



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

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# Agenda

- The “Root” problem
- Virginia Mission of Mercy
- Oral Health 2020
- Workforce Initiatives
- Outreach Programs



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



**Among adults 65+**

**40%** have gum disease

**25%** have no natural teeth

**Nutritional deficiencies**

**30,000**

**oral and pharyngeal cancers diagnosed each year**

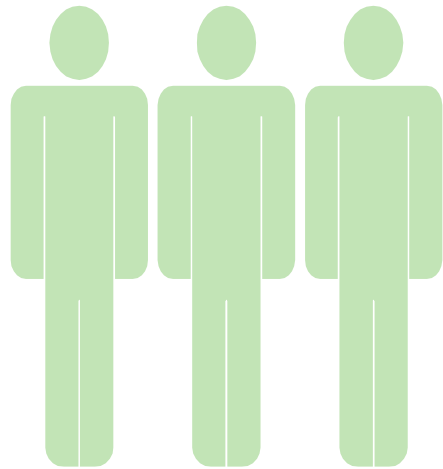
**Death**

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

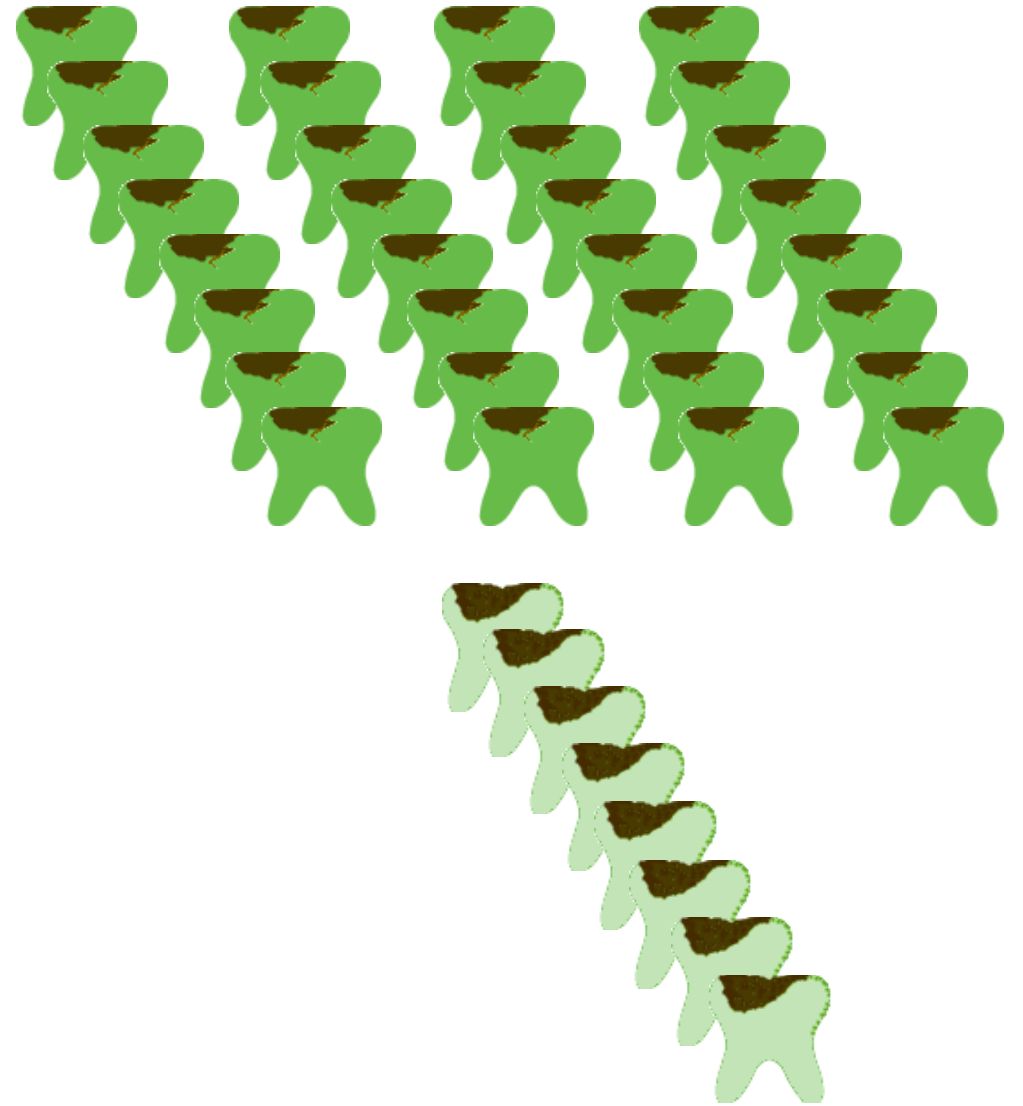
**52,000,000**  
hours of school

