• Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health

• COVID-19 and Dentistry: Federal Guidance

American Association of Community Dental Programs
April 6, 2020
USPHS Dentists
Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health

This is just a mock-up of a proposed cover of the new report.
Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General

• First-ever report commissioned by the Surgeon General on oral health

• Available at:
  https://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/index.html

• Major Message:

  Oral Health means much more than healthy teeth, and is integral to the general health and well-being of all Americans.
Oral Health in America: Call to Action (2003)

Goals were:

• To promote oral health
• To improve quality of life
• To eliminate oral health disparities
Global Burden of Disease

- Four oral health diseases ranked in the top 30 out of 328 conditions:
  - Untreated Dental Caries (tooth decay) in *permanent* teeth — 1\textsuperscript{st}
  - Severe Periodontitis — 11\textsuperscript{th}
  - Untreated Dental Caries (tooth decay) in *primary* teeth — 17\textsuperscript{th}
  - Severe/Complete Tooth Loss — 29\textsuperscript{th}

*Global Burden of Disease, 2016 Disease and Injury Incidence and Prevalence Collaborators, Lancet 2017, 390:1211-59*
How has the U.S. changed in the last 20 years?

• Oral health disparities
• Aging of the population
• A changing workforce
• Mental illness & substance abuse
• Healthcare expenditures
• Emerging public health threats
• Advances in research and technology
Surgeon General’s Priorities

“Better Health Through Better Partnerships”

• Substance Misuse: Opioids, Tobacco, E-cigarettes
• Community Health and Economic Prosperity
• Health & National Security: Military Eligibility and Readiness
• Oral Health: https://youtu.be/snOxqakR2zk
“The report will describe and evaluate oral health and the interaction between oral health and general health throughout the life span, considering advances in science, healthcare integration, and social influences to articulate promising new directions for improving oral health and oral health equity across communities.”
Focus: The 2020 Report

“Big” questions to answer

– Where we are now?
– Where we have made advances since 2000?
– What challenges persist since the last report?
– What new threats are emerging?
– What are some promising new directions for research and improvement in oral health?
Framework for the Report

1. Effect of Oral Health on the Community, Overall Well-being, and the Economy
2. Oral Health Across the Lifespan – Children & Adolescents
3. Oral Health Across the Lifespan – Adults & Older Adults
4. Oral Health Integration, Workforce, and Practice
5. Effects of Addiction and Mental Health Disorders on Oral Health
6. Emerging Technologies and Promising Science to Transform Oral Health
Process & Timelines

• Approximately 400 researchers and health professionals are contributing to the report either as authors or reviewers.

• Timeline:
  – March 2018: Committee created to develop framework
  – November 26-27, 2018: Surgeon General’s Listening Session with stakeholders
  – January 2019: Solicitation of contributions began with NIDCR webinar on January 10th
  – February 2020: Scientific & technical review began

• **Scientific & technical review** → agency reviews → review by the OSG, OASH, and OS

• Federal clearance procedures ensure that standards of the Surgeon General and the DHHS are met.
Report Resources

  - Copies of slide presentations at national meetings
  - Message from the Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Jerome Adams
  - NIDCR webinar of January 10, 2019
  - Surgeon General’s Listening Session of November 26-27, 2018

  - Report, executive summary, and other materials will be housed at surgeongeneral.gov website following release of the Report
COVID-19 & Dentistry
Postponing Elective Dental Procedures

• In a March 17, 2020 White House Coronavirus Task Force press briefing, White House COVID-19 response coordinator Dr. Deborah Birx recommended that hospitals and dentists cancel all elective surgeries over the next two weeks in order to free up hospital beds and space. The task force has stated that its recommendations are not mandatory.

Postponing Elective Dental Procedures


• **March 20th**: CDC updated their guidance by recommending “dental facilities postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits, and prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures now and for the coming several weeks.” [https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html](https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html)

• **March 22nd**: The SG asked health systems to “cancel or delay nonessential elective procedures in a way that minimizes potential harm to patients. These include dental procedures as well.” [https://twitter.com/surgeon_general](https://twitter.com/surgeon_general)
CDC Dental-Specific Guidance


• **Key Concepts**

  1. Dental settings have unique characteristics that warrant additional infection control considerations.
  2. Postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits, and contact patients prior to emergency procedures. Stay at home if sick and know steps to take if a patient with COVID-19 symptoms enters your facility.
  3. Stay at home if sick
  4. Contact patients prior to clinically urgent/emergency dental treatment
  5. Know actions to take if a patient has suspected/confirmed COVID-19
CMS Dental Guidance

• CMS has provided states with guidance and templates on covering tele-health, but this must be enacted at the state level.

FDA Updates


- FDA has instituted a Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program to bring new safe and effective therapies to patients (March 31st).

- Other links:
  - Decontamination of compatible N95 respirators for reuse - [https://www.fda.gov/media/136529/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/136529/download)
  - Enforcement policy for gowns, gloves, etc. [https://www.fda.gov/media/136540/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/136540/download)
Federal Bureau of Prisons has limited prisoners to cells for 14-day period

Indian Health Service has developed tele-dentistry guidelines, how to talk to dental patients about COVID-19 and dental safety, and other documents (available by request).

HRSA has developed FAQs for community health centers at
Federal-Private Coordination

Multi-pronged communication approach includes:

1. COVID-19 Public-Private Partner Dental Coordination Group
   - Federal: USPHS CDO, CMS, CDC, FDA, several USPHS dental officers
   - Private: Leaders of ADA, ADAA, ADEA, ADHA, AGD, ASTDD, HDA, MSDA, NDA, NNOHA, OSAP

2. Communication with other dental organizations with updates
   - AACDP, AAPHD, AAWD, ADSO, APHA, DQ, IADR/AADR, SAID, SF Group, WHO

3. Communications with Federal Dental Services

4. Communications with other Federal entities
   - USPHS Oral Health Coordinating Committee, USPHS Dental Professional Advisory Committee, various HHS agencies