

PA Educators - Leaders in Oral Health Integration:

A Comparative Study of 14 Health Professions



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Disclosures

- ▶ Cynthia Booth Lord, MHS, PA-C, has no conflicts of interest to disclose.
- ▶ The research herein is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UH1HP29962, titled Academic Units for Primary Care Training and Enhancement for grant amount \$3,500,000. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Learning Objectives

- ▶ Describe strategies and national resources for teaching oral health.
- ▶ Describe collective impact as a systems change strategy for addressing emerging healthcare needs.

Background



Background

- ▶ A historic lack of knowledge and attention among providers contributes to poor oral health.
- ▶ Calls to equip interprofessional teams with oral health competencies to expand workforce capacity, address systemic gaps.
- ▶ PA and other health profession educators have responded.

Why PAs?

- ▶ PAs provide **primary care**
- ▶ PA practice is by definition **interprofessional**
- ▶ PA practice is often **focused on prevention**
- ▶ Oral health fits within the **scope of PA practice**
 - ▶ Screening, risk assessment, and fluoride varnish
 - ▶ Trusted agents of behavior change counseling
 - ▶ Patient activation and self-advocacy to reduce health disparities

What Makes PAs Unique?

- ▶ Efficiency of training, quick introduction to the workforce (**think change agents in situ**)
- ▶ Commitment to primary care, patient needs (**think prevention**)
- ▶ Responsive to an evolving health care system (**think nimble**)
- ▶ PA professional organizations with the capacity to work together to implement change (**think collaboration**)

Our Research



Research Purpose

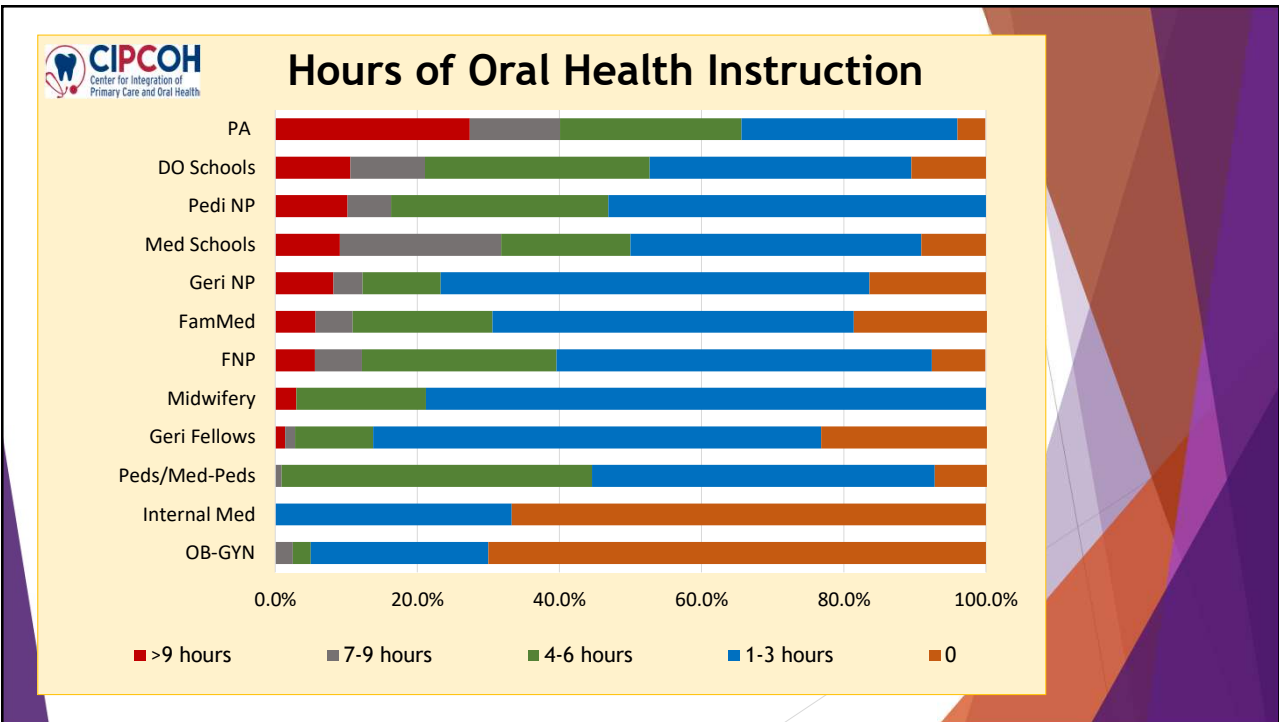
- ▶ Benchmark efforts to integrate oral health into health profession education.
- ▶ Identify facilitators and barriers to integration.

