REFERRING ADOLESCENT PATIENTS TO DENTAL SERVICES

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The Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) provides training, technical assistance, and coaching to health care providers, health systems, and organizations across the country to improve adolescent-centered care.

Our vision is to transform the health care landscape to optimize adolescent and young adult health and well-being.

www.AdolescentHealthInitiative.org
WHAT TO EXPECT

• Referring Adolescent Patients for Dental Services

• Training Your Team

• Additional Resources
WHY REFERRING TO ORAL HEALTH SERVICES MATTERS
REFERRING ADOLESCENT PATIENTS FOR DENTAL SERVICES
How might it feel to visit the dentist as a teen?
How might it feel to visit the dentist as a *teen*? What are some reasons why teens may avoid going to the dentist?
What might happen when teens DON’T feel comfortable with their oral health care experience?
What might happen when teens **DON’T** feel comfortable with their oral health care experience?

What might happen when teens **DO** feel comfortable with their oral health care experience?
“Dentists can sometimes be like robots, just going through the process. There is not much conversation with the provider, and when they do ask questions, it’s when they are in my mouth. I don’t feel like there’s a personal relationship at all.”

– Dante, 15
“I feel very anxious about my dental appointments. I’ve had some unpleasant experiences, the dentist always tells me all the things I’m doing wrong, like not flossing, or questioning my eating habits. I rarely ever look forward to appointments.”

-Toni, 19
1. In the U.S., over **51** million school hours are lost annually because of illnesses related to dental problems.

2. **39**% of adolescents ages 12-19 have untreated decay in permanent teeth.

3. Which of the following diseases has symptoms that can be detected orally by a trained provider?
   - A. Diabetes
   - B. Bulimia
   - C. Leukemia

4. Results of a 2016 study at the University of Illinois showed that **52**% of providers reported not referring any patients to a dentist in the past year.
## MAKING A REFERRAL GUIDE

### LOW-COST DENTAL SERVICES FOR YOUTH

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Services Provided</th>
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| **Hope Dental Center**  
5120 Harper St  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-685-2484  
info@hopeadms.org | Cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings, simple extractions |
| **University of Michigan School of Dentistry**  
1011 N. University Ave  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109  
734-936-6603 | All dental services |
| **Community Dental Center**  
460 N. Arbor Rd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-997-0446  
CODCContact@umich.edu | All dental services |
| **Wayne County Community College District Dental Hygiene Clinic**  
3200 W. Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48216  
313-843-4009 | Preventive services |
| **Michigan Community Dental Center’s Monroe County Health Department**  
2303 S. Baker Rd  
Monroe, MI 48161  
734-241-4815  
tobiasan@ymail.com | Cleanings/cleaning, fillings, extractions, dentures/fixatives, emergency treatment, fluoride treatment |
| **Family Medical Center of Michigan**  
182 Medical Center Drive  
Claremore, MI 48117  
734-634-1121 | Preventive and restorative services |
| **Mid-Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic**  
1800 S. Grant Rd  
Riverview, MI 48193  
810-742-0403 | Preventive services, smoking cessation, sealants, x-rays |
| **American Indian Health & Family Services of SE Michigan**  
4895 Lathrup Blvd  
Detroit, MI 48216  
313-843-0356 | Preventive care, dental referrals |

**ADOLPHE HEALTH INITIATIVE**

- Updated regularly
- Visible to all staff and patients
- Available for parents
TEEN-FRIENDLY PRACTICES

A TEEN-FRIENDLY DENTAL OFFICE WILL:

1. Offer services that are accessible to youth
2. Have a welcoming environment
3. Use strengths-based approaches to care
4. Encourage adolescents to return for follow-up care
5. Collect feedback from adolescent patients
HOW WILL WE HELP?

• What are the next steps in making a dental referral guide?
• How can we help young people get dental care?
THANK YOU!
SPARK MODEL
SPARK MODEL

5-10 min  Hook

5-8 min  Key Concepts

5-8 min  Application

1-2 min  Sparkler/Theme for the Month
SPARK FACILITATION

FACILITATE
To make easier

FACILITATOR
A person who effectively and efficiently:
• Guides without directing
• Brings about change without disruption
• Assists people and groups in constructing their own learning.
ADULT LEARNING PRINCIPLES

ADULT LEARNERS...

1. Need to know what they need to know

2. Have a deep need to be self-directing

3. Have a deep reservoir of experience that is a rich resource for learning—both for themselves and others

4. Become motivated to learn something when they experience a need to learn it in order to cope with real-life needs, interests, or problems

5. Attach more meaning to learnings they gain from experience than those they acquire passively. They prefer problem-solving over subject-centered learning.
SPARK MATERIALS

• PowerPoint Slides
• Facilitator Script
• Participant Handouts
• Sparklers (follow-up activities)

www.adolescenthealthinitiative.org

Adolescent Brain Development

Explore with your team how adolescent brain development impacts interactions between young people and adults in a clinical or community-based setting.
Supplies

- Laptop, projector or screen, speakers, copies of the handout for all participants, writing utensils.

Intro/Hook 🕒 (10 minutes)

**TITLE SLIDE**

- Today we’re going to do a 20-minute mini-training, also called a Spark, to look at ways we can best meet the needs of the youth we serve. This Spark is on Being Youth-Friendly.

- Introduce yourself/yourselves.

**TEENS SPEAK**

- To get started, let’s hear from teens directly. This three-minute video focuses on how a health care setting can be more welcoming to young people, and many of the points could apply to other types of youth-serving organizations.

As you watch, keep these questions in mind: What can the consequences be when youth don’t feel comfortable accessing services? What are the consequences when they do feel comfortable?

- Click link on the slide to play video, or use: https://youtu.be/vAu5ad827l8.
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Oral health care is the most prevalent unmet health care need among adolescents.


Reflection Questions:

1. Take a moment to think about some reasons why adolescents might avoid visiting the dentist.

2. What could your organization do to encourage young people to visit the dentist more often?
NEXT STEPS TO CONSIDER

- Review menu of Spark topics
- Think about your setting
- Connect with AHI
- Schedule a Spark!
**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Building Dental Practice Capacity to Serve Adolescent Patients**

Download Today!

> “Seeing a dentist as an adolescent can change the rest of your life. Patients who seek out care in their teens can avoid problems like losing teeth or gum disease which impacts their health, school, and careers.”

Dr. Darcy, Dentist

- 39% of adolescents ages 12-19 have untreated tooth decay
- 1 in 5 young adults reduce participation in social activities due to the condition of their mouth and teeth
- Untreated Cavities can cause pain, poor appearance of teeth, and difficulty concentrating

Ask us about free or low-cost dental resources in our area

[www.adolescenthealthinitiative.org](http://www.adolescenthealthinitiative.org)
Join us!

The Annual Conference on Adolescent Health draws an international audience of multidisciplinary health professionals. Attendees include physicians, nurses, social workers, researchers, students, and public health professionals.

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