Engaging Youth in Dental Careers: Let the Tooth Be Told
This project was supported by HRSA Grant # D18HP21654 Health Careers Opportunity Program

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Members of the MassAHEC Network, sponsored by UMass Medical School.
Oral Health Curriculum

2 Modules
• Introductory
• Intermediate

6 Learning Segments
• Lesson Plans
• Outline of Teaching Methods
• Interactive Activities & Games
• Assessments
Overall Program Goals

Workforce development
Increase diversity in dental professions

Specific Program Objectives: The students will be able to:

• discuss the various career options in the dental field.

• summarize the important role of the dentist and dental hygienist in maintaining the total health of their patients.

• identify important oral health related issues facing young adults.

• recognize the exciting advancements that are being made in the field of dentistry and dental research.
Pioneer Valley and Boston AHECs

Summer Enrichment Program

2011 - 2012
Module 1

Dentist
Dental Hygienist
Dental Lab Technician
Dental Specialties

- Periodontics
- Endodontics
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Prosthodontics
- Oral Surgery
- Orthodontics

**Oral Pathologist:** identifies and manages diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial regions and investigates the causes, processes and effects of these diseases.

**Oral Radiologist:** a dentist specialized in the interpretation of radiographic imaging studies such as MRI, CT scans....
A Multi-Cultural Crisis in Oral Health In America

- In 2000, 108 million without dental insurance.
- 51 million school hours lost due to dental problems.
- 164 million hours of work lost to dental disease.
- In 1999, 2% of practicing dentists were African American... 4% Hispanic.

**Barriers to good oral health:**
- Differences in culture & language
- Underrepresentation of minorities in the dental profession
Student Reflections

“It is truly amazing to meet someone having the courage and perseverance that you have had throughout all your years. You have truly motivated me to pursue my dreams without hesitation. Your personal courage has given me strength to believe that all things are possible.”

“While listening to your speech on your road to dentistry, I couldn’t help but feel inspired. Your confidence to persevere was by far the most empowering to me. Your campaign for the Hispanic community almost brought tears to my eyes. You’ve inspired me to actually look into and consider a dental career .......”
Public Health RDH
Director, HIV Dental Program, Boston Public Health Commission

RDH/Che Impersonator

Public Health RDH
MA Department of Public Health

Great Activity
local Health Department to speak about inspecting piercing shops, infection control and implications of oral piercings.
How a Cavity Happens
Performance Assessment

Poster/mini reports, Songs, Skits

Interviews
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<th>Good Oral Health</th>
<th>OH/Total Health</th>
<th>Dental Careers</th>
<th>Your Dental Knowledge</th>
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Celebrity Smile Game
Functional, Structural and Esthetic Importance

Eating & Speaking

Shape of the Face

Appearance & Self Esteem
Whose Smile is This?
Student Celebrity Smile
Module 2
Goals

To emphasize the important role of the dentist and dental hygienist in maintaining the total health of the patients.
- HPV and Oral Cancer
- Salivary Testing for Caries Risk Assessment

To further engage students around career options in the dental field.
- Dental Specialties: Oral Surgeon
- Forensic Odontologist
- Dental Hygiene: HIV Dental Program Director & Consumer

To have students recognize the exciting advancements that are being made in the field of dentistry and dental research.
- Dental Stem Cells
- Saliva as a Diagnostic Tool
Activity:
Reading & Discussing Articles
Guest Speaker
Hands On Activity: Saliva: Nothing to Spit At

Lesson Objectives:
• Recognize the important role that saliva plays in our oral health.
• Identify the key functions of saliva.
• Recognize how saliva can be used as a diagnostic tool.
• Evaluate the 6 parameters of your salivary health.
Performance Assessment

Conducting a Formal Interview