

Surgeon General's Report: Oral Health in America

Major Findings

- Oral diseases and disorders in and of themselves affect health and well being throughout life.
- Safe and effective measures exist to prevent the most common dental diseases – dental caries and periodontal diseases.
- Lifestyle behaviors that affect general health such as tobacco use, excessive alcohol use, and poor dietary choices affect oral and craniofacial health as well.
- There are profound and consequential oral health disparities within the U.S. population.
- More information is needed to improve America's oral health and eliminate health disparities.
- The mouth reflects general health and well-being.

Framework for Action

- Change perceptions regarding oral health and disease so that oral health becomes an accepted component of general health.
- Build an effective health infrastructure that meets the oral health needs of all Americans and integrates oral health effectively into overall health.
- Remove known barriers between people and oral health services.
- Accelerate the building of the science and evidence base and apply science effectively to improve oral health.
- Use public-private partnerships to improve the oral health of those who still suffer disproportionately from oral diseases.