



**Achieving Oral Health Equity:
Using a Network Approach to
Address Oral Health Disparities**
www.tampabayhealth.org

Session Objectives

- Describe the Oral Health 2020 Network (OH2020)
- Discuss OH2020 goals and structure
- Highlight local strategies to address oral health disparities and achieve health equity

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Vision & Mission

We envision a community that values health and health services for everyone

To promote and advance the health and wellness of those underserved *through community collaborations*

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What is Health Equity?

- Attainment of the highest level of health for all people ^{*HP2020}
- Assurance of the conditions for optimal health for all people ^{*C. Jones}
- Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible ^{*RWJ}

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Health Equity & Health Disparity

- Health equity is the principle or value that motivates us to eliminate health disparities
 - Health disparities (differences) are a way to measure progress towards achieving health equity

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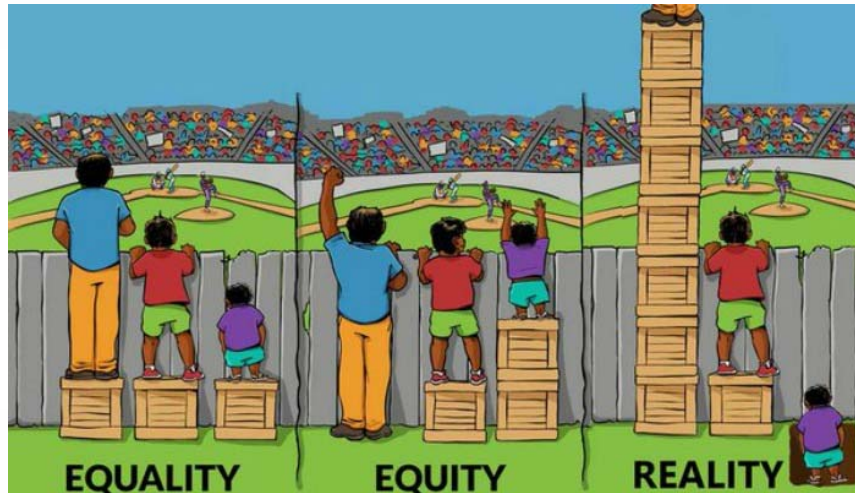


Equality versus Equity



Source: <http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/features/achieving-health-equity.html>

Equality, Equity, Reality



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What we know about individuals, no matter how rich the details, will never give us the ability to predict how they will behave as a system. Once individuals link together they become something different. Only when we join with others do our gifts become visible, even to ourselves.