**164,000,000**  
hours of work

25%  
of  
children



have  
80%  
of the cavities

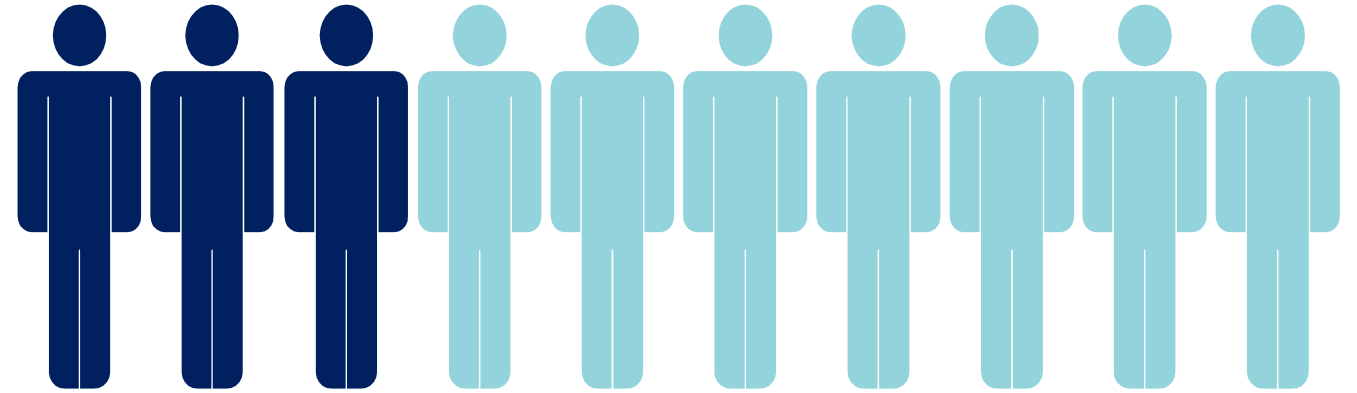


**1 in 4**

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**

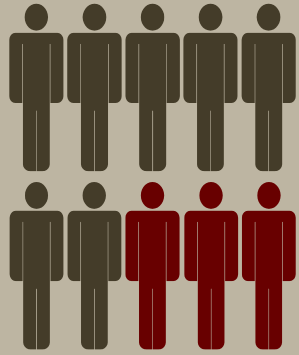
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Source: [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)



# Barriers to Accessing Dental Care

## Limited Income & Coverage



**7 out of 10**

uninsured seniors could not pay for a major procedure

## Accessible Services



live where dentists and clinics are scarce

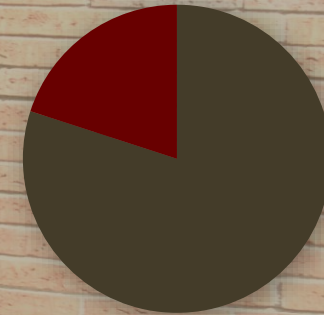
## Understanding the Need for Routine Care



