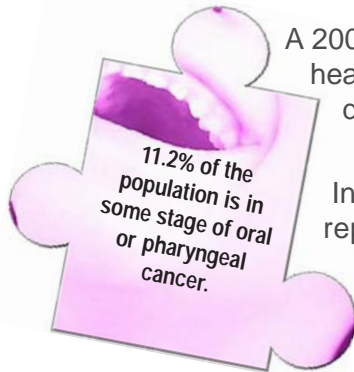


Why Choose a Career in Public Health Dentistry?

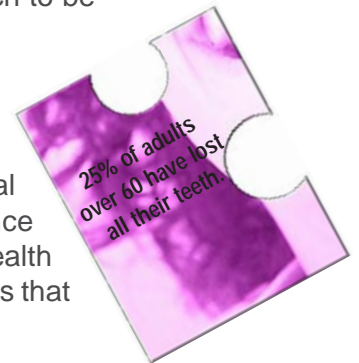
Dental Public Health is a specialty of dentistry.

Dental Public Health is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts.

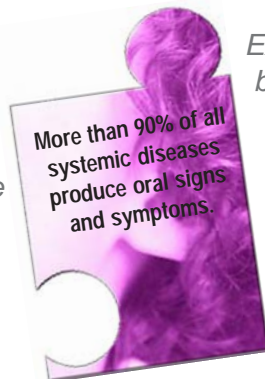


A 2005 CDC Surveillance Summary shows that, while dental health and access is improving overall, there is still much to be done to prevent and control dental diseases.

In 2000, the Surgeon General's *Oral Health in America* reported that, while the majority of Americans have adopted safe and effective means of maintaining oral health over the past half century, many experience needless pain and suffering, affecting their overall health and well-being, and exacting financial and social costs that significantly diminish the quality of life.

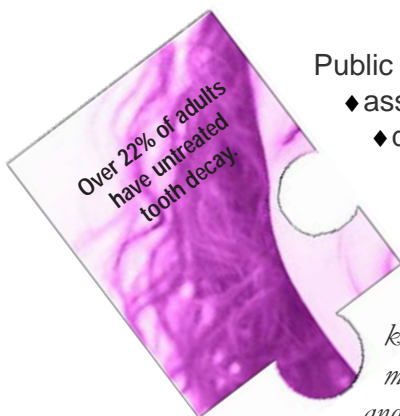


There is a gap between research findings, oral disease prevention, health promotion practices and knowledge of the public and the health professions.



Expansion of community-based disease prevention and lowering of barriers to personal oral health care are needed to meet the needs of the population.

Dental Public Health is that form of dental practice that serves the community as a patient rather than the individual.



Public health dentists promote oral health by:

- ◆ assessing the oral health needs of the community
- ◆ developing and implementing oral health policy
- ◆ providing programs and services that address oral health issues.

Dental Public Health specialists must have broad knowledge and skills in public health administration, research methodology, the prevention and control of oral diseases, and the delivery and financing of oral health care.



But how does it all fit together? And where do you fit in?



*American Association
of Public Health Dentistry*

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For more information, visit:
www.aaphd.org

Why Choose a Career in Public Health Dentistry?

Dental Public Health is a specialty of dentistry.

Public health dentistry is the integration of the art and science of dentistry with the practice of public health to achieve the optimal level of oral health for the population as a whole, as well as to assure care for individuals.

Jared Fine, DDS, MPH
Dental Health Administrator
Alameda County Public Health Dept.

The Ten Essential Public Health Services

(Assoc. of Schools of Public Health)

- ◆ Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- ◆ Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- ◆ Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- ◆ Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- ◆ Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- ◆ Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- ◆ Link people to needed personal health services and ensure care when otherwise unavailable
- ◆ Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- ◆ Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services
- ◆ Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

A DPH career is an ongoing blend of oral medicine, informatics, epidemiology and bio-statistics, legal and public policy analysis, program planning and evaluation, public administration, diplomacy, politics, being mentored and mentoring, public relations and advocacy, ...

Mark H. K. Greer, DMD, MPH
Chief, Dental Health Division
Hawaii State Department of Health

I am chair of a department that is engaged in a wide variety of research projects. These deal with oral health disparities, dental-systemic disease connections, issues with aging and oral health, prevention, and genetic and environmental risks to oral health. ... The entire experience of dental public health training and my subsequent career has been most rewarding.

Robert Weyant, DMD, MPH, DrPH
Chair, Dental Public Health
University of Pittsburgh

"Public health is the most good, for the most people, for the least amount of money."

Finding that balance is the challenge of dental public health.
Steven P. Geiermann, DDS
Captain, U.S. Public Health Service, HRSA Regional Dental Consultant

Dental public health is a very challenging field and there is much freedom to make independent decisions and be respected for those decisions. There are many opportunities to work with teams of very talented people. Currently I am a private dental public health consultant, working with the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and with various California First 5 projects. Previously I was a Public Health Advisor with the Indian Health Service; Director of the Division of Dental Health, Maine Bureau of Health; Associate Professor in Applied Dentistry at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry; and Chief of Dental Hygiene, JFK Child Development Center at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Beverly Isman, RDH, MPH, ELS

I had stopped growing intellectually. So I decided to come back to school. I was going to pursue a dual Masters in Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry.... Fortunately for me, I started the program in Dental Public Health first and got hooked on research. It appealed to my temperament - the intrigue of asking questions, finding solutions, applying them and seeing results on a population level.

Ana Karina Mascarenhas, BDS, MPH, DrPH
Director, Division of Dental Public Health
Associate Professor of Health Policy and Health Services Research
Graduate Program Director, Residency Director
Project Director, New England Dental Access Project
Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine



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