SMILE: Sharing MedlinePlus®/MEDLINE® for Information Literacy Education, A Dental Public Health Information Project

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Libraries

San Antonio, TX

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Final Report

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SMILE: Sharing MedlinePlus®/MEDLINE® for Information Literacy Education, A Dental Public Health Information Project

This project focused on improving public health dental practitioners’ access to information resources, heightening their awareness of resources available from NLM, and integrating the best evidence from these resources as part of public health dental practice. To achieve these goals, the UT HSC Libraries took advantage of existing relationships between the Health Science Center’s dental hygiene program and public health dental clinics in San Antonio and Laredo. Gateway Clinic also uses community health workers called “promotores” to provide oral health information to patients, and this program targeted them as well.

Administrative/Planning Activities

Project staff members Julie K. Gaines, Linda S. Levy, and Keith W. Cogdill met bi-weekly over the course of the project (December 2007-February 2009) to discuss upcoming activities, overall progress, and budget updates.

Early in the course of the project (January 2008), staff members met with the professional dental coordinators from the two community dental clinics targeted by the projects: Dr. Claudia Cavazos, Clinic Director at the Gateway Clinic in Laredo, TX., and Dr. Jennifer Bankler, Dental Health Coordinator of the San Antonio Health District. During these meetings, project staff members offered an overview of the project, gathered information about dental clinic staff members (numbers of staff members, roles), and scheduled the first large group meetings at each clinic in February 2008. During the first large group meetings, project staff consulted with attendees and scheduled the second and third large group meetings to
take place during regular dental staff meetings at both clinics in June 2008 and September 2008.

Publicity

At the beginning of the project, in December 2007, articles were published in the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio’s HSC News (http://tinyurl.com/26b9ml) and the UT HSC Libraries Newsletter (http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/publications/libnews/2007-12LN.pdf) about the SMILE project and a description of the activities in Laredo and San Antonio.

Product/Resource Development Activities

PHPartners.org Topic page
Project staff members Julie K. Gaines and Linda S. Levy developed a dental public health topic page for PHPartners.org [see Appendix A]. They worked closely with Lisa Sedlar, from the National Library of Medicine, and Hathy Simpson, from the New England Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, to include the following links:

- associations and organizations
- education and training (including continuing education)
- meetings and conferences
- legislation and policy
- literature and guidelines
- grants and funding
- statistics and data
- discussion and email lists, and
- health education and promotion

Dental Public Health Tutorial
Julie K. Gaines and Lara Sapp, Library Outreach Fellow, created a tutorial using PowerPoint for dental public health professionals. PowerPoint was chosen for two main reasons: 1) PowerPoint is universal and the professionals can download for their personal use on their own computers. 2) It is easy to use and a new software did not have to be learned to create this new tutorial. This will be hosted on the UT HSC Libraries website (http://www.library.uthscsa.edu) and linked from the PHPartners site when the tutorial is finalized [see Appendix B]. The tutorial included four major categories with sub-categories where appropriate:

- a toolkit for dental professionals
  - associations and organizations
  - education and training
  - meetings and conferences
  - legislation and policy
- evidence-based dental public health information, including definitions, background information, search process, and practice case studies
- data tools and statistics
  - oral health statistics and data on national, state, and local levels
- patient information
  - evaluation of online consumer health resources
  - reliable web-based consumer health resources for dental and oral health information
A small group of dental professionals (3 dentists and 3 dental hygienists) were asked for their input and evaluation of the tutorial for their professional needs. Some of the comments were as follows:
“This is very user-friendly.”

“This is great. Can I keep a copy of it?”

“The tutorial is very easy to navigate and user friendly. From the perception of a social science researcher it is sometimes difficult to find trustworthy oral health information. The links that you provided are some of the most reliable sources of information available. I think that this tutorial will be a fabulous tool for the dental health community. I was very pleased to see sources other than dental health organizations used in this tutorial. Please continue to keep me updated on your project, and I look forward to sharing this resource with my colleagues.”

