

Translating Evidence into Policy, Homework #3
Communicating with Policymakers

NI SOCIETY FOR DENTAL AWARENESS (NISODA)

OUR COMMON CAUSE

Worldwide there are several challenges being faced in the delivery of oral health care to the rural and low income populations, such as lack of man power & poor accessibility which is compounded by poverty & illiteracy. In the light of above situation, in these areas it is essential to assess the oral health status & treatment needs, among these populations. In the United States, 24% of adults aged between 20-64 years have untreated dental caries.

CONNECTING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH TO QUALITY OF LIFE

The mission of NISODA is to improve the public's total health, increase dental health awareness globally in all communities, especially those most vulnerable. We go out to the community centers, schools and many more community oriented events and specifically provide :

- Awareness of the cost-effective benefits of prevention.
- Educate children about the benefits of maintaining healthy teeth in the long term.
- Distribute dental hygiene products to low-income families.

MEASURING IMPACT

Over the last two years, NISODA has had a profound impact on the oral health status of the communities. Compared to other healthcare non profits, NISODA :

- Is three times more successful in providing professional care in the form of full mouth exams to poor children who have not seen a dentist before entering kindergarten.
- Has disseminated almost double the amount of Fluoride mouth rinses to adults who show signs of periodontal or gingival diseases.
- Has examined and referred twice the number of Immuno compromised patients, such as those with HIV infection and those undergoing organ transplantation, who are at higher risk for oral problems such as candidiasis.
- Has remarkably dispersed the idea of proper brushing technique with the help of presentations and demonstrations to the target population.

LOOKING AHEAD

NISODA's plans for the future include :

- Expansion into high need and uninsured group of individuals of California, beginning with Oakland;
- Collaboration with California Dental Association (CDA) and other non profit organizations for the better oral health care of all Californians, through participation in the free community clinics and organizing free clinics quarterly;
- Because population of homeless people get proper demonstration of brushing technique very rarely , NISODA hopes to create an evening oral health club that provides not only the video lectures and free supply of oral hygiene products to them but also free meals twice a week.

ACTION STEPS

NISODA would like to have :

- Collaboration with other organizations for community free clinics;
- Engagement into monthly meetings with dental professionals for discovering more innovative preventive care ideas.

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