<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Articles 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Materials 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Organizations and Federal Agencies 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women's health has emerged as a significant issue in the past decade, and the connection between oral health and overall health has been highlighted. Gender differences in health and disease management are being studied and reported on by the scientific community. For example, osteoporosis, a degenerative disease that affects mostly women and is characterized by the loss of bone mineral, is suspected as a risk factor for oral bone loss. In addition, social influences such as gender-role expectations, low income, and lack of insurance or underinsurance can affect a woman's oral health.

Women have oral health needs and considerations throughout their lifecycle that differ from those of men because of factors such as hormonal fluctuations, puberty, menses, pregnancy, and menopause. A combination of demographic, health, economic, social, and behavioral factors also place some women at high risk for developing oral diseases. Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General states that women's oral health status is better than men's in several areas; however, in some areas it is worse. Women are less likely to have severe periodontal disease, and they have lower rates of oral and pharyngeal cancers. However, women are more likely to report jaw joint, face, and cheek pain, and they report more acute symptoms, chronic conditions, and short- and long-term disabilities. As a result of chemotherapy for breast cancer, women may suffer from oral inflammation or salivary gland dysfunction. These differences should influence the way health professionals approach treatment.

Although progress has been made in the study of women's oral health, there is still a great deal to learn. The need exists for better understanding of etiologic factors, natural history of diseases, and behavioral and environmental differences, as well as for additional data on many diseases and health conditions. Oral health issues should be incorporated into women's health studies in order to gain a broader understanding of women's health needs and to ensure that oral health conditions are not an impediment to women's general health.

The National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (NMCOHRC) developed this publication, Women's Oral Health Resource Guide, to assist health professionals, program administrators, and others in their efforts to improve oral health guidance and care for women. The resource guide is divided into three sections. The first section lists journal articles appearing in the literature between 1998 and 2001. The second section describes educational materials, including books, reports, surveys, manuals, pamphlets, and brochures. The third section lists professional organizations and federal agencies that may serve as resources. Educational materials cited in the resource guide have been added to the NMCOHRC oral health collection. Copies can be requested directly from the contributing organizations and agencies, and many items are available for loan.

Inclusion in the resource guide does not imply endorsement by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) or NMCOHRC. Although NMCOHRC has tried to present a thorough overview of women's oral health, we realize this listing is not complete. For further information, we encourage you to contact the organizations and agencies listed in the third section. Your state and local departments of public health and education are additional sources of information. NMCOHRC will periodically update the resource guide. Please let us know of any resources that have not been included in this edition.
We are grateful to the following experts for their review of the resource guide:


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Margaret Scarlett, D.D.S., American Association of Women Dentists

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In addition, we would like to thank Adam Allston, M.S.W., M.P.H., of Johns Hopkins Women’s and Children’s Health Policy Center for sharing with us his thorough review of the literature related to women’s oral health.
Access/Utilization


This article summarizes a study that examines the influence of sociodemographic and dental variables on whether mothers with low incomes sought dental care during the previous year. The source of payment for dental services and the perceived need for dental care are among the discriminating variables that determine who seeks care, according to the study findings.


This article reports on a study to identify predictors of dental care use among women with HIV infection. The researchers conclude that HIV-positive women appear to be underusing dental care services and that fear and lack of information regarding available resources may be important barriers.


This article reports on a study to examine issues that affect women’s oral health and awareness of overall health issues, including characteristics that influence seeking regular dental care.

Chronic Disease


This article presents a systematic review and analysis of published literature on the effect of hormone replacement therapy on dental outcomes in postmenopausal women.


This article discusses the possible connection between periodontal diseases and cardiovascular disease and the associated risk factors. It names biological mechanisms that are potentially responsible for this connection and provides evidence from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III).


This article reports on research to determine whether diabetes mellitus increases the risk for developing periodontitis and periodontal disease, and whether periodontal disease is a complication of diabetes. The study concludes that periodontal disease constitutes a chronic bacterial challenge that complicates diabetes mellitus.


This article discusses the relationship between systemic bone density and oral bone loss in women, the means of measuring bone mass and density, and common strategies for treating osteoporosis and periodontal disease.


This article reports on an investigation to analyze the influence of estrogen levels and osteopenia/osteoporosis on common clinical
measurements of periodontal disease over a 2-year period. The data, collected from 59 adult patients with periodontitis and 16 subjects without periodontitis, all of whom were post-menopausal, suggest that estrogen supplementation is associated with reduced gingival inflammation and a reduced frequency of clinical attachment loss in osteopenic/osteoporotic women in early menopause.


This article summarizes a cross-sectional study to evaluate the association between systemic bone mineral density and the clinical signs of periodontal tissue destruction in a large population of elderly women with teeth.


This article summarizes the dental literature that explores the relationship between periodontal infections and systemic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and preterm labor. Included is a discussion of the role of sex hormones in periodontal disease during puberty, pregnancy, and menopause.