“It was put together wonderfully. I know that hours of work went into the research and presentation of the material.”

**MedlinePlus® PowerPoint for Promotores**

Patti Gutierrez, library assistant at the UT HSC Library at the Laredo Campus created a MedlinePlus® PowerPoint presentation under the supervision of Julie K. Gaines and Linda Levy. She created a PowerPoint file in English and in Spanish. This PowerPoint file will be used in two ways: to add a MedlinePlus® module to the promotores curriculum at Gateway and it will be used by the promotores to teach the patients how to use MedlinePlus® and MedlinePlus® en español. The examples in the presentation are focused on dental/oral health. [See Appendix C]

**APHA poster**

Project staff members created a poster about the SMILE project, which was accepted for presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. The poster was presented at the meeting in San Diego, CA on October 26, 2008. During the presentation period, Julie Gaines talked to interested librarians, dentists, and public health professionals about SMILE. A dentist from North Carolina also inquired about oral health information in Spanish, and Julie told her about MedlinePlus® en español. The poster included an overview of the project with project objectives, pictures taken during classes, the participants’ evaluation of the project, conclusions, and lessons learned. [See Appendix D]

**Site Visits**

Although the availability of the clinics’ dental professionals was very limited due to their patient-care responsibilities, project staff members were able to make several site visits during the course of the project. These site visits or small groups were in addition to the large group classes at each facility. The project staff met with the Gateway Clinic staff on January 14, 2008, July 1, 2008, and December 19, 2008. Some of the project staff went to Southwest Clinic of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District on August 13, 2008 to teach more detailed information about PubMed and other library databases.
Outreach to Unaffiliated Health Care Professionals

The topics that were covered during the three classes to unaffiliated health care professionals and promotores at each clinic included information about SMILE, an introduction to the available resources - PubMed®, MedlinePlus® and MedlinePlus® en español, Loansome Doc, and staying informed through blogs and RSS feeds – in-depth training on the use of the resources, and document delivery services.

The sessions were held for approximately 17 staff members of Gateway Clinic in Laredo on February 20, 2008, June 18, 2008, and September 17, 2008. San Antonio sessions for approximately 11-12 staff members were held on February 22, 2008, June 19, 2008, and September 15, 2008. On April 16, 2008 and September 17, 2008, the project staff met with the promotores of the Gateway Dental Clinic in Laredo and demonstrated MedlinePlus®. In March 2008, Gateway’s dental hygiene staff members came to the Laredo Extension Campus Library to meet the staff and tour the facility.

Web Site Development Activities

A channel for oral health information was added to the UT HSC Libraries’ Outreach Blog, Staying Well. Connected. ([http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/connected/](http://www.library.uthscsa.edu/connected/)). Because the blog has as its purpose the exchange of community health information in South Texas and US-Mexico border communities, it was used to promote oral health information and provide information to the dental health professionals.
**The look of the blog has changed (along with the Library’s web site) since this screenshot.**

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**Evaluation Activities**

Focus groups and a survey were used to determine the information needs and baseline skill levels of the dental health teams from the target clinics: Gateway Clinic in Laredo and Metro Health Clinics in San Antonio. Data from the focus groups and survey informed the staff on the training and resources provided in the training for the dental staff. Evaluations were also used after the large sessions to get feedback on the material presented in each large group. After the needs assessment, the project staff found that Google was used the most as an information resource by the dental staff in Laredo and in San Antonio. They (dental staff at Gateway and at Metro Health) had low levels of familiarity with the topics listed on the needs assessment (i.e. Blogs, PubMed, and MedlinePlus®)

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**Before Training: Dental Staff’s Familiarity with Online Resources**

(Average of rating of familiarity)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online Resource</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PubMed</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MedlinePlus</td>
<td>1.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the three large group trainings (towards the end of the project), a survey was used to evaluate the increase in the dental staff’s knowledge of the online resources or topics the project staff had demonstrated or taught them during the project period. The results of the survey indicated that the dental staff’s knowledge increased for blogs, PubMed and MedlinePlus®.