**23%**

haven't seen a dental provider in **five years**

## Lack of Ability to Pay



**80%**

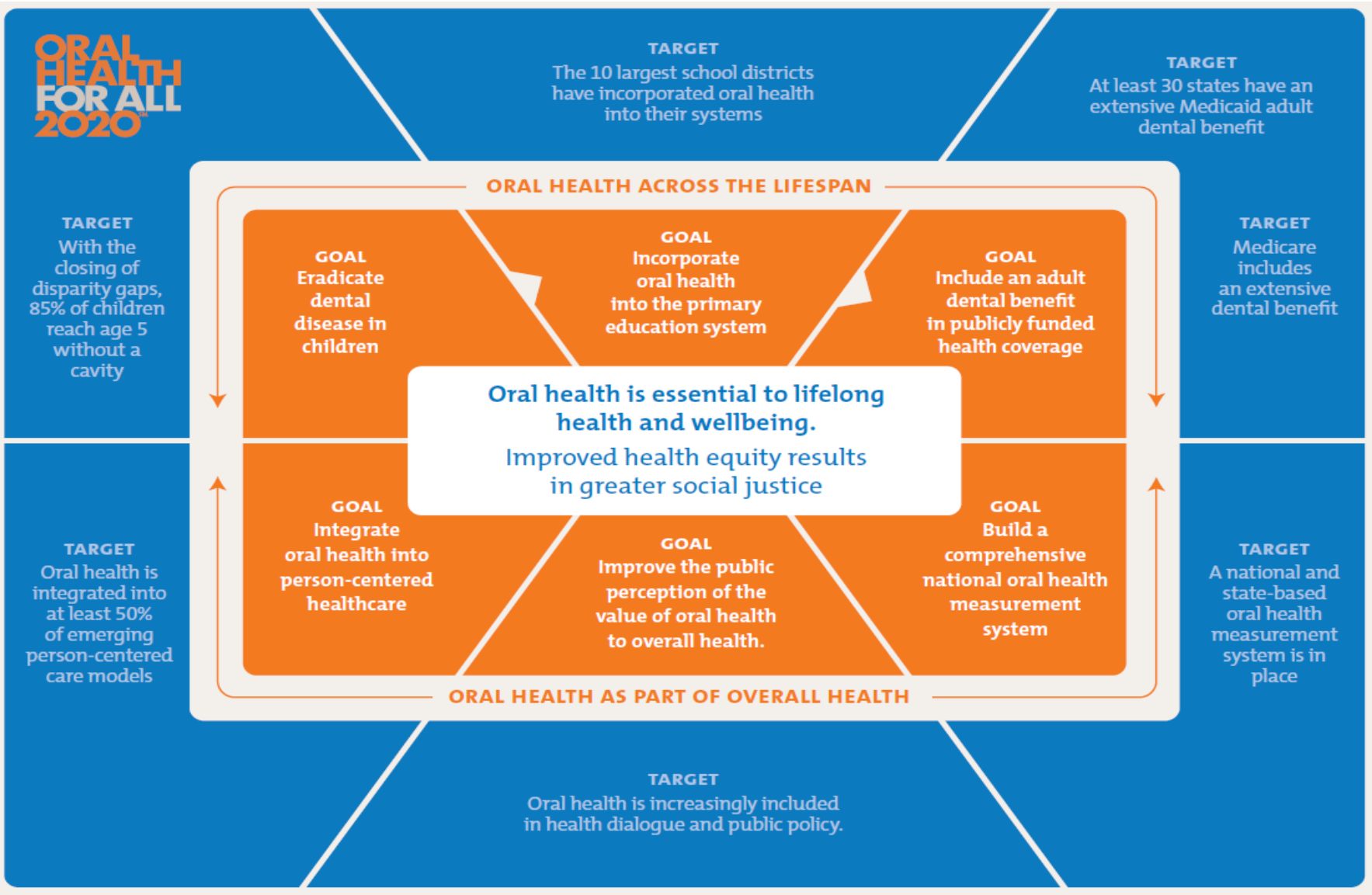
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# Virginia Mission of Mercy video

