National Organization of State Offices of Rural & State Offices of Rural Health
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health

- NOSORH promotes the capacity of State Offices of Rural Health to improve health care in rural America through leadership development, advocacy, education, and partnerships.

- **What we do:**
  - Strengthen the leadership and capacity of State Offices of Rural Health
  - Provide a forum for the exchange and distribution of rural health information
  - Promote the development and maintenance of State Rural Health Associations
  - Provide leadership for state and community-based rural health activities
State Offices of Rural Health: The Basics

- There is a SORH in each state
- They may be called something different:
  - Center for Rural Health
  - Office of Primary Care and Rural Health
- They are organized differently:
  - 37 in state government
  - 10 in universities
  - 3 non profit organizations
- Fire core functions
  - Information Dissemination
  - Rural Health Coordination
  - Technical Assistance
  - Recruitment and Retention
  - Partnerships
SORH Oral Health Work

• Alaska

Creating State/Nationwide Partnerships for Rural and Frontier Oral Health
  ◦ Collection of information from State Offices of Rural Health to understand what activities on oral health planning are occurring. National partnerships developed to gather information towards improving oral access based on the initial research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SORH is working on improving access to oral health services.</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State has an oral health plan.</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SORH works with other in-state organizations on oral health issues.</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<td>SORH works with national organizations on oral health issues.</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>SORH works with CHCs to increase access through expansion grants.</td>
<td>62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Medicaid Program covers adult oral health care.</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working on oral health workforce policy or legislation.</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td>Underserved areas in the states with adequate oral health facilities.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underserved areas in the states without adequate oral health facilities.</td>
<td>80%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SORH Oral Health Work

• Delaware

First Smile Delaware

• Provide parents, dental and medical providers with the tools needed to improve our state’s child and adolescent oral and overall health.

  Education through:
  ◦ Strategically position and coordinate our resources.
  ◦ Facilitate the flow of information.
  ◦ Refining the message to the target population.
  ◦ Integrated outreach: Grassroots / clinical / marketing.
  ◦ Conducting quantitative and qualitative research and evidence-based evaluations.
  ◦ Infrastructure and policy development.
SORH Oral Health Work

- Montana
  Oral Health Screening Program
  - Volunteer dentists and dental hygienists offer their time to take a quick look into students’ mouths in order to identify any early or urgent oral health care needs. Via school nurses, the parents are informed of any problems and referred to local dentists or the Gallatin Community Clinic.

Number of Schools Screened - 26

Number of Students Screened – 2683 (vs. 2571 in 2009)
  No Dental Needs: 2115 (78.8%)
  Early Dental Needs: 429 (16%)
  Urgent Dental Needs: 139 (5.2%)
SORH Oral Health Work

- North Carolina
  - Dental consultant who visits safety net practices and provides dental assessments. Provides technical assistance on financials, scheduling, resources, and staffing.
NNOHA/NOSORH Partnership

- NPOHC Mtg Presentation
- NOSORH Annual Mtg Presentation
- Survey of State Offices of Rural Health
- Webinar Education:
  - Understanding the rural oral health workforce
  - Integrating oral health into the medical health home
  - Conducting an oral health needs assessment
• National Rural Health Day scheduled for November 15
• Week long activities, webinars
• http://celebratepowerofrural.org
• Key Messages:
  ◦ Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work
  ◦ Amazing things are happening in Rural America
  ◦ Being a rural healthcare provider offers tremendous opportunities
  ◦ Health care in rural America is unique