**Education/Care**


This article discusses a problem that exists in dental schools throughout the United States and the world: There are very few women in leadership roles even though women have the skills and characteristics required for leadership.


This article provides information and guidance for dentists treating women and children who may be victims of family violence. Ethical guidelines, psychological dynamics, and an approach to intervention are among the topics discussed.


This article examines the issue of domestic violence and the barriers that dentists face when they intervene. Eighty-seven percent of the dentists who responded to the authors’ survey had never screened for domestic violence. Eighteen percent of the respondents had never screened, even when patients had visible signs of trauma on their head or neck. Barriers to care include the presence of a partner or children, lack of training, or the dentist’s embarrassment to discuss the topic of abuse. However, respondents who had received domestic violence education were significantly more likely to screen for domestic violence and to intervene.


This article reports on a study of the oral and medical conditions of 295 low-income older persons with teeth, including 161 women, in order to examine and identify risk factors that may affect oral health and treatment needs. The study found few associations between physical health and oral conditions and few differences in oral health attributable to ethnic status.


This article provides an overview of gender differences in disease and pain responses, including the variable effects of analgesics on men and women during oral surgery.


This article focuses on special oral health considerations unique to women during different stages of life. Topics include puberty, menses,
pregnancy, menopause, oral contraceptives, and eating disorders.


This article reports on a survey of new patients at a Tufts University dentistry clinic who were asked to answer questions about dental professionals' behavior that may prove fear of treatment. The data, collected from surveys returned by 121 women and 82 men, suggest that dentists may often exhibit a variety of negative behaviors and attitudes that can cause increased levels of concern in patients and may lead to avoidance of treatment. Gender differences are included in the analysis.

**Perinatal**


This article offers an overview of oral health issues related to pregnancy, birth outcomes, and infant oral health. Among the topics explored are the physiological changes that affect oral health, treatment of oral conditions common during pregnancy, and the link between periodontal disease and premature birth.


This article reports on research to determine whether the poor oral health of a pregnant woman can affect the birthweight of her unborn child. The study concludes that poor periodontal health of the mother is a potential, independent risk factor for low birthweight.


This article discusses the importance of maintaining good oral health and nutrition during pregnancy, infancy, and childhood to ensure the proper growth and development of teeth and the oral cavity. Oral health care prevention strategies such as fluoride dosages, teeth cleaning, meal frequency, and food choices are among the topics discussed.


This article discusses the use of dental services during pregnancy. Data obtained in 1998 from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) indicates that most women did not seek dental care during their pregnancy and that one-half of the women reporting problems did not receive dental care.


This article outlines the dental management considerations that are unique to the care of the pregnant patient and offers guidance on providing preventive dentistry during pregnancy.


This article reports on a study that examines the association between chronic periodontal infection and preterm births. Complete periodontal, medical, and behavioral assessments of 1,313 pregnant women were made between 21 and 24 weeks' gestation. The data show an association between the presence of periodontitis at 21–24 weeks' gestation and subsequent preterm birth. According to the authors, further studies are needed to determine whether periodontitis is a cause of preterm birth.


This article explains that a woman's oral health care is important throughout pregnancy. Dental health professionals must be aware of the need for care and special treatment considerations of the pregnant woman and her unborn child.

This article reviews some of the physiological changes and oral pathology associated with pregnancy and how these alterations affect dental care for the patient. Oral hygiene, dental treatment precautions, and obstetric emergencies in the dental office are among the topics addressed.


This article reports on a study evaluating the periodontal status of pregnant women and its relationship to demographics (e.g., age, education, professional level, area of residence), period of gestation, previous periodontal maintenance, and other variables.


This article briefly reviews and compares the risks of commonly used therapeutic agents in dental care to help practitioners select the safest drugs for their pregnant patients.


The purpose of this article is to review the data on the effects of maternal periodontal infection on spontaneous preterm birth (SPB). Early research suggests that periodontal infection may make an independent contribution to several different systemic conditions, including preterm birth. The article states that the association between periodontal infection and SPB in humans needs to be confirmed in a larger prospective study and that if conformation is achieved, the demand for dental services may increase and dental education may need to move more into mainstream medicine.


This article reports on research to determine whether periodontal infections can sufficiently challenge the mother to trigger preterm low birthweight. The study concludes that periodontal pathogen levels are significantly higher in mothers with preterm low-birthweight infants compared to mothers with normal birthweight infants.

Research


This article summarizes data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), and the Medicare Current Beneficiary Study (MCBS) to describe national, regional, and state-specific patterns of access to and use of preventive health care, including dental services, among persons who are 55 and older.


This article discusses the Partnership for Women’s Health at Columbia, the first collaboration between academic medicine and the private sector to focus solely on gender-specific medicine. Several health topics are to be researched including evaluating osteoporosis and its relationship to periodontal disease and cytokine production. The Partnership also hopes to evaluate gender differences in salivary gland function, oral cancers, and caries.