Methodology

- Educators from 14 health professions were invited to complete a web-based, 19-item survey.
- Questions designed to provide intra-profession longitudinal benchmarks and comparable data across health professions.
- Questions generally included pre-defined response options; some included an “other” response.
- The survey was fielded in the spring of 2017.
- Response rates varied; included question data represents a response rate of at least 40%.

Findings





Weaving Oral Health Across PA Practice

PA Education

- **Didactic** (physical diagnosis, pediatrics, OB/GYN, fluoride varnish workshops, etc.)
- **Clinical** (HEENOT, oral health competencies)
- **Interprofessional**

Free CME

- **Smiles for Life**
- **Oral Health and PI-CME** (for educators)

Technology

- Videos
- Interactive games (Smiles for Life)

Grant Opportunities

- Integration grants
- Community outreach grants

Community Outreach

- Health Fairs
- High School Transition students
- Daycare Centers
- Senior Centers
- Migrant Farm Clinic
- Mission of Mercy Clinics

Champions

- Student
- Faculty
- Practicing PA

Interprofessional

- PAs
- NPs, CLS, PT, OT
- Physicians
- Dentists/dental hygienists
- State oral health coalitions

Research & Scholarship

- Student
- Faculty
- Practicing PA

Clinical Integration

- Qualis Framework
- Ask, Look, Decide, Act & Document

Smiles for Life

www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org

Smiles for Life
A national oral health curriculum

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Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum

Smiles for Life is the nation's only comprehensive oral health curriculum. Developed by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health and now in its third edition, this curriculum is designed to enhance the role of primary care clinicians in the promotion of oral health for all age groups through the development and dissemination of high-quality educational resources.

For Individual Clinicians
We've made it easy for individual physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, students, and other clinicians to access the curriculum and learn on their own time and at their own pace. Each of the courses is available online. Free Continuing Education credit is available.

For Educators
This curriculum format can be easily implemented in an academic setting. Included is a comprehensive set of educational objectives based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies, test questions, resources for further learning, oral health web links, an implementation guide, and detailed module outlines.

Course Quick Links

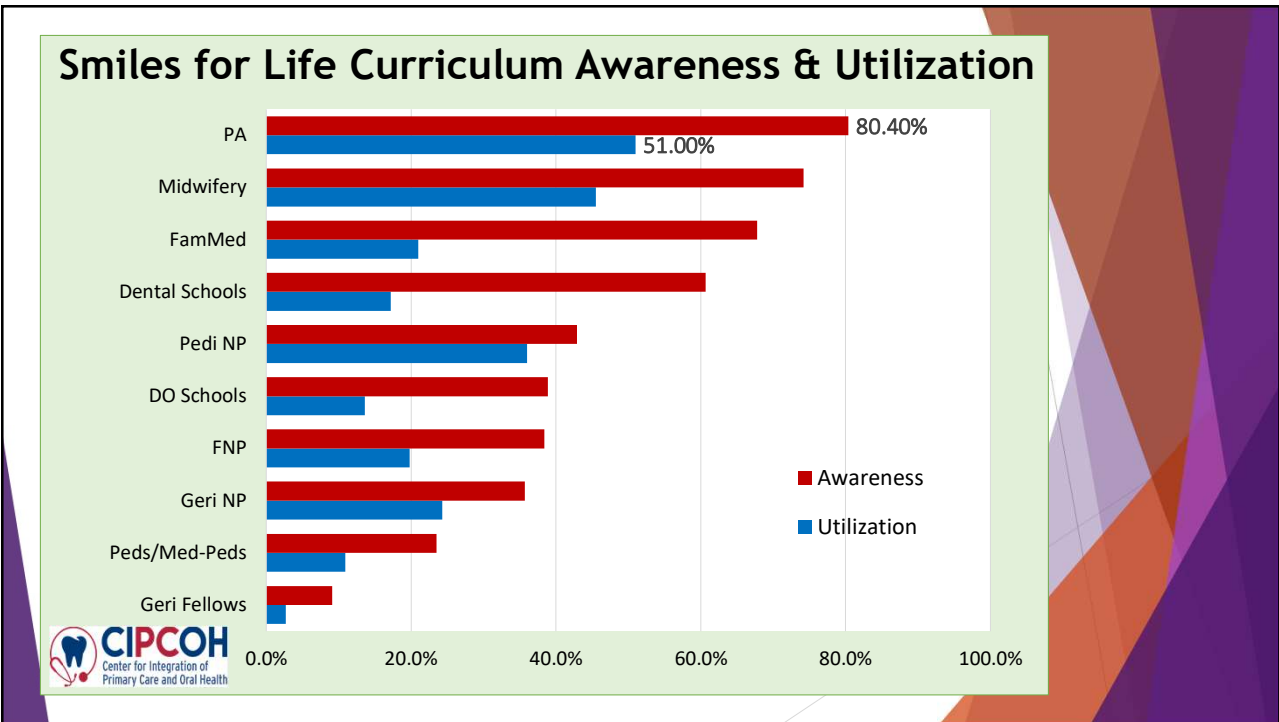
- Course 1: The Relationship of Oral to Systemic Health
- Course 2: Child Oral Health
- Course 3: Adult Oral Health
- Course 4: Acute Dental Problems
- Course 5: Oral Health & the Pregnant Patient
- Course 6: Caries Risk Assessment, fluoride Varnish & Counseling
- Course 7: The Oral Examination
- Course 8: Genetic Oral Health

