

*Pathways To Reducing Disparities In Oral Health: Intervention Strategies*

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# The Nation's Health

- Social Determinants of Health
  - Despite spending more on health care than any country in the world and being home to some of the best, most cutting-edge medicine, the U.S. ranks **34th in life expectancy**
  - “Your ZIP code is more important to your health than your genetic code,” Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc, acting assistant secretary for health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - The nation’s disease burden is increasingly attributable to behaviors shaped by social and environmental determinants, public health agencies must take a lead role in building the community conditions that promote good health and well-being for all.

# The Nation's Health

- Public Health 1.0 as the period during the 20th century that brought about monumental advances in science and medicine, such as antibiotics and vaccines, and accelerated the fields of epidemiology and laboratory science.
- Public Health 2.0 began with a 1988 report from the then-Institute of Medicine report on the "Future of Public Health," which concluded that the nation's public health system had fallen into "disarray" and jump-started a national effort to clearly define essential public health services. Now, the authors argue, it is time to upgrade from Public Health 2.0 to Public Health
- 3.0, which the authors described as a "modern version that emphasizes cross-sector collaboration and environmental, policy and systems-level actions that directly affect the social determinants of health."

# Cross-sector Collaboration

- To shift public health into the new era, DeSalvo said HHS will help jump-start a national conversation on the importance of achieving good health beyond the realm of health care.
- Guthman (2016) suggest we need to collaborate and partner more so with our public health colleagues and community colleagues such as in community action agencies, because they have always conducted efforts around healthy, safe housing; transportation, early childhood, social capital, living wages, etc.

# Oral Health

## WHAT THE HEALTHCARE TEAM NEEDS TO KNOW

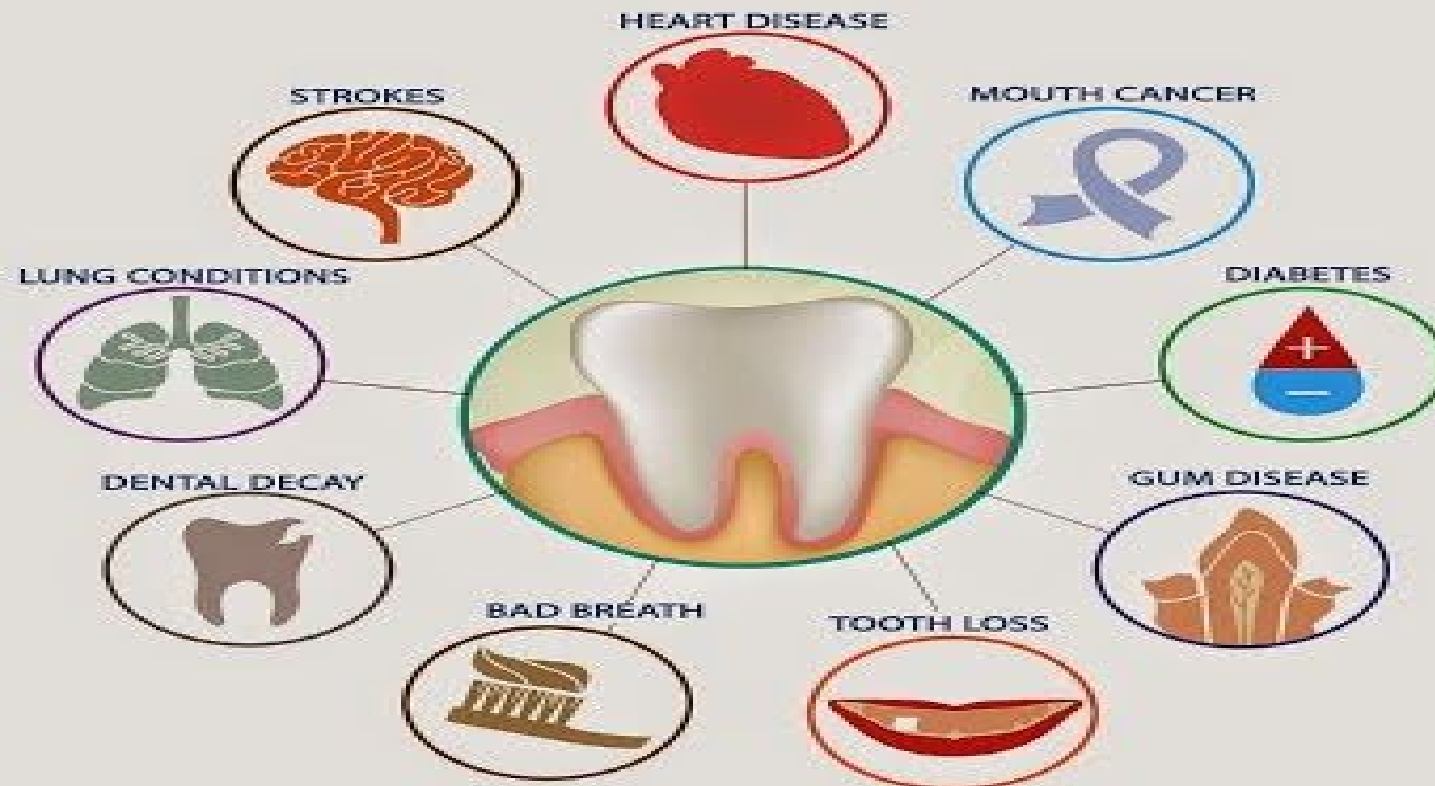
- Significant public health problem
- Most common chronic childhood disease
- Multifactorial Etiology
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Managing dental caries as a disease process