This article, which reports on the emergence of women’s health issues, includes a discussion of the National Institutes of Health’s research agenda on women’s health, oral health research, and careers in dental health.
Education/Care


Contact: American Dental Association, Catalog Sales, P.O. Box 776, St. Charles, IL 60174. Phone: (800) 947-4746; fax: (888) 476-1880; e-mail: catalog@ada.org; Web site: http://www.ada.org. $44.95 for members, $64.95 for non-members.

This manual provides oral health professionals with information about the effects and possible interactions of more than 800 generic drugs and 2,200 brand-name drugs. The first section covers drugs used in dentistry and includes chapters on the drugs' major functions. The second section discusses the treatment of and pharmacological considerations for oral health patients receiving medical care. The third section is about the effects of infection control, smoking cessation, substance abuse, and other issues for oral health patients. Included in the appendices are the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s pregnancy classifications and a list of drugs that require special precautions when used during pregnancy because of their potential side effects on the embryo or fetus.


Contact: American Dental Association, Catalog Sales, P.O. Box 776, St. Charles, IL 60174. Phone: (800) 947-4746; fax: (888) 476-1880; e-mail: catalog@ada.org; Web site: http://www.ada.org. $12.00 for members, $18.00 for non-members.

This report, which highlights women’s oral health needs and addresses problems (e.g., osteoporosis, eating disorders) that may affect women’s oral health, serves as a resource for dentists and physicians. The report addresses hormonal effects on the oral cavity during various stages of a woman’s life, including puberty, menses, pregnancy, menopause, and periods of oral contraceptive use.


Contact: American Dental Association, Survey Center, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611. Phone: (800) 621-8099, ext. 2568; fax: (312) 440-2800; Web site: http://www.ada.org. Contact for cost information.

This booklet’s many tables provide information on a number of dental health topics, including care delivery, economics of dental services, education of dental health providers, the dental workforce and ADA membership, and fluoridation. Information on women’s enrollment in dental schools and the number of women dentists in the workforce is included.


Contact: Librarian, National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health, 2000 15th Street, North, Suite 701, Arlington, VA 22201-2617. Phone: (703) 524-7802; fax: (703) 524-9335; e-mail: info@ncemch.org; Web site: http://www.ncemch.org. Available for loan. Selected portions of the packet are available at http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/dental/ecc.htm.

This packet of oral health education materials focuses on dental hygiene and dental care for pregnant women and children. Fact sheets for parents provide information about prenatal dental care and dental hygiene, prevention of early childhood caries, the use of fluoride, and dental hygiene for infants and children. The packet also includes five pamphlets on infant and child oral health, the first dental visit, toothbrushing techniques, and thumbsucking. Information for professionals consists of a questionnaire on the packet’s usefulness, a
laminated map of Oregon showing the fluoridated water supplies, a laminated pediatric dental reference card, a document about infant and toddler dental examinations, and a fact sheet stating the periodicity of dental services for infants and children. A list of resources and order information are also included.


Contact: Harcourt Health Sciences. Phone: (800) 544-6678; e-mail: customersupport@harcourthealth.com; Web site: http://www.harcourthealth.com. ISBN 0-8151-3630-7. $48.00.

This textbook for dental hygiene students is organized into four sections: basic principles of pharmacology; drugs used in dentistry, grouped by class; drugs that may alter oral conditions; and special situations, including emergency drugs, pregnancy and breastfeeding, drug interactions, and drug abuse. Numerous tables and graphics are provided, as well as chapter review questions and a glossary. The chapter on pregnancy and breastfeeding discusses the treatment that women need when they are pregnant and provides guidelines to determine the relative risk of prescribing drugs to pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers.


Contact: W. W. Norton and Company, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10101. Phone: (800) 233-4830. $9.95.

Written for consumers, this book discusses the advancements in prevention, diagnosis, materials, and treatment choices. Topics include oral anatomy, visiting the dentist, routine care, care throughout life, dental problems and treatments, fears, emergencies and controversies, and the future of dentistry. The book also provides information on dental insurance and managed care plans. The chapter on women's oral health needs discusses hormonal influences, medical conditions, and medications. The book concludes with a section on dental symptoms, a glossary, and appendices of dental associations and dental schools.


Contact: W. B. Saunders Company, 625 Walnut Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 10101. Phone: (800) 654-2452. $56.00.

This issue presents practicing dental professionals with evidence-based, clinically relevant information that will enhance their awareness of emerging issues in women's oral health and improve the delivery of care to women dental patients. The sequence of topics follows a developmental perspective. It begins with maternal oral health and anticipatory guidance for young patients and goes on to cover the changes associated with menarche and adolescence through adulthood, and the changes associated with female aging. Specific topics include genetic influences on women's oral health, psychological issues, the effects of eating disorders, the needs of athletes and special needs populations, aesthetic facial surgery, and the implications of women's health issues on medical and dental school curricula.


