Basic Screening Survey for Older Adults

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BSS for Older Adults
- October 2010
- Manual
- Examiner training video
- Archived webinar about Older Adult BSS
- www.astdd.org

Basic Screening Survey Model
- Just one component of a comprehensive oral health surveillance system

Public Health Surveillance
- The ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data regarding a health-related event for use in public health action to reduce morbidity and mortality and to improve health
- Data is used for...
  - Immediate public health action
  - Program planning and evaluation
  - Program advocacy
  - Formulating research hypotheses

Public Health Surveillance
- Fundamental principle ...
  - Surveillance should be designed and implemented to provide accurate information to decision makers in a timely manner at the lowest possible cost
  - Sacrifice precision in order to...
    - Improve timeliness
    - Save resources

Example
- Traditional DMFS Survey
  - Over 120 fields per person
  - 5-10 minutes per person
  - Complex data analysis
  - Costly
- Basic Screening Survey
  - About 10 fields per person
  - 1-5 minutes per person
  - Easier data analysis
  - Not as expensive
Public Health Surveillance
- The BSS is a tool for obtaining data for an oral health surveillance system
- It may not be appropriate for use in an oral health research setting where greater precision is more important than timeliness and resources

Surveillance vs. Research
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveillance</th>
<th>Human Subjects Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRB review NOT required</td>
<td>IRB review required</td>
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If an activity is deemed non-research, IRB review and other human subject protections are not required.
For the most part, public health practice is not research; so if an activity is deemed to be public health practice, it does not require IRB review.

Two Reference Documents
1. The Basic Screening Survey: A Tool for Oral Health Surveillance NOT Research February 2011

Recommended Groups for BSS Higher Risk Older Adults
- Congregate Meal Sites
- Long Term Care Facilities

Why These Two Groups?
- Congregate meal sites
  - Designed for higher risk community dwelling older adults
  - Have set locations, days and times where multiple adults can be surveyed
  - Can select a probability sample of sites
- Long-term care facilities
  - Residents are at very high risk
  - Can select a probability sample of facilities

Important
Results are not generalizable to all older adults!
Data Collection Methods

- **Congregate Meal Sites**
  - Good cognitive function
  - Questionnaire
  - AND/OR
  - Clinical screening

- **Long Term Care Facilities**
  - Limited cognitive function
  - Clinical screening

*NOTE: The Older Adult BSS is non-invasive.*

Clinical Indicators

- **7 Recommended**
  - Dentures and denture use
  - Number of natural teeth
  - Untreated decay
  - Root fragments
  - Need for periodontal care
  - Suspicious soft tissue lesions
  - Urgency of need for dental care

- **5 Optional**
  - Functional posterior occlusal contacts
  - Substantial oral debris
  - Severe gingival inflammation
  - Obvious tooth mobility
  - Severe dry mouth

Clinical indicators range from simple to more complex.

Clinical Indicators

- For detailed information
  - BSS manual
  - Examiner video
  - Archived webinar
  - [www.astdd.org](http://www.astdd.org)
  - Basic Screening Survey Tool

Optional Questionnaire

- **General Domains**
  - Tooth Loss
  - When not doing an in-mouth screening
  - Self-Reported Oral Health
  - Dental Insurance
  - Time Since Last Dental Visit / Frequency of Dental Visits
  - Access to Dental Care
  - Dry Mouth
  - Oral Cancer Screening

Older Americans Act

- Congress passed the Older Americans Act in 1965
- Established grants to States for ...
  - Community planning
  - Social & nutrition services
  - Research and development
  - Personnel training in the field of aging
- National network of agencies on aging
  - 56 State agencies on aging
  - 629 area agencies on aging
  - 246 tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations
Area Agencies on Aging
- Nationwide network of State and local programs that help older people to plan and care for their life long needs
- Primary goal is to keep seniors living independently in their own homes
- They provide social services and nutrition services for elders, and support for caregivers

Why are AAAs Important?
- In probably all states
  - Fund or operate congregate meal programs
  - Fund or operate home delivered meal programs
- In some states
  - Determine Medicaid eligibility and case manage Medicaid clients in long-term care facilities

Recommended Groups for BSS

Congregate Meal Site BSS
- Sampling
  - Work with AAAs & state agency to obtain list of meal sites
  - Include average number of individuals served
  - Include days per week site operates
- What information do you want to obtain?
  - Questionnaire
  - Open mouth screening

Congregate Meal Site BSS
- Questionnaire
  - Higher response rate
  - Less expensive
  - May provide enough info for advocacy & disease monitoring
  - Will probably underestimate disease prevalence

Open Mouth Screening
- Lower response rate
- More expensive

Potential problems and issues
- Attendees do not like to alter routine & will refuse unless they understand the reasons and benefits
- Limited amount of time to obtain info especially if attendees are bused to the site
- Avoid “celebration/activity days”
- Attendance may vary by season
### Recommended Groups for BSS
#### Higher Risk Older Adults

#### Long Term Care Facilities

### Long Term Care BSS
- General types of long term care facilities*
  - Assisted living
    - Each person has a private apartment with kitchen & bathroom
  - Adult foster care
    - Serves 5 or fewer residents in a home setting, residents may share bedrooms/bathrooms
  - Residential care
    - Serves 6 or more residents who may share bedrooms/bathrooms
  - Nursing facilities
    - Provide 24-hour nursing care by licensed staff

* Definitions may vary by state

### Type of Facility for BSS
- Assisted living
  - Low response rate – may be good option for questionnaire
- Adult foster care
  - Too few residents
- Residential care
  - Good option for open mouth survey
- Nursing facilities
  - Good option for open mouth survey

### Long Term Care BSS
- Long-term care facilities are licensed
  - Most are licensed by state (all nursing facilities)
  - In some states, some facilities may be licensed by AAA
- Sampling
  - Obtain electronic list of facilities from state
    - Include number of beds
    - Include number of Medicaid beds
  - NOTE: Medicaid does not cover assisted living or residential care

### What About Consent?
- Competent adults can give verbal or implied consent
  - Signed consent is NOT necessary
- Adults are presumed to be competent, unless a **Court** rules that they cannot understand the nature and consequences of their actions or care for themselves
  - Conservator – financial affairs
  - Guardian – all personal/medical affairs
Tips for Success

- Engage your state’s aging services staff & AAAs
  - Make sure they understand the impact of poor oral health
  - Take their advice – they can help you
- Clearly define what information that you really need
  - Don’t go overboard
  - Questionnaires may be the best option in some populations
- Train your examiners
  - Prepare them for the worst

Tips for a Successful Older Adult BSS

- Develop a referral list for those in need of dental care
- Be patient, be a good listener, provide hugs when needed
  - The exam takes 1 minute, visiting takes at least 5
- Be formal – use Mr. or Mrs.
- Provide incentives: toothbrushes, toothpaste, denture brushes, etc....

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