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**Lessons Learned**

- **Dental hygienists have opportunities to educate dental patients about general health needs, not only oral health needs.** The dental hygienists at Gateway Clinic and Metro Health educated different age groups in different settings (Head Start, clinics, etc). Many times they are educating the parents on the children’s oral health care, but they always add more information about how oral health affects general health.

- **When working with health professionals, librarians need to emphasize utilities for timesaving and clinical decision making including empowering the searchers to search the literature themselves.** The dental staff are very busy working with patients and don’t always have a lot of time to sit down for long periods of time to search. The librarian is a great partner to teach how to search these reliable health databases such as PubMed® for clinical information. The number of search requests for document delivery requests was lower than anticipated.

- **MedlinePlus® is a valuable tool for dental patient information and for the promotores’ education and foundation of knowledge.** MedlinePlus® was a valuable tool for this project, because it offers information in English and in Spanish. Both dental teams in San Antonio and
Laredo have team members who are bilingual and can work with the Spanish-speaking population. MedlinePlus® gives the dental team and more specifically the promotores information for families in the community. They (the promotores) also can use MedlinePlus® to inform themselves about topics they are not very familiar in order to help the families in the communities or the patients who come to the clinic.

- **Even without Internet access in the field, promotores can print information from MedlinePlus® and supply it to their clients.** MedlinePlus® is a reliable tool that promotores can always find reliable health information for their clients. They can print the information and take it to someone’s home or give it to them in the dental clinic.

- **The dental professionals in the SMILE Project continue to use MedlinePlus® and PubMed® for their professional literature and patient information needs.** The project staff evaluated the dental staff’s knowledge increase about MedlinePlus® and PubMed®. The evaluation showed that their knowledge had increased. Many of the staff have told the project staff that they are using MedlinePlus for patient information and PubMed for professional literature.

- **This project fostered opportunities for expanded partnerships.** The library has expanded partnerships with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) by working on a proposal for a Sewell Fellow that will be hosted by Metro Health. The staff at the UT HSC Library Extension Campus in Laredo have exhibited at a health fair at Gateway Clinic.
Appendices

Appendix A – Resources for the Dental Public Health topic page on PHPartners.org
Appendix B - Dental Public Health Tutorial homepage (full tutorial attached in email)
Appendix C - Handout of MedlinePlus Slides for Promotores
Appendix D – Poster for American Public Health Association
Definition of Dental Public Health
Dental Public Health is the science and art of preventing and controlling dental diseases and promoting dental health through organized community efforts. It is that form of dental practice which serves the community as a patient rather than the individual. It is concerned with the dental health education of the public, with applied dental research, and with the administration of group dental care programs as well as the prevention and control of dental diseases on a community basis. (Adopted May 1976, Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association)

Associations and Organizations:

American Association for Community Dental Programs
http://www.aacdp.com/
AACDP supports the efforts of those with an interest in serving the oral health needs of vulnerable populations at the community level. Members include staff of city, county, and community-based health programs with an interest in oral health issues and access to care.

American Association of Public Health Dentistry
http://www.aaphd.org
Founded in 1937, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) provides a focus for meeting the challenge to improve oral health. AAPHD membership is open to all individuals concerned with improving the oral health of the public.

American Public Health Association: Oral Health Section
http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/oral/
Members seek to promote oral health to a large multidisciplinary audience, partner with other human service providers, integrate oral health with overall health, have input into environmental and health care delivery issues, and disseminate research findings to the largest possible audience.

Centers for Disease Control: Division of Oral Health
http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/index.htm
The CDC’s Division of Oral Health (DOH) works to improve the oral health of the nation and to reduce inequalities in oral health.