Contact: Facts on File, Inc., 11 Penn Plaza, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Phone: (800) 322-8755; fax: (800) 678-3633; e-mail: CustServ@factsonfile.com; Web site: http://www.factsonfile.com. $28.55 hardcover, $12.95 paperback.

The purpose of this book is to foster communication between dental professionals and their patients. Divided into three parts, the book discusses the consumer and the general dentist; the dental specialties; and trends, fears, and issues in dentistry. A section on dental care during pregnancy explains the importance of conscientious oral health care to ensure good general and dental health for the child. The book provides information on dental insurance and managed care and cost comparisons of dental services based on regional and national surveys. Also included are a glossary and lists of dental schools in the United States and Canada and of national and state dental organizations.

Contact: National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building 45, Room 4AS19, Bethesda, MD 20892-6400. Phone: (301) 496-4261 (for publications); fax: (301) 496-9988; Web site: http://www.nidcr.nih.gov. Available at no charge from the organization or from Web site.

This report describes the status of oral health in America, the relationship between oral health and general health and well-being, the promotion and maintenance of oral health, prevention of oral diseases, and opportunities to enhance oral health. It discusses gender differences in oral health, including susceptibility to adult periodontitis, oral bone loss, and frequency of dental visits. A portion of chapter 4 focuses on women's oral health.

**Perinatal**


Contact: Women's and Children's Health Policy Center, Department of Population and Family Health Sciences, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21205. Phone: (410) 502-8975; fax: (410) 955-2303; e-mail: aallston@jhsph.edu; Web site: http://www.med.jhu.edu/wchpc. Available at no charge.

This issue brief discusses the relationships between oral diseases and the general and reproductive health of women, and the potential to improve women's oral and general health status through addressing current gaps in maternal and child policy and practice. In addition to providing a general overview of the oral health status of women in the United States, discussion is also provided concerning the associations between periodontal diseases and specific chronic health conditions affecting women, as well as the associations between periodontal diseases and the risks of adverse perinatal outcomes. Strategies for improving women's access to appropriate dental care services and for developing effective disease prevention and health promotion activities are identified. The issue brief was developed in conjunction with the National Oral Health Policy Center for Maternal and Child Health at Columbia University. [Funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau]


This kit for health educators provides consumer information on oral health during four periods: the pregnant woman, the infant from birth to 6 months, the infant from 6 to 18 months, and the toddler from 16 to 24 months. A booklet describes proper diet, brushing, and flossing during pregnancy; care of the infant's gums; the use of bottles and pacifiers; and tips on snacking and brushing. Reproducible brochures (in English and Spanish) and posters are also provided.


Contact: Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573-4930. Phone: (800) 872-7423 or (914) 937-9600; fax: (914) 937-4712; Web site: http://www.cup.org. $67.95, plus $5.00 for shipping.

The book highlights the effectiveness of prenatal care interventions and provides a framework for prenatal care that looks beyond the limited perspective of immediate neonatal outcomes by concentrating on the broader public health issues. The chapter on prenatal care and maternal and infant oral health provides an overview of the topic and discusses effective prenatal care strategies to prevent or reduce oral health problems during pregnancy.

National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition. 2000. *Brush for 2.* Alexandria, VA: Nation-
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition.
1 fact sheet (4 pp.), 1 brochure (2 pp.), 1 poster, 1 order form.

Contact: National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, 121 North Washington Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone: (703) 836-6110; fax: (703) 836-3470; e-mail: ldunne@hmhb.org; Web site: http://www.hmhb.org. Available at no charge.

This information package describes the Brush for 2 Campaign, an effort to encourage good oral health in pregnant women. The purpose of the campaign is to prevent preterm low-birthweight births that can be associated with severe gum disease (periodontitis). The package includes a sample brochure, a poster to use with patients, and an order form for the brochure.


Contact: Jill Fernandez, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, New York University College of Dentistry, 345 East 24th Street, Room 969 Weissman, New York, NY 10010-4086. Phone: (212) 998-9650; fax: (212) 995-4242. Contact for cost information.

This manual on infant oral health for nonprofessional providers pregnant women and parents with information on promoting oral health and preventing dental disease in their infants and young children. The following topics are discussed: prenatal care, pregnancy, and oral health; tooth formation; acquisition of oral flora; initial oral evaluations; benefits of fluoride and understanding dental caries in the context of diet and nutrition; nutritive and nonnutritive sucking; oral hygiene; dental/orofacial trauma; simple rules for good oral health; anticipatory guidance; oral pathology of the infant and toddler; and oral manifestations of systemic disease. A list of relevant Web sites and a packet of oral health education pamphlets are included. A pocket in the binder contains a copy of Directory of Clinical Dental Services: New York City (1996). An infant oral health questionnaire, pretest, posttest, and session evaluation form are also provided in the binder pocket.