Margaret Wheatley



Background

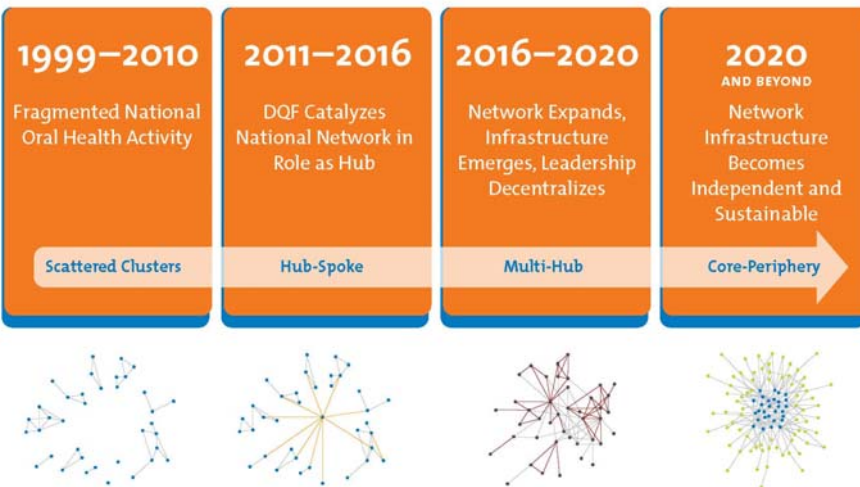


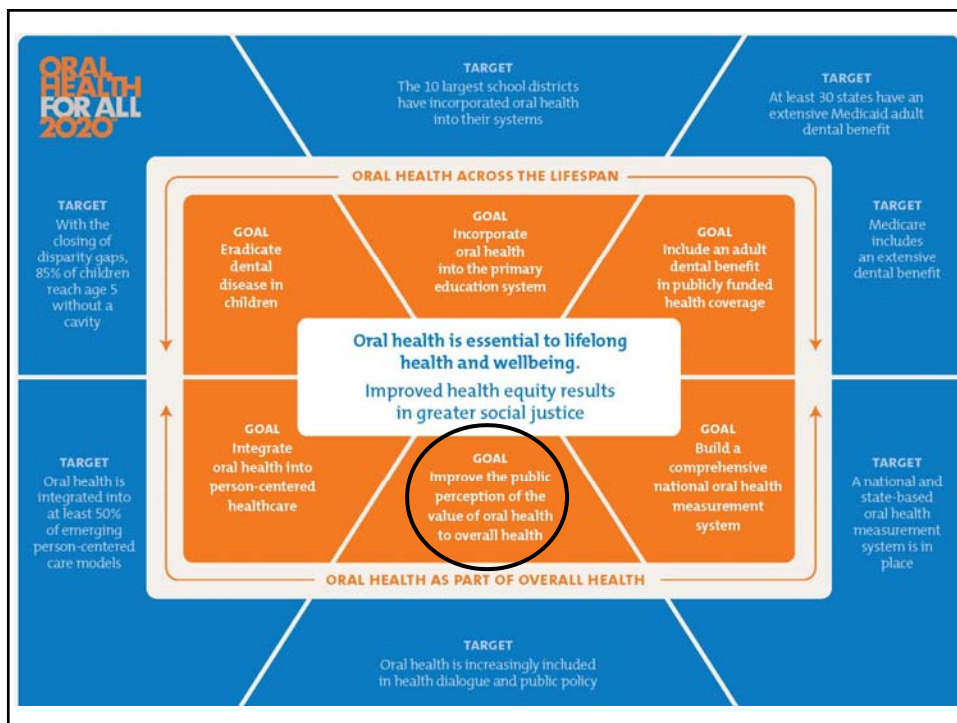
Recognizing Oral Health as a Health Equity & Social Justice Issue

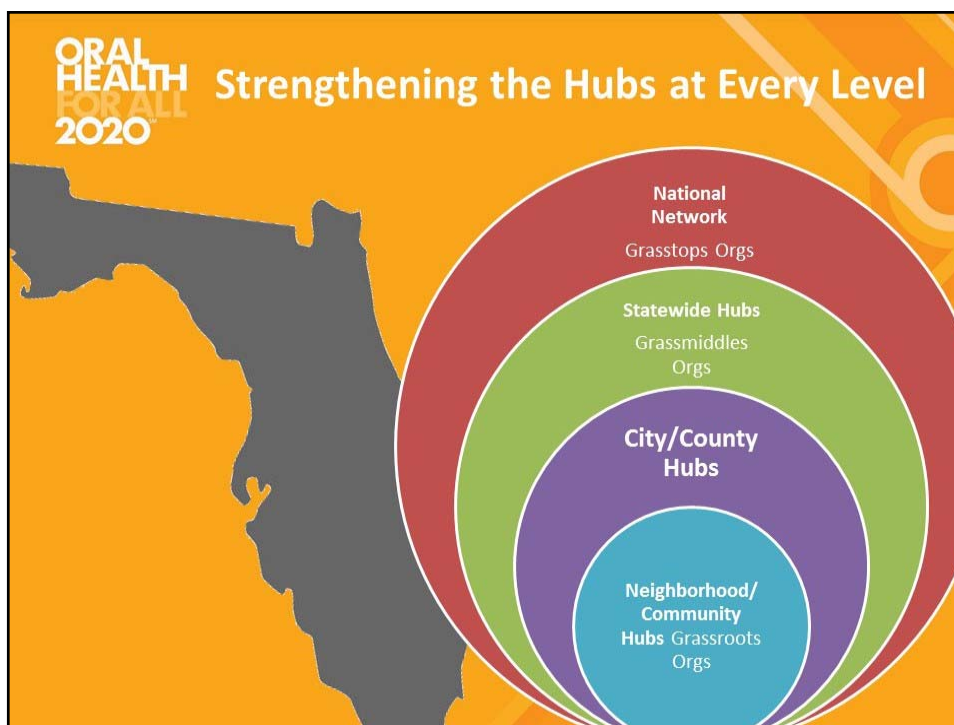
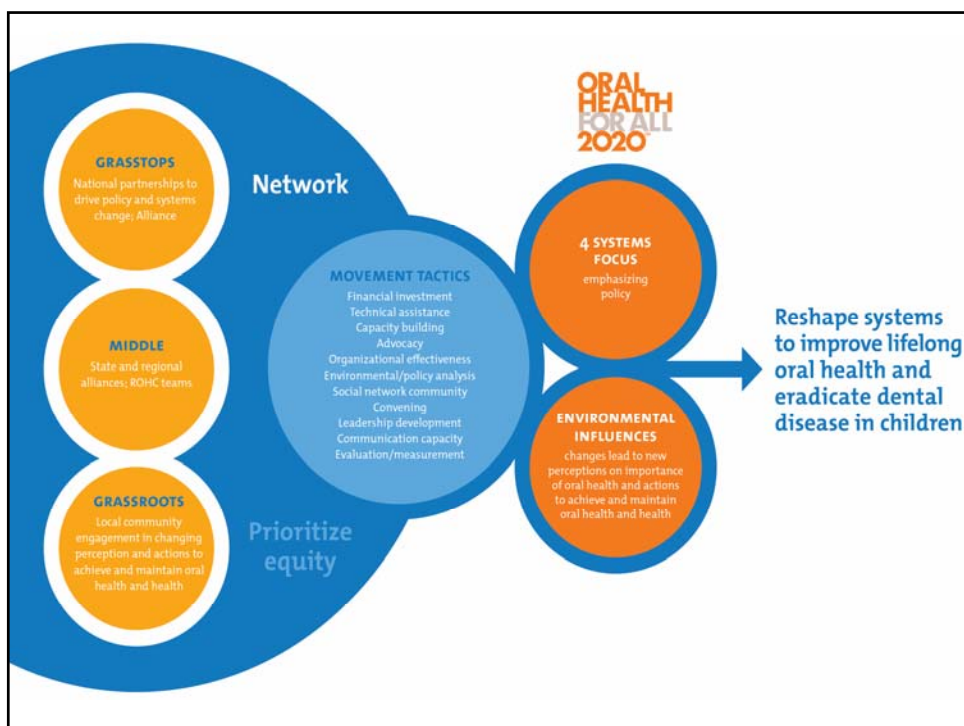
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Evolution of the Oral Health 2020 Network







