

# ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM (OHP)

**MISSION:** to improve the oral health of New York City residents through the prevention and control of oral diseases and the promotion of oral health. OHP advocates for oral health issues and operates a wide range of programs and activities. Partnerships with private corporations, academic institutions and dental organizations maximize the use of limited resources.

## SERVICES AT A GLANCE (9/25/06)

### Clinical Network of Community-based and Health Center Dental Clinics

OHP operates an integrated network of community-based and health center dental clinics, providing comprehensive dental treatment for children and adolescents up to age 21 who are at high risk for dental diseases and/or who may not otherwise receive professional dental services. The children are from poor, working poor and immigrant families who experience a greater prevalence of dental diseases.

The City of New York has provided dental services in public schools since 1913, recognizing that oral health is integral to general health. The current operating model consists of a fleet of innovative community-based portable dental clinics, which brings comprehensive treatment, prevention and referral services directly into communities, expanding reach and increasing access to care. Portable dental clinics are located directly in public schools and other community locations, such as recreation centers, day care centers and Head Start programs throughout the five boroughs, for up to several years depending on need.

Since the 1930s dental clinics have been located in the city's District Health Centers. Recently renovated, these state-of-the-art clinics have four to five treatment rooms and provide much needed dental care, complementing the geographic delivery of dental services. Health Center dental clinics are located at Washington Heights, Fort Greene, Bushwick, Lower Manhattan and Corona.

The clinical program's goals are to educate, prevent and treat oral diseases, and help link families to primary care dental services within their communities. Treatment services include the following:

- Diagnostic and radiographic services.
- Emergency treatment.
- Preventive treatment, (including oral health education; prophylaxis; fluoride; occlusal sealants; space maintenance).
- Restorative treatment (amalgam and composite restorations; stainless steel crowns).
- Endodontics, periodontal care and oral surgery.
- Interceptive orthodontic care; referral for full banding and surgical orthodontic treatment.

A partnership with Colgate-Palmolive's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures (BSBF) Mobile Dental Program is aimed at children in grades pre-k through eight. It serves as a one-time enhancement component bringing additional free screening, education and treatment referrals to significantly more schools. OHP coordinates the selection of school sites for the BSBF mobile dental van, which is situated outside of schools on or adjacent to school property.

### School Dental Record Program (SDRP)

SDRP implements the School Chancellor's Regulation, which strongly recommends an oral health examination for students in selected grades in elementary, intermediate and high schools. Through this program, NYC parents were informed about the locations of OHP and other community dental providers and how to maintain good oral health.

#### Program goals include:

- Encourage early and regular examinations.
- Promote access to dental care and follow-up treatment for children with needs.
- Collect information to establish needs assessments and treatment profiles.
- Provide age appropriate messages (now in 15 languages) for parents and children and information about available services.

### New York City Oral Health Surveillance System

OHP conducts the city's component of the CDC-funded New York State Oral Health Surveillance System to monitor oral diseases and conditions, access and use of preventive services in third grade public and non public school children.

### Core Public Health Policy/Services

OHP provides leadership for oral health policy direction and provision of public oral health services for the City of New York. The core public health components include:

#### Oral Health Policy/Assessment:

- Policy, planning and oral health legislative issues
- Maintenance of water fluoridation standards
- Community oral health assessment; research
- Community partnerships; access issues

#### Oral Diseases Intervention

- Public and professional education (presentations for parents, classrooms, health care professionals and community organizations among others; publications; Continuing Dental Education).
- Community prevention/ early detection (Oral Cancer Consortium events for adults; Mouth guards/oral injury prevention; Early Childhood Caries (ECC)).
- Outreach and linkages (identification of high risk groups; case finding (screening) and referrals).

### How to Obtain Orthodontic Services

While not provided by OHP, eligible children up to age 21 who manifest severe, disabling malocclusions can receive treatment in accordance with Title V of the Public Health Law (PHCP), and quality of care through an extensive panel of private and institutional orthodontists, multidisciplinary surgical and specialty care providers, and three state approved academic screening institutions, which provide initial screening and case review services. Recipients must be eligible for Medicaid or State Aid Assistance and have a severe malocclusion. This includes treatment of birth defects (cleft lip/palate) and malocclusions associated with skeletal deformities. **Please contact one of the OHP dental clinics for information on how to apply for these services.**