Research


Contact: National Institutes of Health, Office of Research on Women’s Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building One, Room 201, Bethesda, MD 20892. Phone: (301) 402-1770; fax: (301) 402-1798; Web site: http://www4.od.nih.gov/orwh. Available at no charge.

This report focuses on the continuation of research into women's health issues and on the recognition that researchers and clinicians must understand how differences in sex, gender, culture, and ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds may influence the causes, diagnoses, progression, and treatment of diseases. The chapter focusing on oral health discusses the need for additional research on women’s oral health because a variety of demographic, general health, economic, social, and behavioral factors put women at high risk for developing oral diseases. An index is included.


Contact: National Cancer Institute, MSC-2850, 31 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892. Phone: (301) 435-3848; fax: (301) 402-0894; e-mail: newmanp@occ.nci.nih.gov; Web site: http://www.nci.nih.gov/. Available at no charge from the organization or from http://seer.cancer.gov/Publications.

This annual review, using data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), contains the most recent cancer incidence, mortality, and survival statistics for the United States. Information on oral cavity and pharynx cancer and specific statistics for
women (e.g., cancer incidence, mortality, and survival rates) are included. The appendix provides statistical data by differing combinations of race, sex, cancer site, geographic location of patients, and demographic data.


Contact: National Institutes of Health, Office of Research on Women’s Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Building One, Room 201, Bethesda, MD 20892. Phone: (301) 402-1770; fax: (301) 402-1798; Web site: http://www4.od.nih.gov/orwh. Available at no charge.

This report provides the analytical results of a survey of U.S. and Canadian dental schools that was conducted during 1997 by the American Association of Dental Schools (now the American Dental Education Association). The focus of the document is how women’s health and oral health issues are addressed in the dental school curriculum. Appendices contain an annotated bibliography of research on oral and craniofacial health and disease in women, copies of journal articles, statistical charts and graphs, models, and other items related to dental education and women’s health.
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES
NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of General Dentistry
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 440-4300; fax: (312) 440-0559
Web site: http://www.agd.org

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) serves the needs of general dentists, represents their interests, and fosters their continued proficiency through quality continuing dental education. Academy publications include AGD Impact (a news magazine) and the Journal of the Academy of General Dentistry. Their Web page, Dental Fact Sheets: Women’s Dental Health, provides consumer information on gender-specific factors (e.g., hormone changes) that contribute to the unique oral health needs of women during different stages of life. See http://www.agd.org/consumer/factsheets/women.html.

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60611-2663
Phone: (312) 337-2169; fax: (312) 337-6329
Web site: http://www.aapd.org

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) works to advance the specialty of pediatric dentistry through practice, education, and research. Members include educators and researchers in pediatric dentistry as well as dentists with practices limited to children and adolescents. Among the services provided are referrals, reference information, and publications, including the newsletter Today and the journal Pediatric Dentistry.

American Academy of Periodontology
737 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60611-2690
Phone: (312) 787-5518; fax: (312) 787-3670
E-mail: aapsite@perio.org
Web site: http://www.perio.org

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) seeks to advance the periodontal health of the public and to represent and serve the academy’s members. The Web page, Resources on Women’s Oral Health, provides a list of resources focusing on women’s oral health, including articles published in the Journal of Periodontology. See http://www.perio.org/consumer/women_resources.htm.

American Association of Community Dental Programs
c/o Office of Community Dental Programs
Cincinnati Health Department
3101 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45229
Phone: (513) 357-7380; fax: (513) 357-7385
E-mail: larry.hill@cinhlthe.rcc.org

The American Association of Community Dental Programs (AACDP) supports dental programming at the community level. Members include agencies and staff of county and city health departments, nonprofit organizations, and other community-based organizations with an interest in oral health issues and access to care. AACDP publishes a newsletter and sponsors conferences.

American Association of Public Health Dentistry
1224 Centre, West, Suite 400B
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: (217) 391-0218; fax: (217) 793-0041
E-mail: natoff@aol.com
Web site: http://www.pitt.edu/~aaphd

The focus of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) is to improve the oral health of the public. AAPHD encompasses a variety of committees to address issues in oral health. AAPHD also sponsors an annual meeting and produces a quarterly newsletter, Communiqué, and a quarterly journal, Journal of Public Health Dentistry.
American Association of Women Dentists
645 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 280-9296, (800) 920-2293; fax: (312) 280-9893
E-mail: info@womendentists.org
Web site: http://www.womendentists.org

The American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD) is a membership organization that mentors and supports women dentists and aspiring women dentists both professionally and academically. Founded in 1912, AAWD sponsors an annual conference, maintains a patient referral service, and presents a number of professional service awards and scholarship opportunities to outstanding women dentists and dentistry students each year. Publications include the AAWD Membership Directory and the association’s newsletter, The Chronicle. In addition, the AAWD’s not-for-profit foundation, Smiles for Success, assists women in transition from welfare to work who cannot afford dental care. See the Smiles for Success Foundation’s Web site, http://www.smilesforsuccess.org, for more information.

