

Fact Sheet

Dental and Oral Health

From CDC's School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2000

About SHPPS

SHPPS is a national survey periodically conducted to assess school health policies and programs at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. Results from SHPPS 2000 are published in the *Journal of School Health*, Volume 71, Number 7, September 2001.

Health Services

- 17.6% of states and 31.1% of districts require students to be screened for oral health problems.
- 29.4% of elementary schools, 16.7% of middle/junior high schools, and 6.8% of senior high schools screen most students for oral health problems.
- Among schools that screen students for oral health problems, 98.0% notify parents when a student's screening indicates a potential problem and 57.3% notify teachers.
- 28.0% of states and 43.7% of districts require districts or schools to provide identification of or referral for dental problems.
- 61.1% of elementary schools, 45.9% of middle/junior high schools, and 47.4% of senior high

schools provide identification of or referral for dental problems to students when needed.

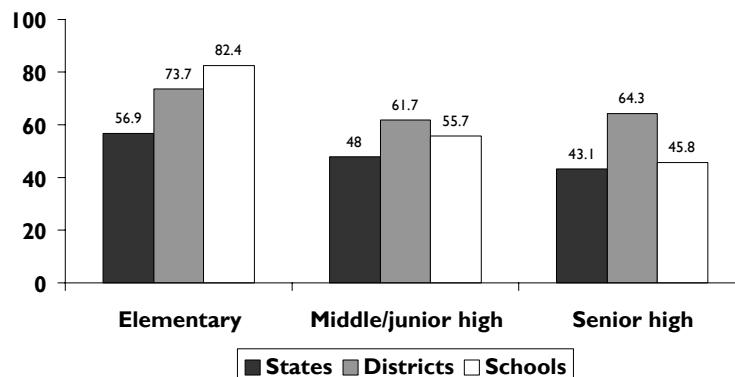
- 20.5% of districts have arrangements with organizations or professionals not located on school property to provide dental care or dental care referrals to students when needed.

Staff Development

During the two years preceding the study:

- 20.8% of states and 23.8% of districts provided funding for or offered staff development on dental and oral health to health education teachers.
- 13.3% of elementary school classes, 13.5% of required health education courses in middle/junior high schools, and 7.7% of required health education courses in senior high schools had a teacher who received staff development on dental and oral health.
- 34.0% of states and 28.6% of districts provided funding for or offered staff development on dental and oral health to school nurses, and 26.8% of school health services coordinators received staff development on identification of or referral for dental problems.

Percentage of States, Districts, and Schools Requiring Education on Dental and Oral Health, by School Level



For additional information on SHPPS, contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Adolescent and School Health, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Mailstop K-33, Atlanta, GA 30341-3717, telephone 888-231-6405, <http://www.cdc.gov/shpps>.