

# Introduction to Dental Public Health

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## Lecture outline:

- Definition of Dental public Health
- The main concerns of Dental Public Health
- Criteria for a public health problem
- Factors Affecting Dental Health
- Procedural steps in dental public health
- Comparison between Clinical practice and Public health practice

## Public Health

The science and the art of preventing diseases, promoting health and improving the quality of life through the organised efforts of society

## Dental public health

Is the science & art of preventing dental diseases and promoting dental health and improving the quality of life through the organized efforts of society

# Dental Public Health Concerns

- Dental health education and motivation of the public
- Applied dental research( conducting field programs and research activities for dental students, dental professional)
- Administration of programs(promotion oral health programs as school dental health program)
- Prevention & control of dental diseases on a community basis (preventive measures such as water fluoridation)

# Criteria for a public health problem

- Disease must be widespread or serious
- Consequences to community or individuals must be severe
- Costs to community or individuals must be great
- Effective methods must be available to prevent, alleviate or cure disease

# Which health problems constitute a public health problem?

	Widespread or serious?	Impact?	Costs?	Prevent, alleviate or cure?
Smoking-related diseases	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crooked teeth				

# Factors Affecting Dental Public Health

- Access to Care:

- ✓ Restriction of dental hygiene services
- ✓ Shortage of Medicaid providers
- ✓ Financial Situations
- ✓ Transportation

# Factors Affecting Dental Public Health

- **Government Role:**

- Research
- Disease Prevention
- Program Planning and Operation
- Funding for the Education of Dental Professionals



# Dental public health tools:

- 1- Epidemiology
- 2- Biostatistics
- 3- Social Science
- 4- Principle of administration:
  - a-Organization
  - b-Management
- 5- Preventive Dentistry:
  - a-Primary prevention: (pre pathogenic stage)
  - b-Secondary Prevention(early pathogenic stage)
  - c- Tertiary Prevention: ( pathogenic stage)

# Procedural steps in dental public health

- ✓ Survey
- ✓ Analysis
- ✓ Program planning
- ✓ Program operation
- ✓ Financing
- ✓ Program appraisal

# Clinical practice vs Public health practice (similarity)

Examination	Survey
Diagnosis	Data analysis
Treatment planning	Programme planning
Informed consent	Ethics & Planning approval
Treatment	Programme operation
Payment	Types of finance
Evaluation	Evaluation & review

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIVATE DENTAL PRACTICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

Characteristic	Private Dental Practice	Public Health Dentistry
<b>Target</b>	Individual patient	community or group of individuals
<b>Collection of information</b>	History taking and oral clinical examination	Analysis of available health and morbidity records
<b>Special investigations</b>	Diagnosis	Situational analysis of oral health status and needs and utilization of services
<b>Requirements for success</b>	Patient's consent and co-operation	Community Participation
<b>Service provider</b>	Dentist alone, sometimes with an assistant	Health team professionals and paraprofessionals, community volunteers
<b>Evaluation &amp; Results</b>	Relief of symptoms and restoration of function	Formal programme evaluation
<b>Funding</b>	Generally by the patient	Generally by Government or Local authorities