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# ORAL HEALTH FOR ALL 2020



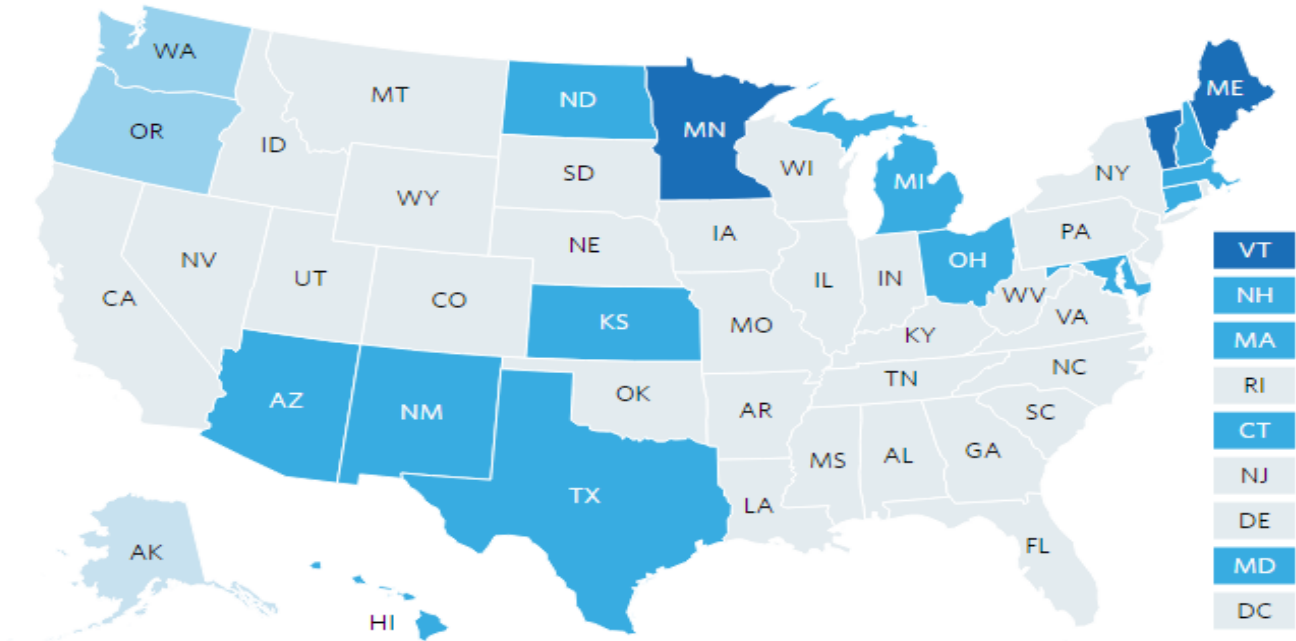


# Workforce Initiatives



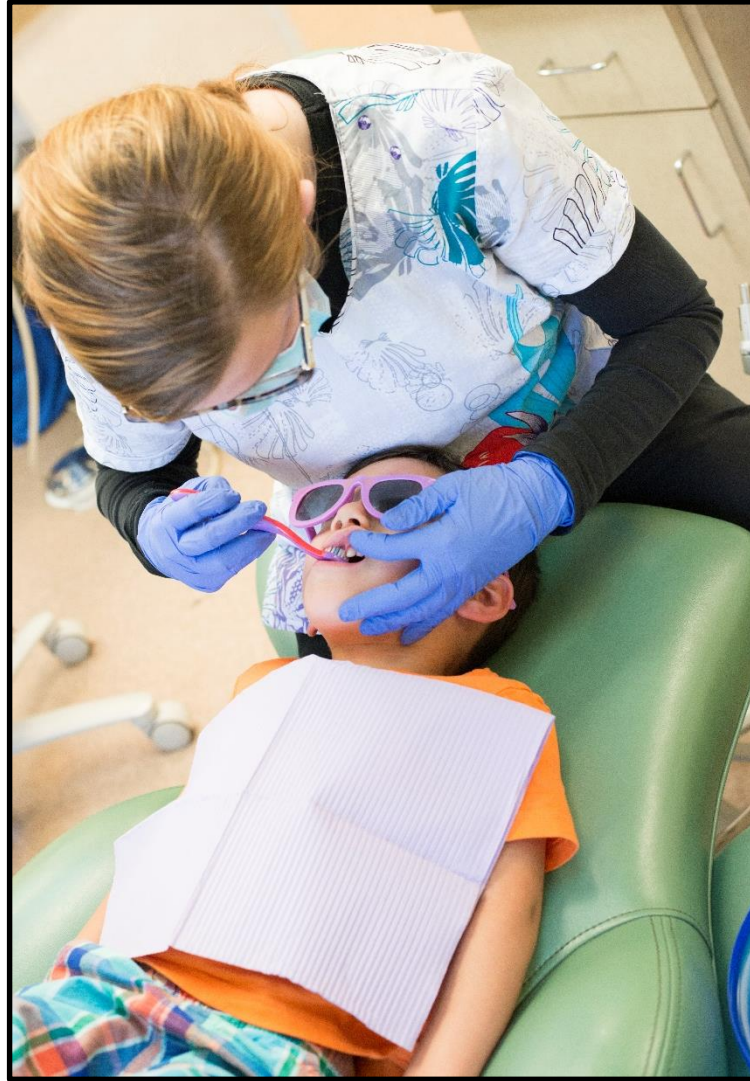
# National Momentum Building for Midlevel Dental Providers

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

Source: Pew Charitable Trust, [www.pewtrusts.org](http://www.pewtrusts.org)



