Let’s talk about the “Root” cause & how we can fix it

Patrick Finnerty, DentaQuest
Suzanne Heckenlaible, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation
Agenda

- The “Root” problem
- Virginia Mission of Mercy
- Oral Health 2020
- Workforce Initiatives
- Outreach Programs
Among adults 65+ 40% have gum disease 25% have no natural teeth

Nutritional deficiencies

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease in the United States

# of Hours Missed Annually due to dental-related issues:

52,000,000 hours of school 164,000,000 hours of work

30,000 oral and pharyngeal cancers diagnosed each year

Death

Source: American Dental Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
25% of children have 80% of the cavities.

Source: Children’s Dental Health Project, www.cdhp.org
1 in 4 adults avoid smiling due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

29% of low-income adults say that it affects their ability to interview for a job.

Source: www.ada.org
Barriers to Accessing Dental Care

- **Limited Income & Coverage**: 7 out of 10 uninsured seniors could not pay for a major procedure.

- **Accessible Services**: 33 Million live where dentists and clinics are scarce.

- **Understanding the Need for Routine Care**: 23% haven’t seen a dental provider in five years.

- **Lack of Ability to Pay**: 80% of uninsured seniors could not pay for a major procedure.

Virginia Mission of Mercy video
Oral health is essential to lifelong health and wellbeing. Improved health equity results in greater social justice.
Workforce Initiatives
National Momentum Building for Midlevel Dental Providers

Dental therapy policies by state

- Does not allow dentists to hire dental therapists
- Alaska native tribes have authorized dental therapy
- Tribal access authorized and statewide use under consideration
- Actively exploring authorizing dental therapy
- Allows dentists to hire dental therapists

Dental/Medical Inter-Professional Projects
Integrating Oral Health & Primary Care Improves Health and Lowers Costs

**Treating Gum Disease Means Lower Annual Medical Costs**

- **Diabetes**: $2,840 (40.2%)
- **Stroke**: $5,681 (40.9%)
- **Heart Disease**: $1,090 (10.7%)
- **Pregnancy**: $2,433 (73.7%)

Significant annual cost savings are possible when individuals with certain chronic diseases (diabetes, cerebral vascular disease, or coronary heart disease), or who were pregnant, received dental treatment for their gum disease, after accounting for the effect of diabetes.

**Treating Gum Disease Reduces Hospital Admissions**

- **Diabetes**: 39.4%
- **Stroke**: 21.2%
- **Heart Disease**: 28.6%

Significant decreases in annual hospitalizations are possible when individuals with certain chronic diseases received treatment for their gum disease, after accounting for the effect of diabetes.

Source: Jeffcoat, M., et. al., “Periodontal Therapy Improves Outcomes in Systemic Conditions.” Abstract, American Association of Dental Research; March 21, 2014
Dental/Medical Inter-Professional Projects

Why See a Nurse Practitioner at my Dental Appointment?

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) in a dental office brings the focus from strictly oral health to overall health. For the patient it is an opportunity to see two healthcare professionals in a single visit. Working in an inter-professional environment will improve clinical skills and expand knowledge for both the nurse practitioner and dental students. Good oral health promotes good overall health and vice versa.

An estimated 23.1 million Americans report visiting a dental provider and not a primary care provider in the same year.

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Also called an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), the Nurse Practitioner holds a doctorate or master's degree in nursing and is nationally board certified to diagnose and treat health conditions. Nurse Practitioners are licensed to practice independently in Iowa.

Do you have your Medicare Card with you?

Make sure you bring your medical insurance information to your dental appointment.

See a Nurse Practitioner at your dental appointment!

Nurse Practitioner Clinic

for Primary Health and Dental Care

The Nurse Practitioner Clinic for Health and Dental Care brings nurse practitioner students, dental students and faculty together to provide chairsides primary care to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.
Resources/Tools

- Dental/Medical Inter-Professional Projects

www.seniorsoralhealth.org
Outreach Programs
Tele-dentistry

- Virtual Dental Home Project – Pacific Center for Special Care at the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, California
  - Community-based practice of specially trained dental hygienists and assistants who collect dental records and provide preventive care for patients in community settings, such as schools, Head Start preschools and nursing homes
  - Information is shared through a secure telehealth system to a dentist

Source: www.virtualdentalhome.org
Tele-dentistry

- Virtual Dental Home Project:
  - Health Promotion and Education
  - Dental Disease Risk Assessments
  - Preventive procedures (fluoride varnish, dental sealants, etc.)
  - If directed by the dentist, provide a small protective filling called an “interim therapeutic restoration (ITR)”- patient is then referred to dentist to determine further treatment
  - Tracking, Compliance and referral/follow-up on dental services.

- 66% of the patients seen through VDH six year pilot project were able to receive the care they needed at the community site

Source: www.virtualdentalhome.org
Donated Dental Services (DDS):
Provides comprehensive dental treatment to our country’s most vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile.

12,365 individuals were served

7,103 of whom received
$24,610,707 in donated treatment including
$2,151,535 contributed laboratory fabrications
Donated Orthodontic Services (DOS) Program

Volunteers: 533 orthodontists and 29 laboratories participate

Served: 615 low-income children
Mission of Mercy

- 33 state specific Mission of Mercy events with links

www.adcfmom.org
Help Your Community Smile:
Start or Enhance a Community Oral Health Program for Older Adults

• **Purpose:** Identify and promote vetted, low-cost, community-based oral health programs for older adults
  - Oral Health Program Database
  - Community Guide to Adult Oral Health Program Implementation (Oral Health Guide)
Help Your Community Smile: Start or Enhance an Oral Health Program for Older Adults

This website aims to help communities, governments, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and private businesses start or enhance community-based oral health programs for older adults. With two main components—a database of community-based oral health programs and The Community Guide to Adult Oral Health Program Implementation (Oral Health Guide)—this website offers access to essential tools for planning, designing, and implementing a new program or replicating or expanding an existing program.

Database

Visit the Find a Program page to search through approximately 200 community-based oral health programs, across the nation, in 11 categories. You can replicate one of these programs or adapt it to meet a specific need in your community. Or, you can design your own program, drawing from the experiences of included programs. You'll also find contact information (as available) for each program in its profile in the database.

Select All Programs for an alphabetical list of all the oral health programs in the database.

Oral Health Guide

The Community Guide to Adult Oral Health Program Implementation (Oral Health Guide) leads you step by step through the program development process, from assessing your community's need for...
All program profiles include:

- Program overview
- Website link
- Information on program model, target population, services delivered, etc.

Featured program profiles include additional information on:

- Program history and development
- Program sustainability
- Program impact