American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
Phone: (312) 440-2500; fax: (312) 440-2800
Web site: http://www.ada.org

The American Dental Association (ADA) encourages community health improvement, promotes the art and science of dentistry, and represents the interests of the dental profession and the public. The association publishes a newsletter, ADA News, and the Journal of the American Dental Association. Activities include research, education, and promotion of legislation.

American Dental Education Association
1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 667-9433; fax: (202) 667-0642
E-mail: adea@adea.org
Web site: http://www.adea.org

The American Dental Education Association (ADEA), formerly the American Association of Dental Schools (AADS), is a national organization representing academic dentistry and the community of dental educators. Its members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools, advanced dental education programs, hospital dental education programs, allied dental education programs, corporations, faculty members, and students. The mission of ADEA is to lead the dental education community in addressing contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the health of the public. ADEA publishes the newsletter Bulletin of Dental Education and the Journal of Dental Education, provides reference information to consumers, and sponsors conferences and training seminars.

American Dental Hygienists’ Association
444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 440-8900; fax: (312) 440-6780
Web site: http://www.adha.org

The American Dental Hygienists’ Association (ADHA) provides continuing education opportunities and materials for the dental hygiene community, and its Institute for Oral Health offers scholarships and research grants to qualified members. ADHA publishes the magazine Access, the newsletter Education Update, and the Journal of Dental Hygiene. The association’s Web page, Women’s Oral Health at Every Age, provides an overview of oral health needs throughout the stages of a woman’s life, from adolescence through postmenopause. The Web page covers topics such as oral piercing, eating disorders, smoking, the effects of estrogen levels on oral health, and the link between oral health and systemic diseases. See http://www.adha.org/media/brushup/may98.htm.

American Society of Dentistry for Children
210 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 710
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: (312) 943-1244; fax: (312) 943-5341
E-mail: asdckids@aol.com
Web site: http://www.asdckids.org

The American Society of Dentistry for Children (ASDC) is a professional organization of pediatric dentists and general practitioners. ASDC sponsors a conference and two educational seminars annually, conducts a fellowship program, leads and rewards professional development efforts, and supports research and education in pediatric dentistry through its foundation. Publications include the Journal of Dentistry for Children, the ASDC Newsletter, and a catalog of educational and marketing materials.
The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) is a national, nonprofit organization representing the directors and staff of state public health agency programs for oral health. The association formulates and promotes national dental health policy and assists state dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral disease. The association builds awareness and strengthens dental public health professionals’ knowledge and skills by developing position papers and policy statements on oral health issues; conducting special studies on dental public health practices; providing information on oral health to health officials and policymakers; publishing a quarterly newsletter, *Oral Health Matters*; and conducting conferences for the dental public health community.

The Dental Health Foundation (DHF) promotes the oral health of the public by providing leadership, advocacy, education, and public policy development; promoting community-based prevention strategies such as adding fluoride to water and discouraging tobacco use; and improving access to and the quality of oral health services. The foundation bridges the gap between scientific knowledge and its application at the community level by bringing the latest findings in dental research to the general public, educators, and health professionals. The foundation also develops publications.

The Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) provides leadership and represents professionals who share a common commitment to improve the oral health of the Hispanic community. The organization’s objectives are to provide a voice for Hispanic oral health professionals in the United States, foster research on and knowledge of Hispanic oral health problems and stimulate interest in this area, and encourage Hispanics to seek careers in oral health. HDA publishes *HDA News and Reports* for consumers.

The National Dental Association (NDA) is dedicated to improving the oral health of the underserved. Its goals are to improve delivery of oral health care in underserved communities and to improve educational opportunities for minorities in the oral health field. NDA is the parent organization of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), the National Dental Hygienists Association (NDHA), the National Dental Assistants Association (NDAA), and the Auxiliary to the National Dental Association (ANDA). NDA publishes a newsletter, *Floss Line*, and sponsors conferences.

The mission of the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) is to improve the health status of uninsured and underserved populations through improved and increased access to oral health services. The organization represents approximately 885 dentists and 270 hygienists who practice in federally funded community migrant and homeless health centers.
The mission of Oral Health America (OHA) is to develop resources for improving and promoting the oral health of the American people through a broad-based public advocacy coalition. OHA’s programs strive to raise public awareness of oral health as an essential part of overall health and a vital component of primary health care; expand and improve access to effective oral care services; stimulate innovative projects that improve the effectiveness of dental education; and support oral health clinical, behavioral, educational, and health services research. Services to consumers include referrals, publications, and reference information. OHA publishes a newsletter, The Advocate; sponsors conferences and training seminars; and administers the National Spit Tobacco Education Program and the National Sealant Alliance.