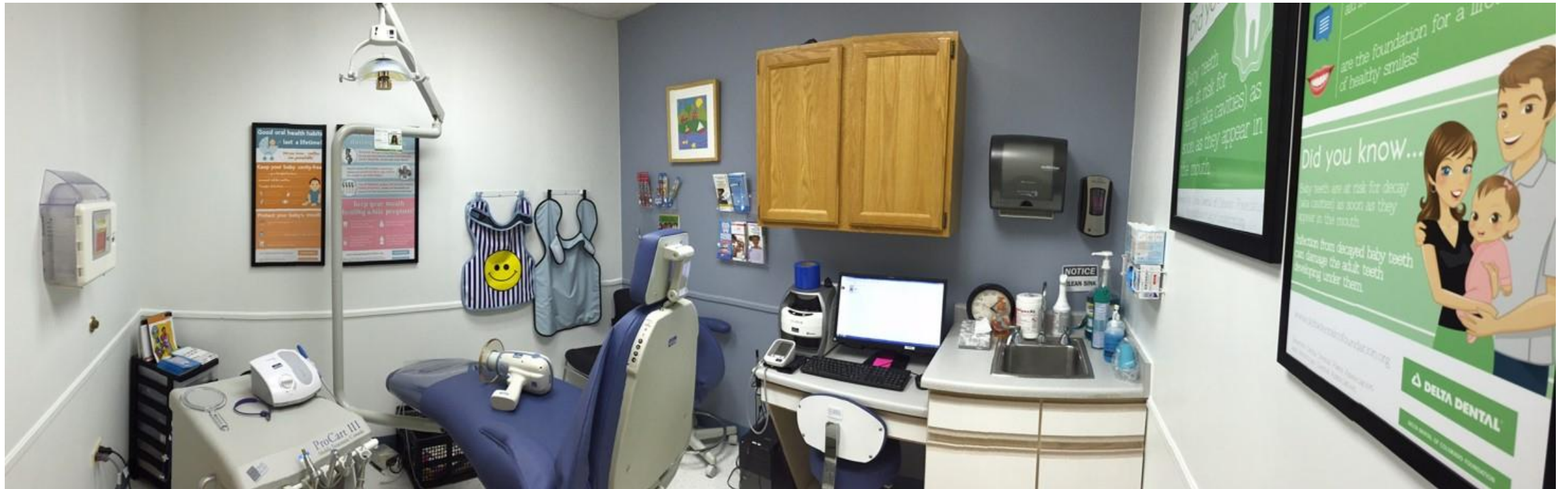
Good Oral Health Allows People To:

- Eat a balanced diet for proper nutrition
- Chew food for healthy digestion
- Taste and enjoy food
- Speak clearly to interact with others
- Feel good about themselves
- Maintain an attractive appearance