Hispanic Dental Association
http://www.hdassoc.org/
The Hispanic Dental Association is the only national organization of dental professionals dedicated to promoting and improving the oral health of the Hispanic community and providing advocacy for Hispanic oral health professionals across the United States.
National Dental Association
http://www.ndaonline.org/
The mission of the National Dental Association is to represent the concerns of ethnic minorities in dentistry, to elevate the global oral health concerns of underserved communities, to enhance educational and financial opportunities, and public policy awareness, for its members, and to recruit underrepresented minorities into the profession through advocacy and mentorship.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/
The mission of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) is to improve oral, dental and craniofacial health through research, research training, and the dissemination of health information.

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
http://www.mchoralhealth.org/headstart/index.html
The purpose of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) is to respond to the needs of states and communities in addressing current and emerging public oral health issues. OHRC 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.

Public Health Foundation
http://www.phf.org/
The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is dedicated to achieving healthy communities through research, training, and technical assistance. For more than 35 years, this national, non-profit organization has been creating new information and helping health agencies and other community health organizations connect to and more effectively use information to manage and improve performance, understand and use data, and strengthen the workforce.

Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)
http://www.sophe.org/
SOPHE is an independent, international professional association made up of a diverse membership of health education professionals and students. The Society promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities, and healthy environments through its membership, its network of local chapters, and its numerous partnerships with other organizations.

Education and Training: Dental public health is one of nine dental specialties recognized by the American Dental Association.

American Dental Association: Accreditation Standards for Dental Public Health
Detailed accreditation standards for institutions with a dental public health program.

**Residency and Fellowship Programs in Dental Public Health**

**American Association of Public Health Dentistry**
A list of accredited residency programs in Public Health Dentistry

**Association of Schools of Public Health**
http://www.asph.org/document.cfm?page=752
The Association of Schools of Public Health represents the 40 Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited schools of public health.

**National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research) NIDCR:**
The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) sponsors a 12-month full-time or 12-month equivalent part-time residency program in dental public health. Qualified applicants with a DDS or DMD degree or its equivalent and a prerequisite graduate degree in public health are eligible to apply.

**Continuing Education Programs**

**American Public Health Association**
http://www.apha.org/programs/education/
The mission of APHA Learning and Professional Development Programs Unit is to promote professional development, and strengthen public health practice within the core guidelines of the public health essential services.

**TRAIN National**
https://www.train.org/
A free service of the Public Health Foundation, this website is part of the newly expanded TrainingFinder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN).

A list of Schools of Public Health is available on the website of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) at http://www.asph.org/.

Meetings and Conferences

American Association for Community Dental Programs
http://www.aacdp.com/meetings/index.html
The annual symposium is held as a pre-conference session to the National Oral Health Conference. The National Oral Health Conference is sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

American Public Health Association
http://www.apha.org/meetings/
The APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world.

National Oral Health Conference
http://www.nationaloralhealthconference.com/
The National Oral Health Conference is sponsored by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Legislation and Policy

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
http://www.aapd.org/hottopics/advocacy/
The mission of the AAPD is to advocate policies, guidelines and programs that promote optimal oral health and oral health care for children. The AAPD serves and represents its membership in the areas of professional development and governmental and legislative activities.

Center for Health Policy
A project of the School of Nursing at Columbia University, the Center is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to document, analyze, and disseminate public health legal principles relating to improved oral health through community water fluoridation, identifying the legal boundaries and considerations that pervade debates about community water fluoridation and thus furthering CDC’s goal of raising the proportion of the population with access to fluoridated water.

Healthy People 2010 Objectives for Oral Health
The overall goal of the Healthy People 2010 oral health objectives is to prevent and control oral and craniofacial diseases, conditions, and injuries and improve access to related services.

National Center for Fluoridation
http://www.fluoridationcenter.org/
NCF was created to provide information within that network of scientists, educators, public officials, organizational representatives, and media concerned about the availability of reliable, timely, and scientifically-based information about community water fluoridation.

