HEALTHY MOUTHS, HEALTHY BODIES
BOTH ARE NEEDED TO AGE IN PLACE

ORAL HEALTH FOR WASHINGTON
APRIL 21, 2015

www.oralhealthamerica.org
WHY TALK ABOUT AGING IN PLACE?

- 10K
- 2/3
- 92 MIL
- 92%
PERSPECTIVES ABOUT AGING IN PLACE

INDEPENDENCE

What people want most and fear most that they will lose.

Kathy Greenlee
United States Asst. Secretary for Aging

INTERDEPENDENCE

Seniors seek connections through family, work, leisure, living arrangements and purpose.

Ken Dychtwald
Age Wave
AT 50 YOU BECOME THE PERSON YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE – MAYA ANGELOU
TOP OLDER ADULT HEALTH CONCERNS

- Nutrition
- Falls
- Chronic Diseases
- Oral Health
CREATE A NATIONAL RESOURCE ONLINE

toothwisdom.org
Meets Older Adults’ Dental Needs

Reliable Health Information

Patients, caregivers & dental professionals can visit toothwisdom.org for:

Dental Care Locator by State

Latest Oral Health News

Caregiver Support

Financial Options

Benefits of Oral Hygiene and Routine Care

$ Saves money

Decreases risk of health complications

Prevents oral disease

Positive self-image

Ability to eat a balanced diet
WHO IS HELPING OLDER ADULTS AGE IN PLACE?

24% 42M $450 BIL 2.5X
ORAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE GAPS AMONG CAREGIVERS

Respondents: Individuals with an older person in their life

Common Oral Health Topics

- Gum Disease: 34%
- Tooth Loss: 30%
- Cavities: 24%
- Tooth Brushing: 15%
- Flossing: 11%
WHAT ABOUT VULNERABLE SENIORS?

70%

$70K

3 YRS

NO
Bad is stronger than good, so the critical challenge is to generate hope by finding the “bright spots” that lead to a sustainable difference.

Chip Heath

“Made to Stick”
THE WISDOM TOOTH PROJECT

toothwisdom.org

Advocacy

Health Education & Communications

Professional Symposia

Demonstration Projects

EDUCATE
older adults and their caregivers

CONNECT
communities with support & resources to access care

ADVOCATE
for oral health of older adults, especially those most vulnerable

toothwisdom.org
DOCUMENT THE ORAL HEALTH CRISIS
DECLARE THAT WE ARE COMING OF AGE WITHOUT ORAL HEALTHCARE
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Benefits of Oral Hygiene and Routine Care

- Saves money
- Decreases risk of health complications
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- Positive self-image
- Ability to eat a balanced diet
HEALTH EDUCATION - TOOTH WISDOM: GET SMART ABOUT YOUR MOUTH

GOAL: FIRST EVIDENCE-BASED ORAL HEALTH CURRICULUM FOR OLDER ADULT CONSUMERS
DEMONSTRATE NEW OPTIONS FOR ORAL HEALTH PARTNERS

DIABETES EDUCATORS

PHARMACISTS
By 2030 there will be at least ____ older adults in the U.S.

- 30 Million
- 60 Million
- 72 Million
- 80 Million
- 50 Million
How many older adults in America lack dental coverage?

- 20%
- 70%
- 50%
- 15%
- 90%
Women caregivers are 2.5x more likely to live in poverty

[Circle marked 'True']
Traditional Medicare includes a dental benefit.

False
WRINKLES SHOULD MERELY INDICATE WE SMILES HAVE BEEN – Mark Twain

PLEASE VISIT WITH ORAL HEALTH AMERICA 24/7 AT: WWW.TOOTHWISDOM.ORG

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