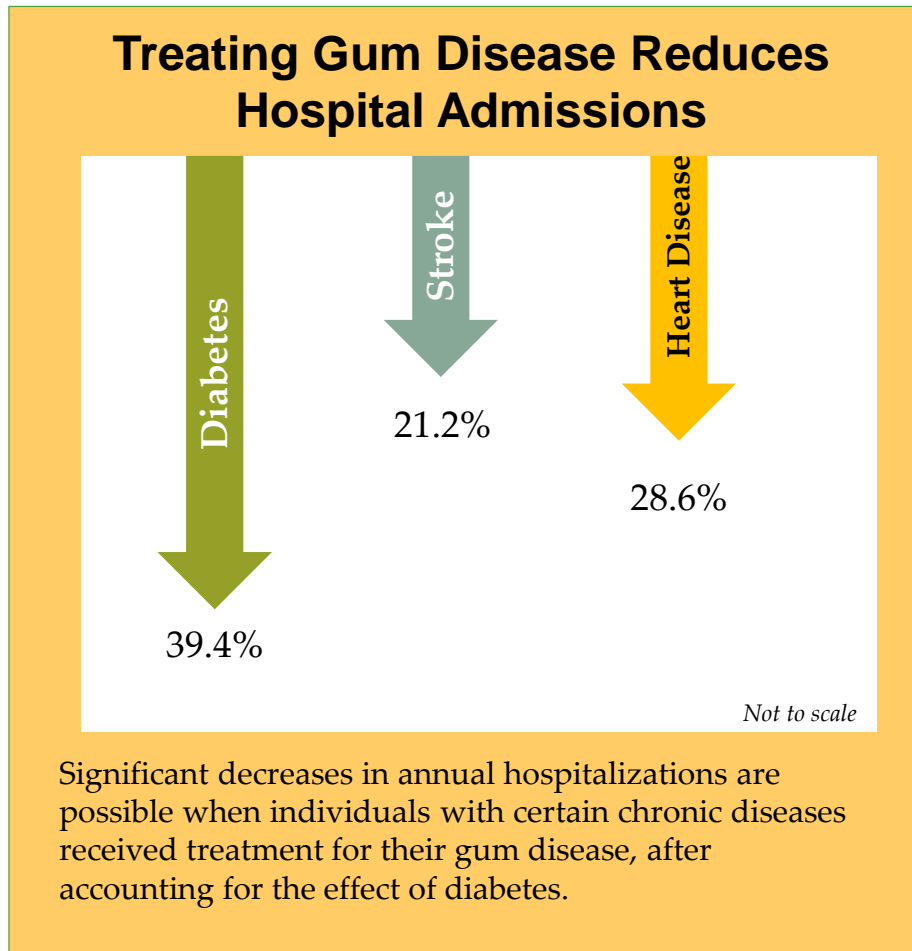
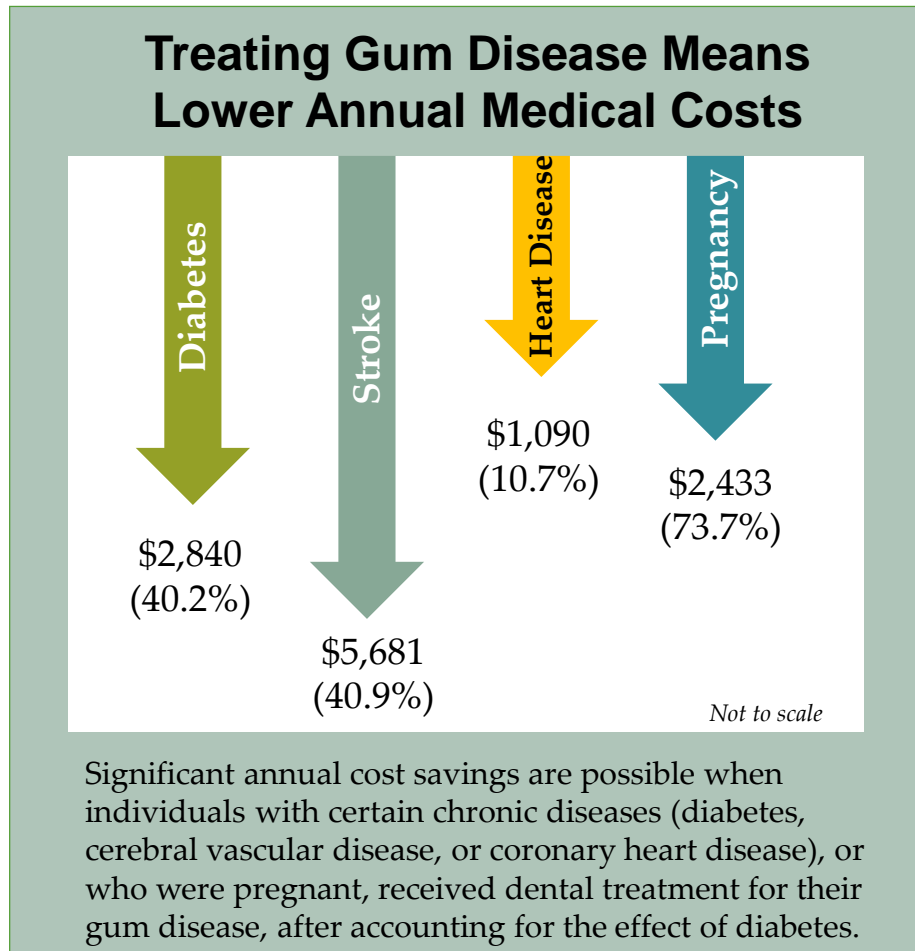