# Children's Oral Health

- More to it...than just the teeth!
  - Oral health funding competes with other health care expenditures
  - The cost of general anesthesia for children in the OR on average cost \$6,498.00 over a 3 year period ((Children's Dental Health Policy Brief, 2005)
- Approximately 51 million lost school hours due to pain and suffering among children

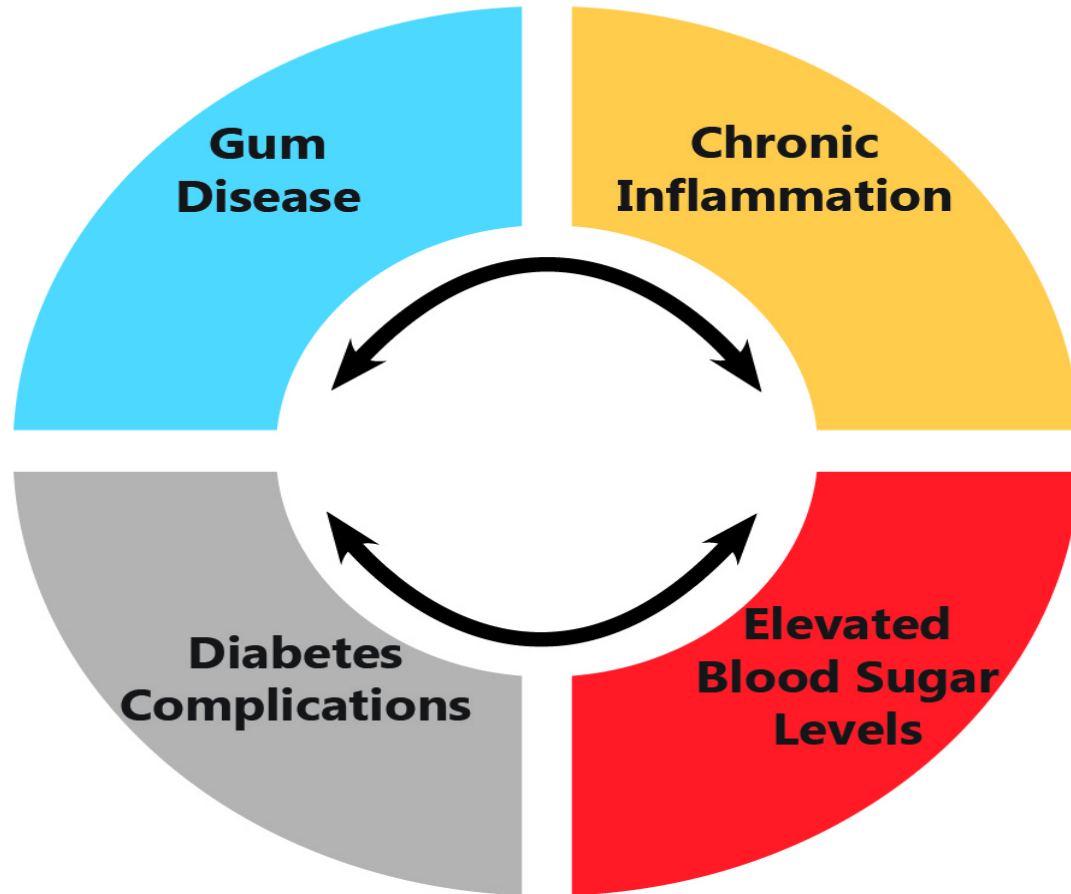