Oral Health Education Foundation
5865 Colonist Drive
P.O. Box 396
Fairburn, GA 30213
Phone: (770) 969-7400; fax: (770) 969-6777

The Oral Health Education Foundation (OHEF) strives to develop quality educational materials and programs in oral health. The foundation builds bridges between professional disciplines to better serve individuals with oral health diseases and the industries that serve those individuals. In 1994, the foundation launched the National Oral Cancer Awareness Program (NOCAP), a national effort to prevent and control oral cancer. NOCAP materials include public education videotapes and course guides for instructors.

Society for Women’s Health Research
1828 I Street, N.W., Suite 625
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 223-8224; fax (202) 833-3472
Web site: http://www.womens-health.org

The Society for Women’s Health Research works to increase public and private funding for research on women’s health. The society promotes the inclusion of women in medical research studies and encourages the scientific examination of the basic biological and physiological differences between men and women, and how those differences affect both health and disease through the emerging field of sex-based biology. The society publishes reports, produces educational videotapes, and sponsors the peer-reviewed Journal of Women’s Health and Gender-Based Medicine.

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Oral Health
4770 Buford Highway, N.E., Mail Stop F10
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724
Phone: (770) 488-6054; fax: (888) 282-7681
E-mail: ccdinfo@cdc.gov

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Oral Health provides leadership in preventing oral disease, promoting oral health, and improving the quality of community water fluoridation. CDC sponsors a Web site, the National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS), which helps public health programs monitor oral disease, the use of the oral health care delivery system, and the status of community water fluoridation at state and national levels. NOHSS includes indicators of oral health, guidelines for oral conditions and oral health care, information on state dental programs, and links to other sources of oral health information. Many of the resources on the Web site are relevant to women’s oral health.

Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Room 18-05
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: (301) 443-0205; fax: (301) 443-1797
E-mail: comments@hrsa.gov
Web site: http://www.hrsa.gov
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the lead U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) agency for improving access to health care for individuals and families nationwide.

Bureau of Health Professions
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Room 8-05
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: (301) 443-5794; fax: (301) 443-2111
Web site: http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov

The Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr) manages programs and activities to ensure access to quality health care professionals in all geographic areas and to all segments of society. BHPr puts new research findings into practice, encourages health professionals to serve individuals and communities where the need is greatest, and promotes cultural and ethnic diversity within the health professions workforce. BHPr provides training and scholarships opportunities for a variety of health care disciplines, including dentistry.

HIV/AIDS Bureau
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Room 7A-08
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: (301) 443-4149; fax: (301) 443-4965
Web site: http://hab.hrsa.gov

The HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) provides key information on the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds primary care and support services for medically underserved people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Today, CARE Act programs are in every state; 51 major metropolitan areas throughout the nation; Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; and five additional U.S. pacific territories and associated jurisdictions. HAB programs focus on the most important issues, including managed care, HIV/AIDS drugs, treatment adherence, data and evaluation, measuring outcomes, and reaching the most vulnerable populations. The bureau also has a dental reimbursement program that assists accredited dental schools and postdoctoral dental programs with uncompensated costs incurred in providing oral health treatment to people who are HIV-positive.

Maternal and Child Health Bureau
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklaw Building, Room 18A-39
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: (301) 443-4026; fax: (301) 443-1296
Web site: http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds Maternal and Child Health Block Grants (under Title V of the Social Security Act) in the 50 states and 9 other U.S. jurisdictions; provides technical assistance to maternal and child health programs and service providers; and funds a variety of demonstration, research, and training grants, including special projects of regional and national significance (SPRANS). MCHB produces publications that are available from the National Maternal and Child Health Clearinghouse, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 450, Vienna VA 22182-2536; phone: (800) 434-4624 (4MCH); fax: (703) 821-2098; e-mail: nmchc@circsol.com; Web site: http://www.nmchc.org.

Indian Health Service
Dental Services Branch
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklaw Building, Room 6A-38
Rockville, MD 20857
Phone: (301) 443-4644; fax: (301) 594-6213
E-mail: psmith@hq.eihs.gov
Web site: http://www.ihs.gov

The Indian Health Service (IHS) addresses health issues affecting American Indian and Alaska natives. Services include technical assistance, training, and limited funding for intervention projects. National and regional conferences are sponsored annually.

National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Building One, Room 344
Bethesda, MD 20892
Phone: (301) 496-5787; fax: (301) 496-0017
E-mail: nihinfo@od.nih.gov

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the principal medical research arm of the federal government. Its programs focus on basic and applied research on the causes, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of human diseases and disabilities; the fundamental biological
process of growth, development, and aging; and the biological effects of the environment. NIH conducts research in its own laboratories and supports research in universities, hospitals, and other institutions across the country; it also supports the training of career researchers and promotes effective ways to communicate biomedical information to scientists, health professionals, and the public. NIH is organized into 18 research institutes. Publications include a catalog and an almanac.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
9000 Rockville Pike
Building 45, Room 4A519
Bethesda, MD 20892-6400
Phone: (301) 496-4261; fax: (301) 496-9988
E-mail: nidcrinfo@mail.nih.gov

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) responds to inquiries from consumers, educators, and health professionals. The institute provides information and publications on dental health and craniofacial research and abnormalities. Information on research activities and grant opportunities is available on the Web site.