# Dental/Medical Inter-Professional Projects



# Integrating Oral Health & Primary Care Improves Health and Lowers Costs



# • 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!



801 Newton Road, Iowa City, IA, 52246  
Phone: (319) 335-6961  
Email: larry-newman@uiowa.edu

UI College of Dentistry and UI College of Nursing

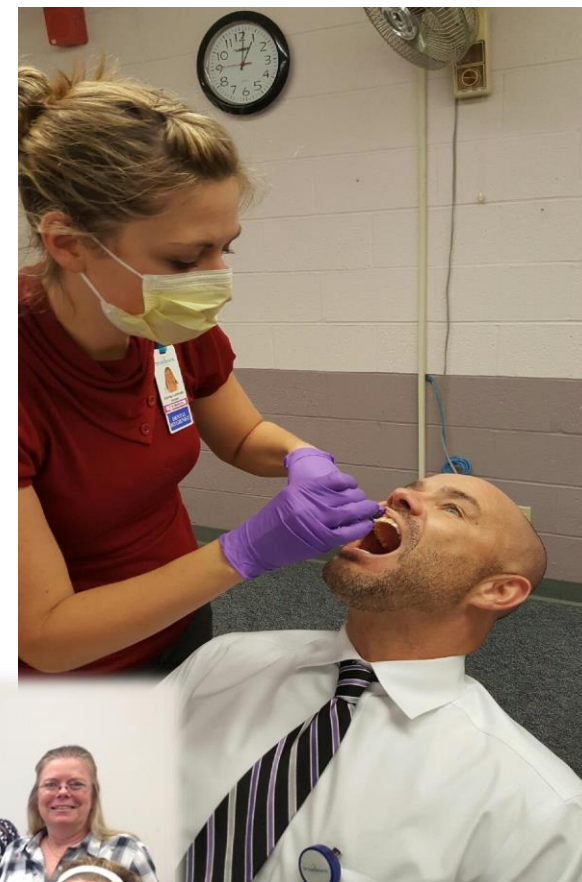
## Nurse Practitioner Clinic

for Primary Health and Dental Care



See a Nurse Practitioner at your dental appointment!

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





# Resources/Tools

- Dental/Medical Inter-Professional Projects

[www.seniorsoralhealth.org](http://www.seniorsoralhealth.org)

## Oral Health Flags

### Every Day

- Limit sweet snacks/drinks between meals.
- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste.
- Floss daily.
- fluoridated water.
- taking multiple medications.

### Regularly

- Regular dental visits (determine schedule with your dentist)
- Discuss oral health at your annual medical exam, especially if you have oral pain, dry mouth, or are
- Drink

### Green Flags – All Clear

### What this could mean ...



- If you have:**
- You do not have
  - No oral health problems or pain
  - is managed with extra water, sugar-free gum, or Your
  - own natural teeth are intact
  - sugar-free suckers. or your dentures fit
  - correctly You are not having any
  - oral health issues at this No problems eating a
  - variety of
  - time.
  - foods

Keep up the great work!

### Yellow Flags – Caution

### What this could mean ...

- If you have:**
- Persistent dry mouth, which can
  - disease. cause difficulty speaking
  - You may have "dry mouth," which puts you at
  - higher risk for dental cavities and gum
  - talking; absence or lack of
  - pooling of saliva in mouth
  - Improved home care
  - (brushing and flossing) is
  - Problems with chewing or cheek
  - advised.
  - biting

- An unexplained change in your
- mouth or throat, such as sores,
- swelling, or numbness, or if you
- have difficulty eating or
- swallowing that doesn't resolve
- within a few days
- Frequent bleeding gums
- Poor fitting dentures

Call your doctor, nurse, or dentist if you notice any changes in your oral health.

Name:

Number:

Name:

Number:

If you notice a Yellow Flag, work closely with your health care team.

### Red Flags – Stop and Think

### What this means ...

**If you have:**

- An area of persistent redness or
- soreness in your mouth
- Persistent bleeding gums
- Loose teeth
- Any lesion in your mouth
- (including lips, cheeks, tongue,
- and roof of the mouth)
- Discomfort that causes you to
- not wear your dentures at all or
- limits your ability to eat healthy solid
- foods

You need to be evaluated by a medical and/or dental professional right away.

Name:

Number:





# 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

# 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



# Dental Lifeline Network®

More than Dentistry. *Life.*®

## Donated Dental Services (DDS):

Provides comprehensive dental treatment to our country's most vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile.

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12,365 individuals were served

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7,103 of whom received  
\$24,610,707 in donated treatment including  
\$2,151,535 contributed laboratory fabrications

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# Donated Orthodontic Services (DOS) Program



*Dental Lifeline*  
Network®

More than Dentistry. *Life*®

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**Volunteers:** 533 orthodontists and 29 laboratories participate

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**Served:** 615 low-income children

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# Mission of Mercy

- 33 state specific Mission of Mercy events with links

[www.adcfmom.org](http://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)

