Introduction

• Oral health is integral for overall health and quality of life.
• The 2016 Global Burden of disease report indicated that untreated dental caries in adults & children, severe periodontal disease, and complete tooth loss are 4 of the 30 most prevalent diseases worldwide.
• Caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer remain prevalent amongst Marylanders, yet only 57.9% sought dental services in 2018.

Objectives

• Evaluate whether non-dental healthcare professional students have oral health included in their educational curriculum or current care protocol.
• Demonstrate the need for more interprofessional team care among all healthcare professions.
• To evaluate non-dental health care provider students’ knowledge about oral health care.

Methodology

• University of Maryland, Baltimore IRB determined project to be NHSR on 11/12/2021.
• A survey was developed via Qualtrics.
• The survey was emailed to UMB’s schools of Nursing, school of Medicine, and school of Pharmacy students through students IPE course groups.

Results

• 34 UMB students completed the survey, most being CNL or BSN nursing students
• ≥ 35% said they do NOT include oral health questions in their risk assessments.
• Almost 55% said they do not include a head and neck cancer screening during an intraoral exam.
• Almost 49% said oral health is NOT apart of their curriculum.
• Almost 48% said they do not include oral health in their health care protocol because they do not know enough information about oral health.

Conclusion

• The results of this study show a lack of interprofessional care and a need for interprofessional collaboration among all healthcare professionals.
• This study demonstrated that oral health is rarely included in health professions curriculum outside dentistry and prevents integrating oral health into overall health care.
• If health care professions outside dentistry included oral health, we could help increase the rate of Marylanders visiting the dentist and help decrease the burden of disease.

References

• 2019 Annual Oral Health Legislative Report, Health-General Article, Section 13-2504(b) and HB 70 (Chapter 656 of the Acts of 2009)