National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894
Phone: (301) 594-5983, (888) 346-3656; fax: (301) 496-4450
E-mail: custserv@nlm.nih.gov

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) collects and disseminates biomedical information and serves as a national resource for all U.S. health science libraries. In addition to its collection of journals, monographs, and audiovisual materials, the library maintains a computerized information retrieval system of more than 40 databases through MEDLARS (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System). Lending and other services are provided through the 4,000-member National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Services provided to consumers include referrals, publications, and reference information.

The PubMed Web site provides access to bibliographic information drawn not only from Medline, a database containing citations and author

National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse
1 NOHIC Way
Bethesda, MD 20892-3500
Phone: (301) 402-7364, (877) 216-1019; fax: (301) 907-8830 / TTY: (301) 656-7581
E-mail: nohic@nidcr.nih.gov
Web site: http://www.aerie.com/nohicweb

The National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse (NOHIC) collects information on key organizations involved in special health care needs and produces and distributes education materials, directories, and resource guides. The clearinghouse maintains an online catalog of materials on oral health and special care issues through the Oral Health Subfile of the Combined Health Information Database (CHID). This database includes bibliographic citations, abstracts, and availability information on a variety of materials.

Office of Research on Women’s Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Building One, Room 201
Bethesda, MD 20892-0161
Phone: (301) 402-1770; fax: (301) 402-1798
Web site: http://www4.od.nih.gov/orwh

The Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH) works with the scientific community and advocacy groups to strengthen and enhance research on diseases and conditions that affect women. The office ensures that research conducted and supported by the National Institutes of Health adequately addresses women’s health issues and that women are appropriately represented in research studies. ORWH also directs initiatives to retain and promote women in science, and it sponsors conferences and scientific workshops on women’s health research.

Office on Women’s Health
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 730B
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 690-7650; fax: (202) 205-2631
The Office on Women’s Health (OWH) coordinates women’s health efforts in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate disparities in health status, and it sponsors culturally sensitive educational programs that encourage women to take personal responsibility for their own health and wellness. The OWH-supported Web site, the National Women’s Health Information Center (NWHIC), contains federal and private sector information about women’s health for the public, health professionals, medical researchers, educators, and the media.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Medscape Women’s Health**

Medscape’s Web site on women’s health offers a wide variety of health information (e.g., hormone therapy, osteoporosis) for health professionals. The site also provides access to women’s oral health research and findings through Medline, a database containing citations and author abstracts from more than 4,000 journals published in the United States and 70 other countries. Medscape also provides next-day medical conference summaries, access to other health-related databases, and links to Internet resources. See http://WomensHealth.medscape.com/Home/Topics/WomensHealth/womenshealth.html.

**Women’s Oral Health**

The Women’s Oral Health Web site provides consumer information about specific oral health needs. This site covers topics such as menstrual cycle changes as they relate to oral health, dental anxiety and pain perception, salivary flow, burning mouth syndrome, diet, smoking, and pregnancy. See http://www.womensoralhealth.org.
The purpose of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center is to respond to the needs of states and communities in addressing current and emerging public oral health issues. The resource center supports health professionals, program administrators, educators, policymakers, and others with the goal of improving oral health services for infants, children, adolescents, and their families. The resource center collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies; national and state organizations and associations; and foundations, to gather, develop, and share quality and valued information and materials.

The resource center provides a variety of services, including the following:

- Collecting programmatic materials, such as standards, guidelines, curricula, teaching guides, manuals, policies, reports, and professional education materials, and sharing information about their availability.
- Providing responses to information requests on topics such as early childhood caries, dental sealants, fluoridation, and access to and reimbursement for oral health services.
- Developing and disseminating publications such as fact sheets, policy briefs, resource guides, and conference proceedings in print and electronic versions.
- Maintaining a Web site to provide online access to current oral health information and materials, including publications, links to other oral health Web sites, and an extensive resource database (MCHLine®).
- Collecting oral health program descriptions to share with the MCH community. The programs database is available on the Web site for individuals to search, enter, and update programmatic information.
- Presenting and exhibiting at national and regional conferences to increase awareness of oral health issues and to promote access to resource center information and materials.

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
Georgetown University
2000 15th Street, North, Suite 701
Arlington, VA 22201-2617
Phone: (703) 524-7802
Fax: (703) 524-9335
E-mail: oralhealth@ncemch.org
Web site: http://www.mchoralhealth.org
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