# Oral Systemic Connections

## WHAT PROBLEMS COULD POOR DENTAL HEALTH CAUSE?



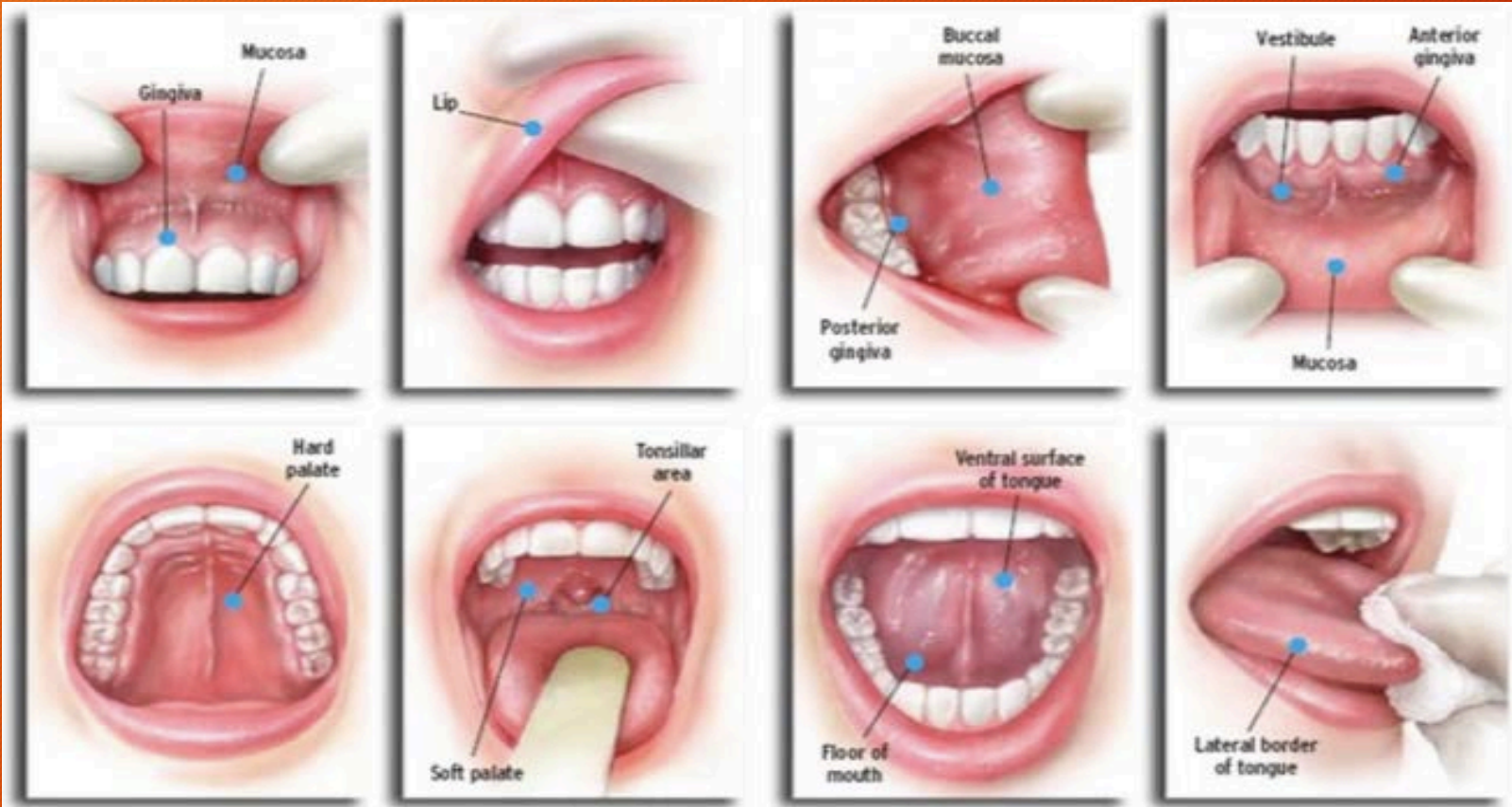
# Diabetes and Oral Health

## Gum Disease Can Lead to Diabetic Complications

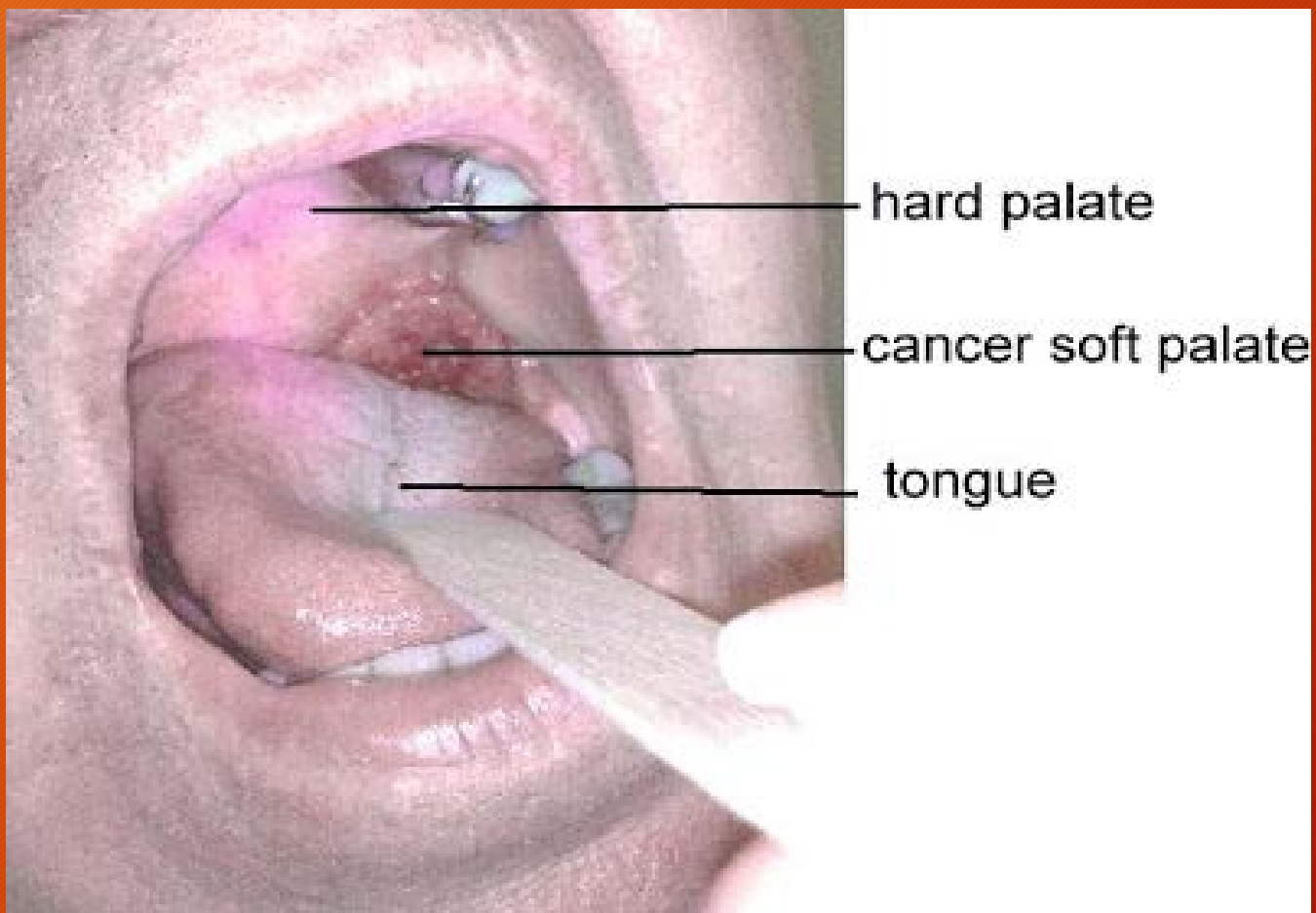




# Oropharyngeal Cancer



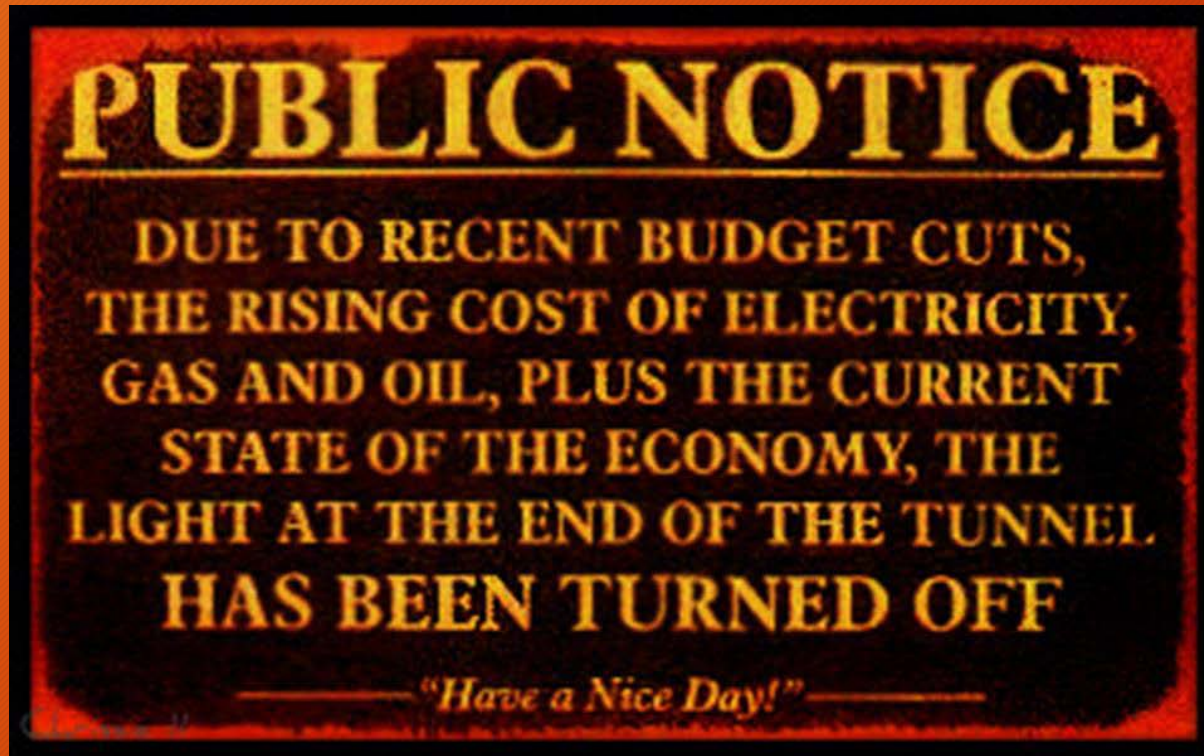
# Oropharyngeal Cancer



# Oral Health

- Expanding the Dental Team to improve access
- Building Momentum for Change
  
