between Contra Costa oral health providers.**

5. **Continue to solicit and obtain primary oral health data from Contra Costa community partners.**

6. **Identify additional data collection opportunities in order to paint a clear landscape of the caries risk and prevalence of children, adolescents, and pregnant women i.e., through kindergarten oral health assessments, prenatal visits, etc.**

7. **Advocate for the implementation of evidence-based oral health programs, including school-based sealant programs, local water fluoridation, and collection of the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments.**

8. **Work with community agencies to understand electronic medical/dental record systems and opportunities for dental integration/information sharing.**

9. **Improve consistent messaging around oral health across by eliminating jargon and technical language, presenting critical oral health information in engaging and compelling ways.**

10. **Incorporate oral health into existing successful Contra Costa public health policies following the model of Contra Costa Tobacco Prevention.**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NEXT STEPS
REFINE DRAFT GOALS

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<th>Goal 01</th>
<th>Goal 02</th>
<th>Goal 03</th>
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<td>Improve oral health access for Contra Costa County’s diverse population of Medi-Cal eligible pregnant women, children, and adolescents through education, prevention and treatment.</td>
<td>Improve Countywide data collection on oral health data and indicators.</td>
<td>Contra Costa County oral health policies will support systems and services for children and youth, including those with special health care needs and pregnant women.</td>
<td>Contra Costa residents will be informed on the importance of oral health to overall health.</td>
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<td>All Medi-Cal eligible pregnant women will have a dental exam and oral health education at least once during pregnancy.</td>
<td>Medi-Cal eligible parents, caregivers, and legal guardians will understand the importance of oral health practices for children age 0–5 years.</td>
<td>All Medi-Cal eligible children will be seen by a dentist by their first birthday or first tooth.</td>
<td>Pregnant women and youth age 0–20 years are linked to a dental home that provides access to preventive, routine, and specialty dental care.</td>
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<td>Develop an integrated information system to facilitate patients’ overall oral health care and maintained relationship with a dental home.</td>
<td>Develop and build collaboration and coordination around oral health across Contra Costa County.</td>
<td>Increase school-based and school-linked oral health prevention and treatment programs for children and youth who lack Medi-Cal dental providers.</td>
<td>Elementary school site staff and parents, caregivers, and legal guardians of school-age children will understand the importance of oral health practices.</td>
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ENDNOTES
FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

i American Pain Society. 2017. "Activity pattern profiles: Relationship with affect, daily functioning, impairment, and variables related to life goals."


iii U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Poverty Status in last 12 months S1701.


vi U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Medicaid/Means Tested Coverage B27007.


ix California Department of Health Care Services, Service Utilization, Dental Data Reports.

x California’s Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Emergency Department Patient Discharge Data 2014.

xi California Department of Education, Dataquest, Enrollment by Grade.

xii California Dental Association, AB1433 Reported Data.


CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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