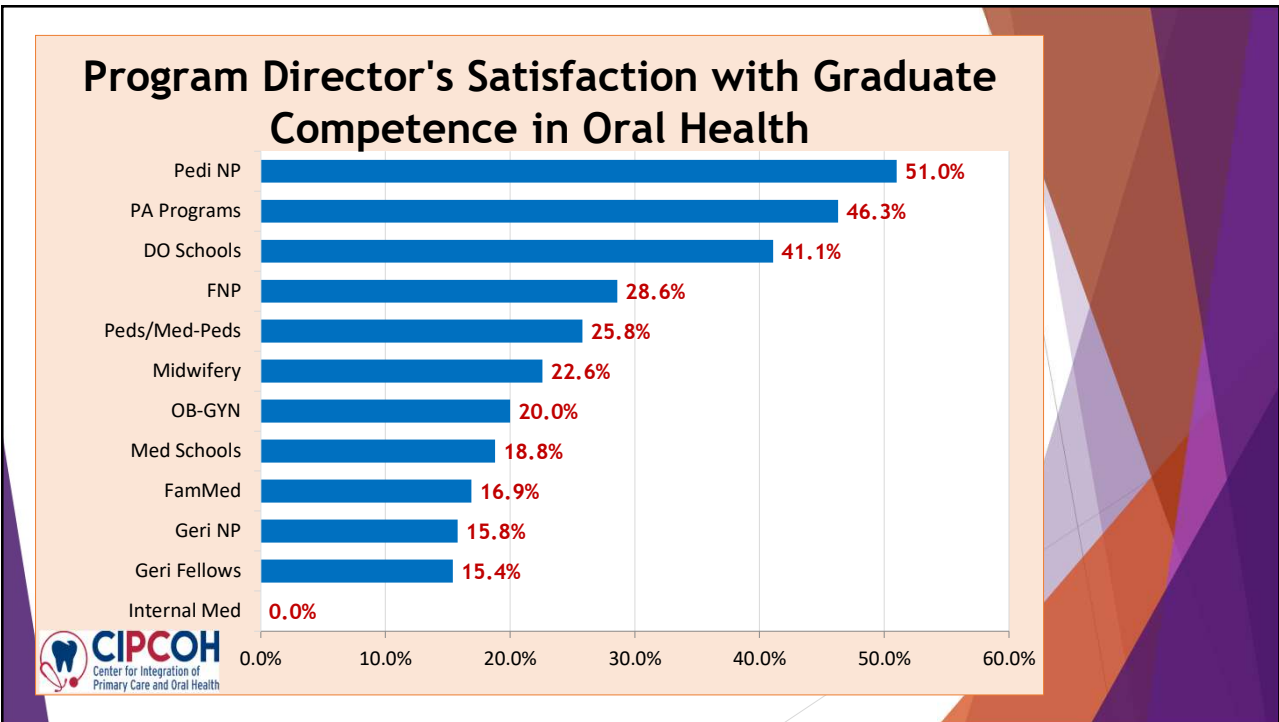
Answering the Call: Joining the Fight for Oral Health
Watch this informative and inspiring video which outlines both the challenge and progress in improving oral health as a vital component of effective primary care. Click the full screen icon in the bottom right hand corner of the video thumbnail to view it full-sized. This video is approximately seven minutes in length. An extended version (21 minutes) of this documentary is also available.

