

How Can Non-Oral Health Professionals Raise Awareness on Global Oral Health?

Oral Health



Whole-body health

WHY IT MATTERS

Global Oral health:



Central to overall health and well-being

Enables speaking, smiling, chewing, swallowing, tasting, expressing emotions—**without pain, discomfort, infection or disease**

Often overlooked in global health efforts

Global Facts & Challenges

Bacteria + inflammation in gums

- Affects 3.5+ billion people
- Dental caries = most common of all health conditions
- Leads to pain, infections, tooth loss
- Linked to systemic diseases (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease)
- Key barriers:
 - Limited affordable care
 - Not included in most governments' national health coverage plans
 - Inequitable workforce and infrastructure

Role of Other Healthcare Professionals (HCPs)

HCPs Can:

- ✓ Educate and raise awareness
- ✓ Include oral health in routine care
- ✓ Screen and refer early
- ✓ Promote healthy habits (low-sugar diet, good oral hygiene habits at home)
- ✓ Support health care systems policy change

Collaborative Care:

- ✓ Shared responsibility across sectors
- ✓ Train non-dental providers in basics
- ✓ Reach underserved populations

Global Oral Health: HCPs in Action

Direct Impact

- Educate & raise awareness
- Integrate oral health in routine care
- Screen early & refer
- Promote: low-sugar diet, good hygiene
- Back health care systems policy change

Collaborative Care

- Share responsibility across sectors
- Train non-dental providers
- Reach underserved groups

Advocacy

- Advocate for:
 - Education campaigns
 - Sugar taxes, fluoride use, tobacco/ alcohol control
 - Better insurance & provider access
- Collaborate with policymakers (embed oral health in all systems)
- Support policy research & evaluation
- Connect oral health with all 17 SDGs (not just SDG 3)

Learn More: fdiworlddental.org/educational-module-other-healthcare-professionals