National Conference of State Legislatures: State Childrens’ Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Dental Care for Kids
http://www.ncsl.org/programs/health/CHIPDENT.htm
The National Conference of State Legislatures was founded in 1975 with the conviction that legislative service is one of democracy’s worthiest pursuits. NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues.

Literature and Guidelines

Journals

Community Dental Health
http://www.cdhjournal.org/
Publishes scientific articles of interest to dentists working in dental public health and to other professionals concerned with disease prevention, health service planning and health promotion. A subscription is required for full-text access.

Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology
http://www.wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=0301-5661
Publishes literature that broadens the knowledge base of this profession, including behavioral sciences related to dentistry, health services research and methodological reports. A subscription is required for full-text access.

Journal of Dental Hygiene
http://www.adha.org/jdh
Published by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association to provide refereed, original research articles concerned with the practice and education of dental hygiene. A subscription is required for full-text access.

Journal of Public Health Dentistry
http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/jphd
Publishes original research articles, methods article and review articles relevant to the advancement of public health dentistry. A subscription is required for full-text access.
Journal of the American Dental Association
http://jada.ada.org/
Published by the American Dental Association. Reliable, peer-reviewed source of information on dentistry and dental science. A subscription is required for full-text access.

Newsletters
The Bellwether: Leading Local Efforts to Improve the Nation’s Oral Health
http://www.aacdp.com/publications.html
Newsletter published by the American Association for Community Dental Programs (AACDP).

Children’s Oral Health Electronic Newsletter
http://www.aap.org/commpeds/dochs/oralhealth/enews.cfm
Monthly E-newsletter by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that gives updates and information related to oral health.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/NewsAndFeatures/ENewsletters
The newsletter provides information and news from the NIDCR and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Oral Health America Electronic Newsletter
Newsletter provides the latest news about the non-profit, Oral Health America’s programs and initiatives, research updates and the dental industry.

Oral Health Matters
Newsletter published on a seasonal basis by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD).

Reports and Other Publications

Healthy People 2010 Oral Health Toolkit
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/EducationalResources/DentalHealthProf/HealthyPeople2010/
Toolkit designed to help states, territories, tribes, and communities develop programs that will in turn help eliminate oral health disparities and achieve the nation’s Healthy People 2010 oral health objectives.

Journal Articles written by CDC staff
The CDC provides a list of articles written by the CDC staff on oral health topics.

National Call to Promote Oral Health
Released by Department of Health and Human Services in 2003 to improve oral health and prevent disease for all Americans.

In May 2000, Surgeon General David Satcher released this report on oral health in America.

Guidelines

ASTDD Guidelines for State & Territorial Oral Health Programs
These guidelines were developed by the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) to provide a working document for guidance to health agency officials and public health administrators in the development and operation of oral health programs at the state level.

Guidelines and Recommendations from the CDC
The CDC lists guidelines and recommendations for community prevention programs, fluoride, infection control, oral cancer, and water fluoridation.

National Guideline Clearinghouse
http://www.guideline.gov
The National Guideline Clearinghouse includes practice guidelines for dental and oral care.

Grants and Funding

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Grants On-Line Database (GOLD)
http://www.gold.ahrq.gov/
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Grants On-Line Database is a searchable database of grants funded by the AHRQ.

American Dental Association Foundation Grants/Scholarships
http://www.ada.org/ada/adaf/grants/index.asp
The American Dental Association Foundation has several grants available for dental professionals and others.

American Dental Hygienists’ Association Institute for Oral Health
http://www.adha.org/institute/About/programs.htm
The American Dental Hygienists’ Association Institute for Oral Health offers grants for research and community service.

HRSA Grant Opportunities
http://www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm
The US Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) maintains a list of available funding opportunities.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/GrantsAndFunding/
NIDCR is the nation’s leading funder of oral, dental, and craniofacial research.

