## Oral Health/Access to Dental Care: Problem Analysis

### Social/Economic/Policy Level

#### Economic Issues
- Poverty
- Budget Constraints - lack of program funding for public health prevention efforts in oral health

#### Systems/Services
- Lack of mandate for adequate Medicaid coverage & adequate reimbursement rates
- Limited private insurance options
- Lack of mandated primary care provider training in oral health

#### Policy
- Lack of fluoridation in water systems

### Family/Community/Institutional Level

#### Dental Insurance
- High cost
- Unavailable
- Inadequate provider reimbursement

#### Provider Issues
- Lack of training of allied health providers to address oral health issues
- Providers do not accept Medi-Cal
- Lack of Specialty

#### School Related Issues
- Lack of school-based health centers with dental services
- Lack of training of allied health providers to address oral health issues
- Lack of fluoride & sealant programs
- Availability of sugary snacks & beverages

#### Community
- Lack of Transportation
- Access to sugary snacks/beverages in fast food & neighborhood corner
- Lack of local public health education about oral health issues

#### Family Issues
- Lack education on importance of oral Health
- Cultural practices related to nutrition & dental hygiene
- Do not value primary dentition
- Sugary snacks & soda

### Individual Level

#### Behavioral Factors
- Unmanageable behavior in dental office
- Substance abuse
- Tobacco use
- Poor food choices
- Poor oral hygiene

#### Knowledge
- Lack of knowledge of impact of nutrition on oral health
- Lack of knowledge of the importance of oral hygiene

#### Biological Factors
- Family history
- Genetics

#### Medical Factors
- Poor nutrition
- Special health care needs
- Saliva-reducing medications
- Caries producing bacteria

### Target Outcome(s):
- Poor oral health / decayed missing or filled teeth/gum disease

### Consequences:
- Pain & suffering, potential for poor nutrition, cosmetic disfigurement, lowered self-esteem, potential for chronic infection including periodontal disease, & ultimate increased treatment costs.