Overview



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Community Survey Results

Importance vs. Condition



91% of respondents agree that oral health is important



50% of respondents describe the condition of their teeth and gums as 'poor' or 'fair'



38% of respondents avoid "smiling and laughing" due to the condition of their teeth





Community Survey Results

Knowledge vs. Behavior

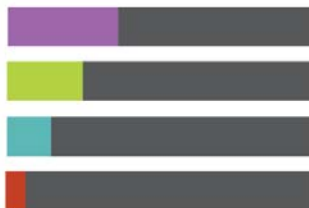
92% believe regular checkups will prevent dental health problems *however* **35%** only visit the dentist when they have a toothache

33% of respondents reported visiting the dentist within the **last 6 months**

27% reported it had been **1-2 years**

20% reported it had been **2-4 years**

2% reported **never** visiting the dentist



*13% of respondents did not know and 5% selected other



Community Survey Results

Equity and Social Justice

Residents were asked if they had ever felt discriminated against by a dentist or dental professional because of certain characteristics.

13% of the respondents felt discriminated based on **insurance**



7% of respondents felt discriminated against because of **race**



12% of respondents felt discriminated based on **income**



5% of respondents felt discriminated due to **age**



69% reported not feeling discriminated against



26% of respondents felt that their **race** impacts their ability to access quality dental care

*Note – total exceeds 100%, respondents were able to select ALL that apply





Community Survey Results

Identifying Barriers to Accessing Dental Care

Survey respondents were asked to identify barriers to getting dental care and/or reasons they delayed or avoided scheduling a dental appointment.

The following areas were identified:



50%

of respondents reported delaying care due to **cost**



Year 2 Priorities (2016)

- Additional Assessment
- Service Coordination
- State Alignment
- Advocacy





Provider Survey Results

Oral Health Beliefs & Practices

- Poor oral health can impact various overall health concerns – **99%**
- A person is not healthy if they are in poor oral health – **93%**
- Residents would benefit from expanded dental health services – **91%**
- Organization distributes educational dental health information to clients – **56%**
- Organization has client referral process with local dental service providers – **48%**



Provider Survey Results

Awareness & Perceptions

Aware of school based dental sealant program?