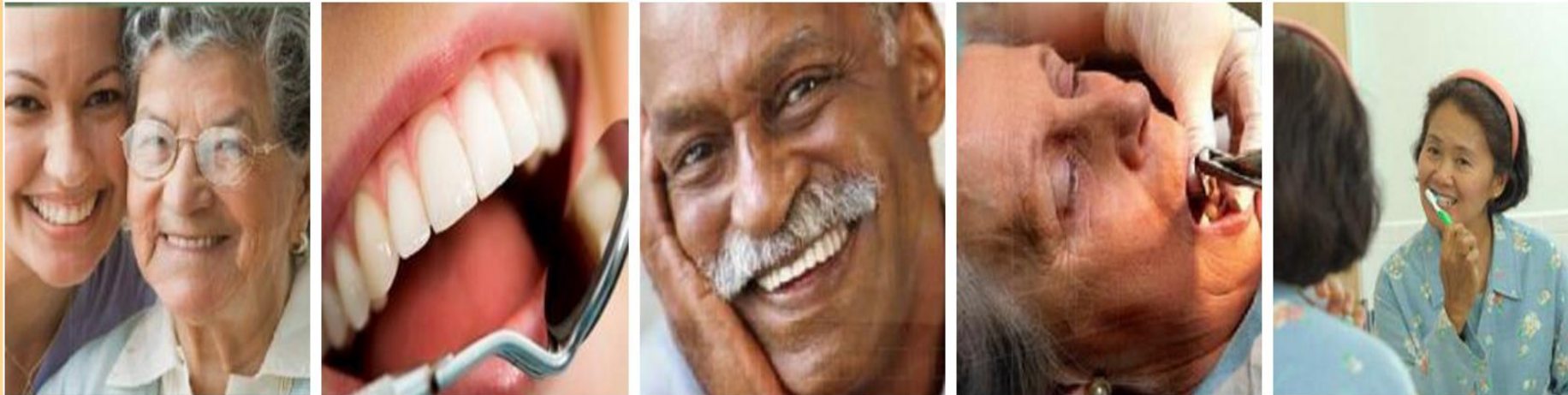




# Help Your Community Smile: Start or Enhance an Oral Health Program for Older Adults



- Oral Health Home
- About This Project
- Find a Program
- Oral Health Guide
- Key Resources
- FAQs
- Submit a Program
- Contact Us



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

Visit the website at <https://oralhealth.acl.gov>

- Searchable Categories
- Age
  - Specific populations
  - Geography
  - Service delivery setting
  - Service delivery model
  - Staffing
  - Payment for care
  - Program funding
  - Dental and oral health services
  - Other program services
  - Integration with services



## Senior Dental Days Grand Rapids, Michigan

### Program Overview

Senior Dental Days, organized by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM), is an annual event that serves low-income older adults in Grand Rapids, Michigan and the surrounding areas. AAAWM works with nonprofit agencies to identify and invite older adults based on financial need. Participants receive free dental cleanings, x-rays, screenings, and referrals to a permanent dental home. The events are staffed by volunteer dental students, dental school faculty, dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants.

### Program History and Development



Senior Dental Days 2014 at Grand Rapids Community College

Senior Dental Days began in 2011 as a partnership between AAAWM, the Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging (COHA), and Dr. Elisa Ghezzi. AAAWM recruits and schedules participants, completes forms, and arranges meals and transportation for volunteers. Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) staff recruits hygienists and obtains use of a facility and equipment. In addition, GRCC Dental Clinic provides space for the event and needed supplies. Hygienists and dental assistants can earn continuing education units by participating in the event; this was approved by the state of Michigan after Dr. Ghezzi initiated conversations with legislators.

### Program Sustainability

- Senior Dental Days is funded by grants from the Delta Dental Foundation, the Michigan Dental Association Foundation, the West Michigan Dental Society, Grand Rapids Community College, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, and Health Intervention Services – Grand Rapids.
- The entirety of the program's funding comes from foundation grants.
- One hundred dental students, dental school faculty, dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, and AAAWM staff volunteered their time in 2014.
- The annual budget of the program is \$2,000.

### Program Impact

- In 2014, the program served 42 older adults during the one-day event.
- Senior Dental Days surveys both volunteers and participants regarding program effectiveness and satisfaction.
- Awareness was raised in Kent County, Michigan about the continuing need for accessible, low-cost dental care for older adults.

*"You all made me feel so welcomed and cared for, this day truly was a blessing."  
– individual who received dental care at  
Senior Dental Days 2013*

### Program Contact Information

Program Website: [http://www.aaawm.org/organizational\\_news/tag/Dental](http://www.aaawm.org/organizational_news/tag/Dental)

Visit the website at <https://oralhealth.acl.gov>

- *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

