



NORTH
Dakota Be Legendary.
Health & Human Services

Oral health impacts overall health.

Bismarck, N.D. – The North Dakota Oral Health Program is working to raise awareness of oral health through a variety of initiatives, trainings, and programs.

“Oral health is linked to whole-body health,” says Cheri Kiefer, director of the Oral Health Program at North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS). “Poor oral health negatively impacts overall health and well-being, and the reverse is also true.”

Many programs focus on parents and caregivers so they can encourage young people to develop healthy behaviors that follow into adulthood. One such program is the **SEALIND School-Based Fluoride Varnish & Sealant Program**. In this program, public health dental hygienists visit participating schools two times a year to provide preventive services such as dental screenings, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and oral health education.

“Schools are an ideal place to reach children, teachers and caregivers,” said Toni Hruby, HHS oral health prevention coordinator. “We’re grateful for our external dental partners that collaborate with us to implement the program, increasing our capacity to serve more children.”

Other initiatives include R-COOL Health Scrub Camp, Smiles for Life Training, North Dakota Oral Health Coalition, community water fluoridation, and community blood pressure screenings.

To learn more about these initiatives and the connection between oral health and overall health, visit hhs.nd.gov/health/oral-health-program.