



Our Purpose

Mission Statement:

Helping others to walk the straight road toward good health and financial success...

Vision Statement:

To accomplish this mission, we commit to these values and follow them in our pursuit of success:

- Community
- Improvement
- Commitment

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Straight Road International

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Oral Health and Older Adults



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Straight Road International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves communities through programs focused in two key areas: Health and Financial Literacy.

Oral Health and Disease



Oral health is the state of the mouth, teeth, and orofacial structures that enables an individual to perform essential functions such as eating, breathing, and speaking.



Oral health varies throughout life, from early childhood to old age. It is integral to general health and supports individuals in participating in society and achieving their potential.

In South Carolina:

- (1) 20.75% of Medicaid-eligible adults with diabetes receive preventative dental services
- (2) There have been 3,920 new cases of oral cavity and pharynx cancer from 2014 to 2018
- (3) 68.4% of the fluoride-adjusting public water system fluoridate within the optimal level

The mouth has been called a mirror of health and disease because there you find:

- (1) Signs of systematic disease
- (2) Bacterial and Fungal infections
- (3) Nutritional Deficiencies

Infections in the mouth can lead to infections in other parts of the body, including:

- (1) Heart disease
- (2) Cancer
- (3) Diabetes
- (4) Strokes
- (5) Alzheimer's disease

1. Source: World Health Organization.
2. Source: SCDHHS.
3. Source: SCDHEC SCAN.
4. Source: CDC Water Fluoridation Reporting System.

- (6) Lung disease
- (7) Pregnancy complications
- (8) Atherosclerosis
- (9) Respiratory issues
- (10) Rheumatoid Arthritis

Proper Oral Care

The key to proper oral care for older adults is ensuring that they maintain a regime of oral care and practices that include:

- Toothbrushing
- Toothpaste with fluoride
- Interdental aids (flossing, water flosser, floss picks, tufted floss)
- Mouthrinses
- Denture care
- Regular visits to the dentist (twice per year)
- Drink plenty water to help with dry mouth
- Avoid alcohol and tobacco use



1. Source: World Health Organization.

Partners

This work is funded by a community donation and oral health supplies from Delta Dental's Toothbrush Donation Program.



Oral Health and Alzheimer's Disease

Research suggests that good oral health may help to protect against Alzheimer's disease.

Scientists found that a species of bacteria called Porphyromonas gingivalis (P. gingivalis) can move from the mouth to the brain. Once in the brain, the bacteria release enzymes called gingipains that can destroy nerve cells, which in turn can lead to memory loss and eventually Alzheimer's disease.



1. Source: Harvard Health.