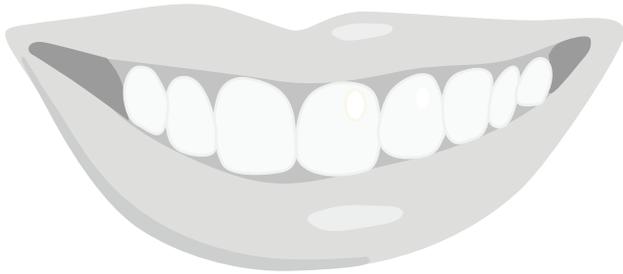


Public Health Dentistry



Oral health concerns everyone. Almost everyone you know has had at least one oral disease, such as gum disease, infection or cancer at some point in his or her life. **Dental public health** is the science of preventing and controlling oral diseases and promoting oral health through organized community efforts. The field of dental public health primarily focuses on the community rather than the individual. Dental public health professionals work to promote oral health through education; research;

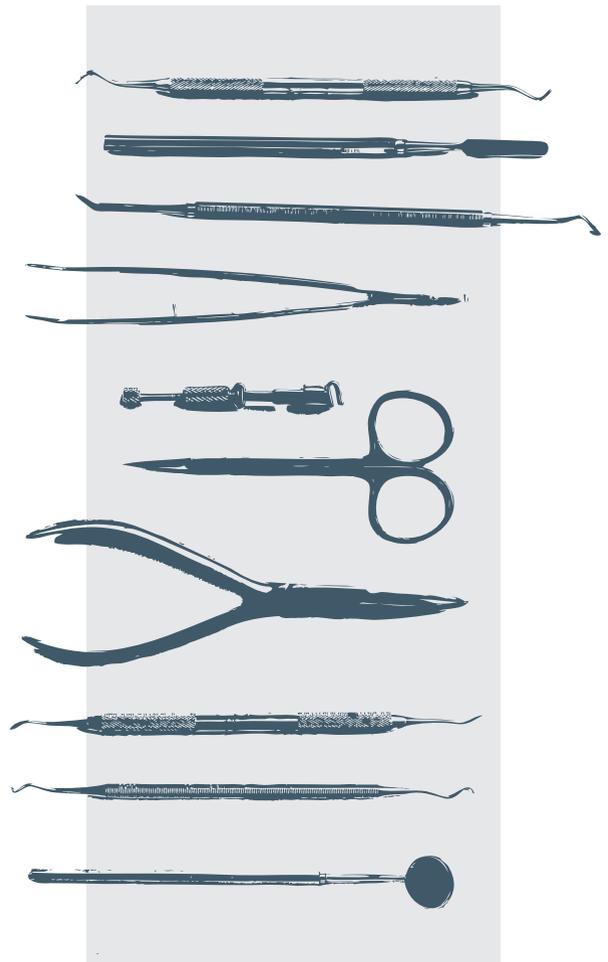
dental epidemiology (prevention and control of a dental disease); policy, program, and service development and implementation. Dental public health professionals work with a variety of public and private professionals to create and implement oral health programs.

For example, professionals in public health dentistry might work to ensure adequate fluoridation of a community's water supply, develop a dental program for low-income or vulnerable populations such as the homeless and people with HIV, or educate children on the importance of proper dental care.

DID YOU KNOW?

NC ranks 47th in the nation according to the dentist to population ratio. In 2005, there were 3,772 licensed dentists in the state. This number represents a dental-to population ratio of 4.4 dentists per 10,000 population — a rate that is close to 30% below the national average of 6.0 dentist per 10,000.

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Public Health Dentistry

Specialization

public health dentistry, public health dental hygiene, laboratory technology, public health dental administration, research, education and more

Work Environment

Local, state, and federal government agencies and departments, academic and research institutions, international/global health and military agencies, hospitals and more

Education Requirements

There are a variety of options in public health dentistry based on area of interest. To become a registered dental hygienist, a 2-year associate or bachelor's degree and/or a certificate is required. Dental assistant and dental laboratory technician programs require formal certification. A 4-year undergraduate degree, master's or doctoral degree in public health, and master's or doctoral degree in dentistry is required for one to be a public health dentist, professor, or researcher. Also required is passing of the Dental Admission Test (DAT). A graduate degree is strongly encouraged for more leadership opportunities in this field.

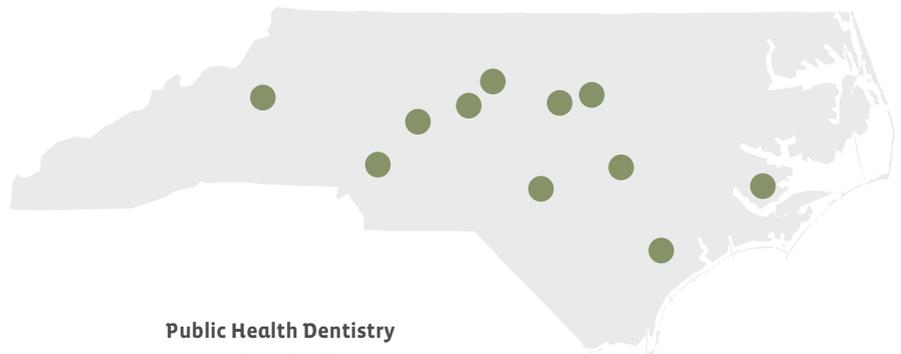
Potential Career Opportunities

Public Health Dental Hygienist | Public Health Dental Assistant | Public Health Dentist
Researcher | Dental Program Manager/Administrator | Dental Laboratory Technician
Policymaker | Professor

Where can I go to study Public Health Dentistry?

Public Health Hygiene, Administration, & Laboratory Technology

- Appalachian State University
- East Carolina University
- Elizabeth City State University
- Fayetteville State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina - Charlotte
- University of North Carolina - Greensboro
- University of North Carolina - Pembroke
- Many North Carolina Community and Technical Colleges



Public Health Dentistry
• UNC-Chapel Hill