

**ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM
SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

Oral disease continues to be a serious public health problem in the Philippines. Although preventable, these diseases affect almost every Filipino at one point or another in his or her lifetime. The national government is primarily tasked to develop policies and guideline for local government units. In 2007, the Department of Health formulated the Guidelines in the Implementation of Oral Health Program for Public Health Services (AO 2007-0007). The program aims to reduce the prevalence rate of dental caries to 85% and periodontal disease to 60% by the end of 2016. The program seeks to achieve these objectives by providing preventive, curative, and promotive dental health care to Filipinos through a lifecycle approach. This approach provides a continuum of quality care by establishing a package of essential basic oral health care (BOHC) for every lifecycle stage, starting from infancy to old age.

The Program’s general objective is the Reduction on the prevalence rate of dental caries and periodontal diseases from 92% in 1998 to 85% and from 78% in 1998 to 60%, respectively, by end of 2016 among general population. Specifically, it aims to a) To increase the proportion of Orally Fit Children (OFC) under 6 years old to 12% by 20% by 2020; b) To control oral health risks among the young people; and c) To improve the oral health conditions of pregnant women by 20% and older persons by 10% every year till 2016.

The Target Priorities are the Pre-school children, Adolescents, Pregnant Women and the Elderly.

The DOH is hoping to attain 12% OFC in 2016 and 20% in 2020. To date more or less 3.20% pre-schoolers are OFC (national).

Annual, 2014

Regional Oral Health Status, 2014					
Province	Orally Fit Child (OFC)	12-71 months given BOHC	Adolescent and youth given BOHC	Pregnant women given BOHC	Older Persons given BOHC
Abra	0.60	8.75	7.13	15.24	6.15
Apayao	6.43	6.40	8.72	39.78	2.70
Benguet	12.20	20.56	9.24	20.47	10.81
Baguio City	3.95	10.81	4.19	25.68	2.23
Ifugao	14.99	30.47	8.77	39.93	23.10
Kalinga	10.81	28.91	7.82	43.25	9.65
Mt. province	10.08	16.17	10.55	17.92	23.11
CAR	8.45	17.73	7.77	26.99	10.29
NATIONAL	12% (2016)				

Source: FHSIS Annual Report 2014

The province of Abra and Apayao have low accomplishments on OFC. For Abra, the low accomplishment is due to lack of public health dentists in the area. The upland municipalities are rarely visited by the dentists.

First Quarter, 2015

Regional Oral Health Status, First Quarter 2015					
Province	Orally Fit Child (OFC)	12-71 months given BOHC	Adolescent and youth given BOHC	Pregnant women given BOHC	Older Persons given BOHC
Abra	2.94	2.64	2.48	7.29	1.73
Apayao	0.78	5.24	1.43	7.57	0.79
Benguet	3.51	5.30	2.52	6.47	2.77
Baguio City	1.90	3.26	0.84	7.77	0.99
Ifugao	0.78	2.90	0.97	6.80	2.80
Kalinga	3.85	13.61	4.77	22.99	9.71
Mt. province	0.38	1.75	3.33	4.27	1.01
CAR	2.0	5.0	2.3	9.0	2.8

Source: FHSIS First Quarter Report 2015

The first quarter accomplishment is only one fourth of the target accomplishment of the whole year. The region is far yet to achieve the national goal of attaining 16% OFC. There is still a need to improve the accomplishments.

ISSUES / CONCERNS:

The lack of manpower for public health dentists still remains the number 1 problem in majority of the areas of the region especially the province of Abra. It has 27 municipalities but it has only 4 public health dentists.

Baguio City has a very low % accomplishment on OFC and yet it is an urban area where anybody has an access to a public health dentist.

In certain municipalities with municipal hired dentists, some dental health programs are well funded while the others are not. In areas where the public health dentists are able to visit, they are dependent on the walk-in clients. Very few PHDs are trying to reach every far flung areas to conduct dental services. Perhaps one of the reason is the lack or non-availability of TEVs.

WHAT HAVE BEEN DONE:

1. Provision of Essential Health Care Packages for Child Development Centers with municipal dentists.
2. Provision of Kiddie Toothbrush among 3-5 years old during the UHC Caravans in Abra and Apayao.

3. Provision of Adult Dental Kits among adolescents during the UHC Buntis Congress and Caravan.
4. Provision of Adult Dental Kits to municipalities with DOH-hired dentists.
5. Monitoring of dental health program among priority areas
6. Provision of ART, Pits and Fissures and Flouride Varnish to areas with dentists

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