

**BOH  
MAC**

**BETTER  
ORAL HEALTH  
MASSACHUSETTS  
COALITION**

# **Surveillance & Assessment**

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# Surveillance?

## What is Surveillance?

Public health surveillance is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of outcome-specific data for use in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice. A surveillance system provides the functional capacity for data collection and analysis as well as the timely dissemination of information derived from these data to persons who can undertake effective prevention and control activities.

Thacker SB, Berkelman RL. Public health surveillance in the United States. *Epidemiol Rev* 1988;10:164-90.



# Surveillance and Assessment Committee

Mission: Promotes the development and utilization of a comprehensive statewide oral health data collection system that identifies areas of need and tracks oral health status, with a special focus on those at highest risk for dental disease.

## Goals:

1. Expanding oral health data collection and information through a unified effort designed to promote oral health and prevent disease
2. Increasing access to, and utilization of, oral health status and service utilization data and related information by health policy-makers, healthcare providers, businesses, and community-based organizations
3. Using data to increase awareness of oral health needs and improve programs and policies at the local, regional, and state level
4. Developing Internet-based oral health information sources



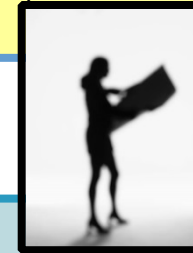
# Activities

## VARIABLES

1. Dental Visits - Any dental visit in the past year (all ages).
2. Dental Insurance – Have dental insurance during past year (all ages).
3. Tooth Loss – Individuals who have lost all of their teeth (adults).
4. Untreated Decay – the presence of at least one untreated decayed tooth (children).
5. Dental Sealants – The presence of at least one sealed first molar tooth (3rd graders).
6. Oral Pharyngeal Cancer – Individuals with a diagnosis of oral cancer (all ages).
7. Community Water Fluoridation – Status of communities as fluoridated or not.
8. School-Based Dental Centers – School-based health centers with a dental component.
9. CHCs with Dental- Community Health Centers with Dental Clinics on site.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Investigate Federal funding opportunities for oral health surveillance (e.g. a cooperative agreement with CDC, NIH grant, etc.).
2. Investigate policy changes needed to support an oral health surveillance system in Massachusetts.
3. Explore collaborations with MassCHIP. This will include developing systems and agreements for collecting, cleaning, storage, and dissemination of oral health data.
4. Develop tools and mechanisms that partnering organizations will use to provide oral health surveillance data.



## 2013 - 2014 ASSESSMENT & SURVEILLANCE WORK PLAN

- Sell the importance of a state oral health surveillance system for Massachusetts: systematic data collection, reporting, and analyses that is universally available.
- Actively work with MassCHIP on a format to include existing oral health data reporting.
- Finalize Concept paper for potential funding opportunities to support new oral health surveillance/reports.
- Work with BOHMAC Executive Director and other committee chairs to plan our fundraising strategies .
- Encourage and support DPH in initiating new oral health reports.
- Continue working on a data sharing tool for oral health data.