- Dental disease is a disease of poverty...but it is not only the poor that need to be concerned

# Issues Compounding the Oral Health



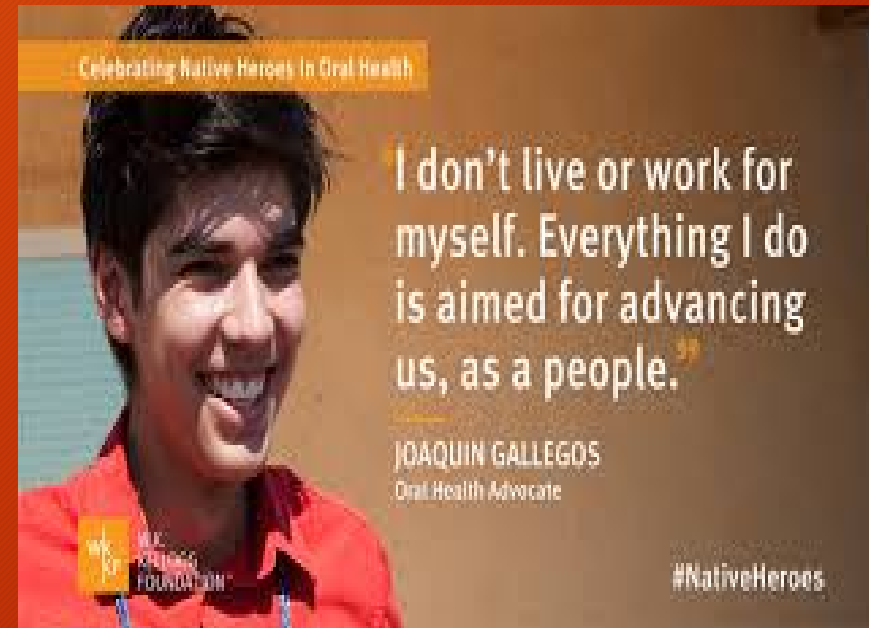
# Community Interventions

- “We definitely want to make changes. We don’t want to just put a Band-Aid on the problem,” said Community Health Worker Malissa Savage, who serves rural clients in western Maryland. For many of her clients, a trip to the emergency room for a toothache is more common than a preventive trip to the dentist. “It’s just a matter of education and letting them know about the resources available,” (Savage).

# *Pathways To Reducing Disparities In Oral Health*

- Interdisciplinary approaches
- Education of community workers
- Advocacy
- Opening health care access points

# Oral Health Hero's



# QUESTIONS