A Product of: **STFM** SOCIETY OF TEACHERS OF FAMILY MEDICINE
Endorsed by: **PAEA** AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
COURSES COMPLETED: **adha** AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

Available from Apple iTunes & Google Play stores.

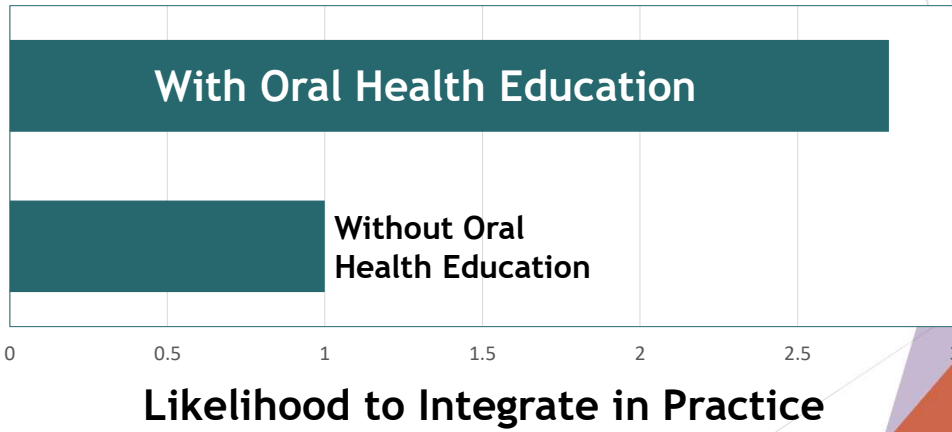






Transforming Practice

Oral Health Workforce Research Center, 2016



Oral Health Workforce Research Center, Center for Health Workforce Studies. School of Public Health, SUNY Albany.

Conclusions



Conclusion: Facilitators

- ▶ Oral Health Champions
- ▶ Buy-in by PA professional organizations (collective impact strategy)
- ▶ Leverage profession-neutral resources
 - ▶ Smiles for Life
 - ▶ Grant funding

Conclusion: Opportunities

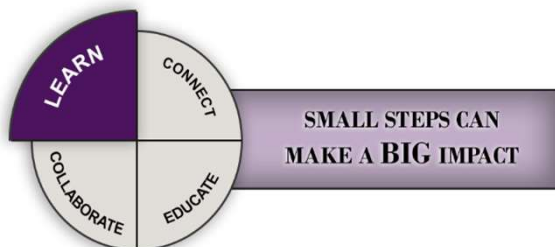
- ▶ Capitalize on PA faculty development in a high yield, low risk, quick educational integration.
- ▶ Develop champion skills and scholarship via grant-funded work.
- ▶ With PA education growth (260+ accredited programs), limited satisfaction with graduate competence, and continued public health need, these benchmarks should energize efforts for continued integration.

Conclusion: Next Steps

- ▶ Leverage available grant funding
- ▶ Maximize use of local, regional, and national resources
- ▶ Coordinate interprofessional education and practice opportunities
- ▶ Recognize potential to share learning objectives and evaluation strategies across and between disciplines

Check Out Tools & Resources

- ▶ Apply for a nccPA Health Foundation grant
 - ▶ Community outreach (\$1,000)
 - ▶ Education or practice integration (\$3,000)
- ▶ Share oral health videos
- ▶ Find additional interprofessional resources in the session handout



Thank you!

The logo for NCCPA Health Foundation, featuring the text "NCCPA Health" in a serif font and "Foundation" in a script font below it.

www.nccpahealthfoundation.net

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