Statistics and Data

FASTSTATS: Oral and Dental Health
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/dental.htm
FASTSTATS provides statistics from the nation’s principal health statistics agency, National Center for Health Statistics.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/DataStatistics/
NIDCR supports the collection of statistics to document oral, dental, and craniofacial conditions and assess oral health trends in the United States.

National Oral Health Surveillance System (NOHSS)
http://www.cdc.gov/nohss/
NOHSS is a collaborative effort between CDC's Division of Oral Health and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). It is designed to monitor the use of dental health care, oral disease, and the status of community water fluoridation.

NIDCR/CDC Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Data Resource Center (DRC)
http://drc.hhs.gov/
The Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Data Resource Center (DRC), cosponsored by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Oral Health, serves as a resource on dental, oral, and craniofacial data for the oral health research community, clinical practitioners, public health planners and policy makers, advocates, and the general public.

Oral Health Maps
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/gisdoh/default.aspx
Oral Health Maps is an interactive mapping application that is produced by the CDC, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and the participating states. The maps represent indicators of oral health and preventive interventions for oral health.

Synopses of State and Territorial Dental Public Health Programs
http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/synopses/index.asp
The Synopses track information about progress towards the Healthy People 2010 objectives by states, regions, and the nation.

Discussion and Email Lists

American Association of Public Health Dentistry
An electronic discussion list that discusses topics related to dental public health and sponsored by the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (http://www.aaphd.org).

**Community Oral Health Programs**
http://www.mchoralhealth.org/listserv.html
An electronic email list hosted by the National Maternal and Child Health Resource Center (http://www.mchoralhealth.org) that discusses the operation of local oral health programs.

**KidsOralHealth**
http://www.mchoralhealth.org/listserv.html
An email discussion list about the state and federal oral health policies and programs that is hosted and maintained by the National Maternal and Child Health Resource Center (http://www.mchoralhealth.org).

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**Health Education and Promotion**

**ADA - Oral Health Topics**
http://www.ada.org/public/topics/alpha.asp
American Dental Association has information for patients for different oral and dental health information.

**CDC - Oral Health A to Z**
http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/topics/index.htm
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains an A-to-Z list of information resources about oral health topics.

**healthfinder.gov**
http://www.healthfinder.gov/HealthAtoZ
Consumer dental and oral health information can be found on healthfinder.gov, a site by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) and its health information referral service, the National Health Information Center.

**MedlinePlus®**
http://www.medlineplus.gov
Selected links to Web resources with authoritative health information for patients. Dictionaries, directories, organizations, news sources. Guides to selected Web resources on over 750 health topics.

**MedlinePlus® - Mouth and Teeth Topics**
Consumer health information from MedlinePlus® on topics related to the mouth and teeth.

**NIDCR (National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research)**
http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/OralHealth/
Oral health information for the consumer from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.
Toolkit for Dental Health Professionals

Evidence-Based Dental Public Health

Data Tools and Statistics

Patient Information

**Purpose**: Provides instruction for public health dental practitioners that focuses on finding and evaluating information relevant to public health dental practice.

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. N01-LM-6-3505 under the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library.
Health Topics beginning with E:
- Exercise
- Eczema
- Endometriosis
- Epilepsy
- Eosinophilia
- Euthanasia
- Ethiopian Health
- Echinococcosis
- Epilepsy
- Eosinophilia

Dental Hygiene: How to Care for Your Child’s Teeth

How can I best care for my child’s teeth?

Keeping your child’s teeth healthy starts with good oral hygiene habits. Brushing your child’s teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste helps prevent the buildup of bacteria. Follow these steps:

1. Floss daily:
   - Use a soft floss to gently remove plaque from between the teeth.
   - Guide the floss between the teeth and use a gentle back-and-forth motion.
   - Ensure you clean all teeth surfaces, including the front, back, and sides.

