

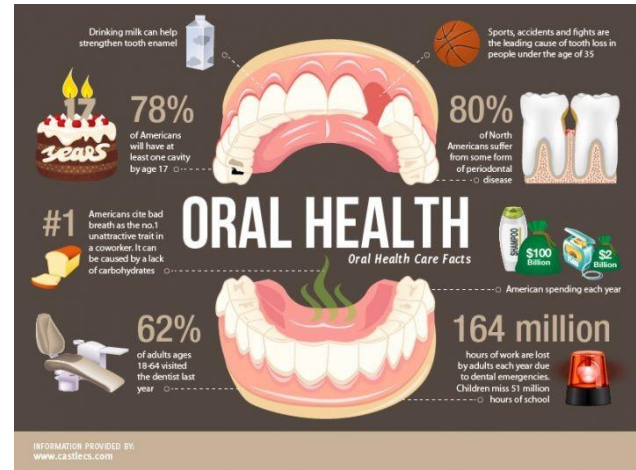
# Oral Health as Part of Population Health

Population Health Clerkship, Fall 2018  
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# Overview of our PHC

- ❖ Each student had a unique schedule, visiting a variety of dental practices, places of education, mobile/home care solutions, and observation of UMass Hospital services involved in dental care:
  - Pediatric Dentistry
  - Adult Dentistry
  - Worcester Head Start
  - Ronald McDonald Care Mobile
  - QCC Dental Hygienist Education Program
  - Nursing Home Hygienist Program
  - UMass Oral Surgeon (Dr. Steve Ramos)
  - UMass Plastic Surgery (Dr. Joyce McIntyre)
- ❖ Allowed for each of us to explore different facets of dental care experienced by a patient over the course of a lifetime



# Overview of our PHC

- ❖ Two common experiences for all participants:
  - “Boston Day”
    - Health Care For All
      - Neetu Singh, DMD, MPH, Oral Health Project Director
    - Massachusetts Department of Public Health
      - Brittany Brown, RDH, BSDH, Director of Office of Oral Health
    - Worcester State Senator Harriette L. Chandler
      - Discussed oral health benefits for adults on MassHealth
      - Discussed the role of a new advanced practice clinician in dentistry, the “dental therapist”
  - Dental Health Care in the MA Prison System
    - Shadowed Dean Chang, DMD at MCI Concord

# Massachusetts Correctional Institution - Concord





# About MCI Concord

- Medium security state prison for men
- Opened in 1878 - oldest running prison in MA
- Inmate population:
  - Capacity: 614
  - Most notable inmate: Malcolm X (1947-1948)
  - Most notable visitor: Mother Teresa (1988)



# Definition of the Population of Focus

- ❖ MCI-Concord incarcerated males (n=613 on Jan 1, 2018)
  - 33% Black
  - 34% Hispanic
  - 30% White
- ❖ Average Age: 42 (Youngest: 18 - Oldest 95)
- ❖ SES Data:
  - 42% of all MA inmates entered prison with reading level below the 9th grade
  - 44% of all MA inmates entered prison with a math level below the 6th grade
- ❖ Health Data:
  - 31% of MA inmates have an open mental health case
  - 7% diagnosed with serious mental illness
- ❖ Most commonly reported medical problems among male inmates:
  - Hypertension (13.6%)
  - Tuberculosis (9.6%)
  - Asthma (8.4%)\*

# Oral Health and Prison Inmates

- ❖ Many inmates come from disadvantaged backgrounds with high rates of chronic disease and unmet dental needs
- ❖ 85.6% of state prison inmates saw a health care professional for a dental problem
- ❖ 50.3% of all inmates reported a dental problem since admission



# Why is this a population we should know more about?

- ❖ Little is known about the health status of inmates
- ❖ Considered to be an “invisible” population
  - Inmates are the **only** individuals in the US with a constitutionally established right to health care (protected by the Eighth Amendment)
- ❖ Inmate health care, including oral health care, are important
- ❖ **“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.” - *Fyodor Dostoyevsky***



# Interprofessional Teams of Care at Concord

- Dental team: part-time dentist, dental assistant, hygienist (coming soon!)
- Services: limited cleanings, fillings, extractions, dentures
- Other health care team members on site: RNs, NPs, physicians, pharmacy, mental health services
- Same location, similar accessibility

# Benefits of Care Teams

- Accommodation of both urgent cases and appointments
  - Inmates can request appointments at any time (must submit in writing and pay nominal fee of \$3)
- Easy communication between medical and dental teams within facility
  - Shared medical/dental records

# Limitations of Care Teams: “Care and Control”

- Long wait list for appointments; placement dependent on good behavior, urgent care cases
- Strict rules on what care can be given and when
- Procedures and resources limited by cost and if they’re “essential”
- Written health records still widely used



# Dental Health Advocacy for Inmate Populations

- Most rights to health care gained through court (prisoners advocating for themselves)
- American Correctional Association (ACA)
  - International (US and Europe)
  - Sets standards for QoL and safety of correctional systems
  - Seeks to improve the justice system as a whole
  - Advocates for correctional health practitioners with the ultimate goal of improving the health of the inmate population
- National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)
  - United States
  - Mission is to improve the quality of health care in jails, prisons and juvenile confinement facilities.”
  - Published “Guidelines for Correctional Dental Health Care Systems” (2014)
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
  - International (United Nations Countries)
  - Seeks to unify worldwide healthcare within the prison system
  - Focused on providing inmates with the highest level of care available in their country

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  - Robert Tozeski, Water & Sewer Superintendent
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