Programs of Oral Health in the Community

By

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Programs of Oral Health in the Community

**Dental Public Health**: a science and the art of:

- Preventing oral disease
- Promoting oral health
- Improving the quality of life

Through the organized efforts of society

- Community oral health programs aim to provide opportunities for improving oral health consequently, overall health.
Essential Public Health Services For Oral Health

Core public health functions:

- Assessment
- Policy Development
- Assurance

To build the basic practice of public health at the community.
**A Coalition**: a diverse group of individuals, organizations, and agencies that unite to reach a common goal.

**An oral health coalition**: is a cooperative effort on the part of many individuals and organizations to build systems and develop programs that improve the community oral health.
Examples of Community Oral Health Programs

• Fluoridation

• Sealants

• Oral Health Education

• Services For Older Adults
Dental Sealants

- Effective primary preventive strategy
- Commonly used to protect permanent molars from decay
- One goal of Healthy People 2010 is to have 50% of children receiving dental sealants on their permanent molars.
- Healthy People 2020 objective is to Enhance school-based or school-linked dental sealant programs
Dental Sealants (Cont.)

• Many states in USA have instituted school-based dental sealant programs.

• In some programs, mobile dental vans are sent to schools and the sealants are applied in the van.

• In other programs, portable equipment is transported from school to school and is set up in available spaces.

• Students are then brought to the designated room for the procedure.

• Generally focuses on 6-8 and 12-14 years old, 1st and 2nd molars eruption.
Services for Older Adults

• Older adult are now the fastest growing segment of the population in the USA.

• Elderly not only are living longer, but also are keeping their natural teeth.

• They in need of dental services and a means to pay for the services.

• An example of a program for elderly dental care at reduced cost is “Apple Tree Geriatric Dental Program”.

Services for Older Adults

• This program provides both primary educational services along with secondary restorative treatment and tertiary services that include making and fitting partials and dentures.

• It expands to include pt. With special needs, children with disabilities and indigent families.
Tips for Terrific Teeth!

Floss every day!

Brush at least twice a day!

Eat healthy foods and visit your dentist every 6 months!
Good Oral Habits

**brush**
2 minutes
2x a day

Brushing your teeth for two minutes at least twice a day remains a critical component to maintaining a healthy smile. Studies have shown that brushing for two minutes is perhaps the single most important step an individual can take to reduce plaque build-up and the risk of plaque-associated diseases, such as cavities and gingivitis.

**floss**
daily

Proper flossing removes plaque and food particles in places where a toothbrush cannot easily reach --- under the gumline and between your teeth. Because plaque build-up can lead to tooth decay and gum disease, daily flossing is highly recommended.

**rinse**
with mouthwash

Rinsing your mouth each day with an anti-microbial mouth rinse is another important step in preventing the gum disease known as gingivitis. Speak with your dental hygienist for more information on which mouth rinse is right for you.

**chew**
sugar-free gum
after eating

Chewing sugar-free gum after eating is clinically proven to be an important part of good oral health. It stimulates the most important natural defense against tooth decay — saliva — which, in turn helps fight cavities. Neutralize plaque acids, remineralize enamel to strengthen teeth and wash away food particles.

Research from around the world has now shown conclusively that chewing sugar-free gum has many oral health benefits. When chewing is incorporated into the daily healthcare routine, especially after eating and drinking, it positively affects oral health.
Thank You

Congratulations!
Wishing you all the best!