2. Brush regularly:
   - Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste.
   - Brush your child’s teeth at least twice a day, ideally after meals and before bedtime.
   - Brush for at least 2 minutes each time, focusing on all surfaces of the teeth.

Children under 3 years:
- Use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
- Limit the amount of sugar in your child’s diet.

3. Limit sweet treats:
   - Reduce the frequency of consuming sugary snacks and drinks.
   - Encourage water or milk after eating to help wash away sugars.

4. See a dentist:
   - Schedule dental check-ups at least every 6 months from age 6.
   - Follow up with a dentist if any issues arise, such as tooth decay or gum problems.

What are common dental problems in children?

- Tooth decay
- Tooth sensitivity
- Bruxism (teeth grinding)
- Malocclusion (misalignment of teeth)

What if my child has a toothache?

- Inform your child’s dentist if they experience tooth pain.
- Do not give them pain relievers without consulting a healthcare provider.

What if my child has a tooth injury?

- Rinse the wound with warm saltwater to prevent infection.
- If possible, gently try to clean the area around the tooth.

Key Point: Keep your child’s teeth healthy by establishing good oral hygiene habits from an early age. Encourage them to participate in these routines and provide them with the necessary tools to maintain a healthy smile.
“This project focuses on improving public health dental practitioners’ access to information resources, raising their awareness of resources available from the National Library of Medicine and integrating the best evidence from these resources as part of their practice.”
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Julie K. Gaines, MLIS; Linda Levy, MLS, AHIP; Keith Cogdill, PhD, AHIP
The Libraries, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

ABSTRACT
The SMILE project is a partnership among the UT HSC Libraries, the Gateway Clinic in Laredo, and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. SMILE addresses information-access components of Healthy People 2010 and oral-health objectives specified in Healthy Border 2010. The project focuses on improving South Texas public health dental practitioners’ and community health workers’ (“promotores”) awareness of and access to reliable information resources, as well as integrating the best evidence from these resources into their public health dental practice and educational activities. The SMILE project provides information literacy skills needed for lifelong learning. By equipping practitioners with these skills they can impact the lives of patients and their families.

OBJECTIVES
- Develop an understanding of information literacy for dental health practitioners.
- Identify web-based information tools of value in retrieving and assessing public health dental resources for professionals.
- Recognize the value of public health partnerships that leverage the expertise and resources of libraries.

SETTING
Laredo
- Gateway Clinic
- 1 Dental Clinic
- 5 Dentists
- 2 Dental Hygienists
- 6 Promotores

San Antonio
- Metropolitan Health District
- 4 Dental Clinics
- 8 Dentists
- 2 Dental Hygienists

Large Group and Small Group Training
The library staff conducted three large sessions at each site in San Antonio and Laredo. Each large group session was part of the monthly scheduled staff meeting where all of the dental public health team attended. The staff also conducted small-group sessions where the participants had opportunities to gain hands-on experience.

TRAINING TOPICS
- Document Delivery Services
- Staying Informed (RSS & Blogs)
- Loansome Doc®

Document Delivery
The UT HSC Libraries provided document delivery services to the public health dental practitioners through the Circuit Librarian Health Information Network (CLHIN). They had access to librarians to do mediated searches and to access articles in the professional literature.

Technology + Tools
- Online Tutorial
- Dental Public Health Links on the Web

CONCLUSIONS + LESSONS LEARNED
- MedlinePlus® is a valuable tool for dental patient information and for the promoters’ education and foundation of knowledge.
- Dental hygienists have opportunities to educate dental patients about general health needs, not only oral health needs.
- When working with health professionals, librarians need to emphasize utilities for timesaving and clinical decision making including empowering the searchers to search the literature themselves.
- Even without Internet access in the field, promotores can print information from MedlinePlus® and supply it to their clients.
- These dental professionals continue to use MedlinePlus® and PubMed® for their professional literature and patient information needs.
- This project fostered opportunities for expanded partnerships.

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