

WISDOM TOOTH PROJECT®

Oral Health America's Wisdom Tooth Project® (WTP) focuses on the dire situation facing older Americans when it comes to their oral health by providing resources and access to care through five main strategies: toothwisdom.org, advocacy, health education and communications, professional symposia and demonstration projects.

TOOTHWISDOM.ORG: Toothwisdom.org is a first-of-its-kind online tool that connects older adults and caregivers to dental care where they live and educates them about the importance of oral health. The site includes expert content for health professionals about the unique oral health needs of older adults. Health professionals are invited to contribute content for toothwisdom.org to share with other professionals, older adults and caregivers.

ADVOCACY: In 2013, OHA released *A State of Decay* Vol. II, which provided a state-by-state analysis of five factors contributing to the oral health of older adults. The report raised awareness about the importance of oral care and its link to overall health, and sparked dialogue about the barriers to accessing affordable care for older Americans. OHA releases *A State of Decay* bi-annually to update state-level oral health information.

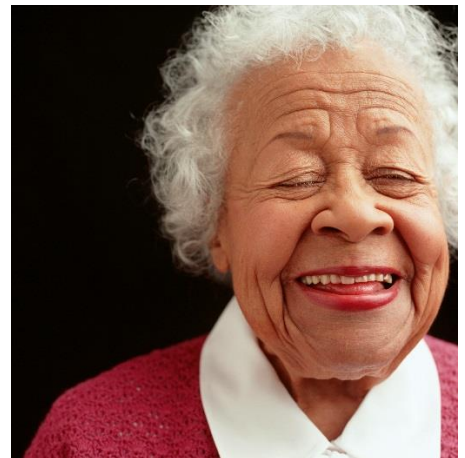
Through participation in health and aging conferences and organizations throughout the country, the WTP team continuously engages stakeholders in aging and oral health. This includes asking leaders in Washington D.C. to vote for and fund oral health initiatives year-round and to participate in OHA's annual *Fall for Smiles* campaign.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS: Through the *Wisdom Tooth Insider* e-newsletter, OHA keeps over a 1,000 stakeholders informed about the latest advances with WTP and solicits ideas and feedback. Those interested in receiving the *Insider* can sign up at www.toothwisdom.org.

OHA also provides *Tooth Wisdom: Get Smart About Your Mouth*, an interactive health education curriculum for community-dwelling older adults delivered in settings where older adults naturally congregate.

PROFESSIONAL SYMPOSIA: OHA convenes groups of professionals at the state and national level to encourage interprofessional dialogue about aging and oral health. OHA hosted a symposium in October 2013 for health professionals in aging and oral health to identify programmatic opportunities to educate older adult consumers about the importance of oral health to overall health. Additional dialogues are in the planning stages.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS: Demonstration projects are an opportunity for WTP to test out new ideas, conduct research and pilot specific interventions. OHA is developing a health literacy pilot for pharmacists.



To learn more about the Wisdom Tooth Project® or to find out how you can get involved, visit oralhealthamerica.org or contact us at wisdomtoothproject@oralhealthamerica.org.