Yes – 49%

No – 51%

Describe the communication between dental professionals & their patients.

Excellent – 8%

Good – 48%

Fair – 39%

Poor – 5%





Year 3 Priorities (2017)

- Community Collaboration
- Education & Messaging
- Advocacy
- Emerging Needs



Stay in Touch

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Connect With Us



www.oralhealth.network



www.facebook.com/oralhealth2020



[@OralHealth2020](https://twitter.com/OralHealth2020)

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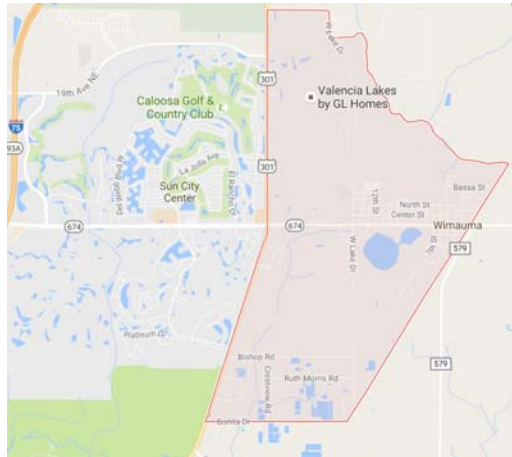


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Thank You.



Wimauma, FL



- Southeastern Hillsborough County
- Zip Code: 33598
- Size: 8.8 sq mile
- Population: 6,373
- Race/Ethnicity:
 - Hispanic/Latino: 73%
 - White: 19%
 - Black/African American: 6%
 - 2 or more: 2%

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Survey Highlights

- Importance vs. Condition
 - Important – 88%
 - 'Poor' or 'Fair' – 58%
- Dental Insurance
 - None – 51%
 - Medicaid/Medicare – 29%
- Last Dental Visit
 - Within the past 6 months – 23%
 - Within the last 1-2 years – 33%

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Survey Highlights, *cont'd*

- Knowledge vs. Beliefs
 - Regular check-up are preventative – 96%
 - Visit when experiencing toothache – 29%
- Barriers to Care
 - Can't afford it – 60%
 - No bilingual providers – 34%
 - Not open late/weekends – 20%
 - Long wait time – 14%

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Survey Highlights, *cont'd*

- Social Justice & Equity
 - Avoid smiling & laughing – 48%
 - Race impacts access to quality services – 34%
- Experience Discrimination
 - Did not feel discriminated against – 74%
 - Race/ethnicity – 12%
 - Income/ability to pay – 10%
 - Type of insurance – 8%
 - Gender – 3%

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Project Opportunities

- Parent education/awareness
- Education program for young children (preschool)
- Education program for tweens/teens
- Monthly dental visit (bus to location or mobile bus)
- Community-wide charity event*

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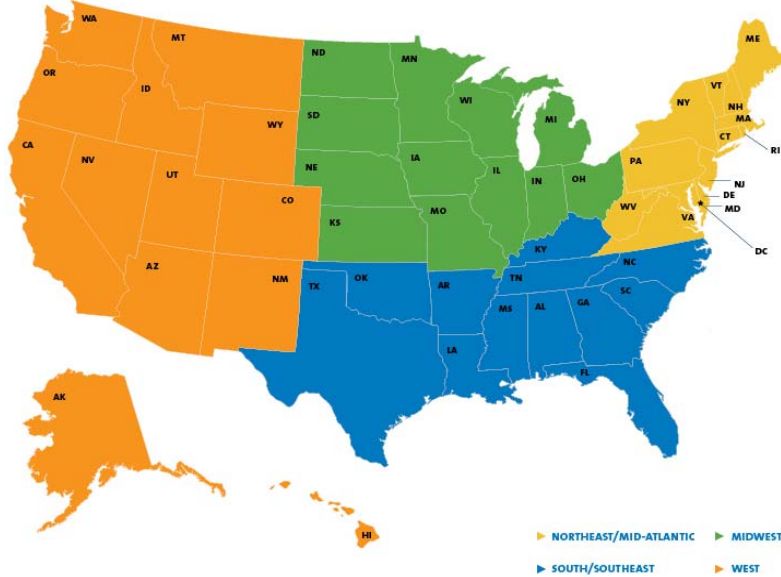


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Grassroots Engagement Strategy

