

# Oral Health for the Older Adult Living in the Community

## Teaching Strategy

### Overview of Teaching Strategy

Oral health promotion for older adults living in the community is directed at interventions and services to prolong functional status. Students will determine older adults' oral health needs and barriers to receiving oral health care in the community using the ACE.S framework.

### Download All Files for This Teaching Strategy

- [Oral Health Older Person Interview Guide](#)
- [Oral Health Community Assessment Guide](#)

### Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Assess oral health needs of older adults living independently in the community.
- Determine barriers for older adults to obtain oral health care in the community.
- Describe the role of the nurse when providing oral health care to older adults in the community.

### Learner Prework

This teaching strategy incorporates the [ACE.S Essential Nursing Actions](#): Assess Function and Expectations, Coordinate and Manage Care and Make Situational Decisions. This teaching strategy enhances the students' NLN Education Competencies of Nursing Judgment, Human Flourishing, Professional Identity, and Spirit of Inquiry.

Have students review the following prior to implementing this teaching strategy:

Smiles for Life Geriatric Module

<https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/geriatric-oral-health/>

Ask the students to write a log or summary of potential health related risk factors which result from changes in food taste with older adults.

## Suggested Learning Activities

### *Interviewing Older Adult in the Community*

For this teaching strategy, students will interview an older adult in the community to determine the individual's oral health needs. Students will assess the community in which older adult live to determine oral health resources available.

### *Community Interview*

Faculty will provide students with the Oral Health Older Person Interview Guide and the Oral Health Community Assessment Guide.

## Suggested Reading

### [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Information for Older Adults](#)

The above link provides information regarding the wellbeing of older adults.

*Older Americans 2010: Key Indicators of Well-Being (Older Americans 2010)* provides a comprehensive picture of our older population's health and well-being. It is the fifth chartbook prepared by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum).

Patel, R., Gallagher, J.E. Healthy ageing and oral health: priority, policy and public health. *BDJ Open* 10, 79 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41405-024-00262-z>

The [Try This:® Series](#) from the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at the NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing contains many evidence-based assessment tools. The tool, an article about using the tool, and a video illustrating the use of the tool, are all available for your use.

## Author Information

Judith Haber, PhD, APRN, FAAN  
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program (OHNEP)  
NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing  
New York, NY

Jessamin Cipollina, MA  
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program (OHNEP)  
NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing  
New York, NY

Erin Hartnett, DNP, PPCNP-BC  
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program (OHNEP)  
NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing  
New York, NY