

# Clinical Training for School Dental Sealant Programs



# Key Health Equity Messages for School Dental Sealant Programs



**Oregon Health Authority's Strategic  
Plan 10-year goal is to eliminate  
health inequities by 2030**



# Racism is a Public Health Crisis

- Health and other inequities remain and continue to be pervasive
  - Health outcomes
  - Learning and education
  - Housing
  - Generational stability and wealth



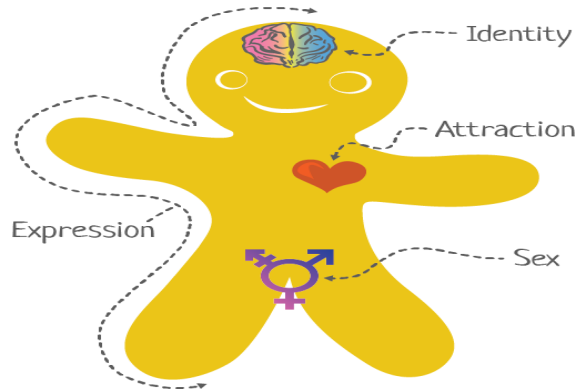
# Intersectionality

- The intersection of systems of inequality based on
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Class

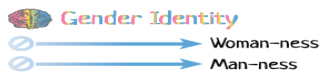


# Resource

The Genderbread Person v4 by its pronounced METROsexual.com



⊖ means a lack of what's on the right side



Identity ≠ Expression ≠ Sex  
Gender ≠ Sexual Orientation



Genderbread Person Version 4 created and uncopyrighted 2017 by Sam Killermann

For a bigger bite, read more at [www.genderbread.org](http://www.genderbread.org)



# Why is this important?

- **Health Inequities:** health disparities that are the result of the systematic and unjust distribution of the essential elements of health (social determinants).
- **Societal shift:** COVID and increased societal tensions have exacerbated health disparities in the past few years. We see this play out in terms of health outcomes, income, schooling, education, public safety, etc. Awareness has also shifted.

If we didn't use this time as a catalyst for change, we are just maintaining the status quo.



# Racism is a Core Social Determinant of Health



- Racism has been linked to birth disparities and mental health problems in children
- Racism contributes to chronic/toxic stress, which leads to inflammation and chronic disease
- Racism plays a significant role in health care delivery and educational opportunities



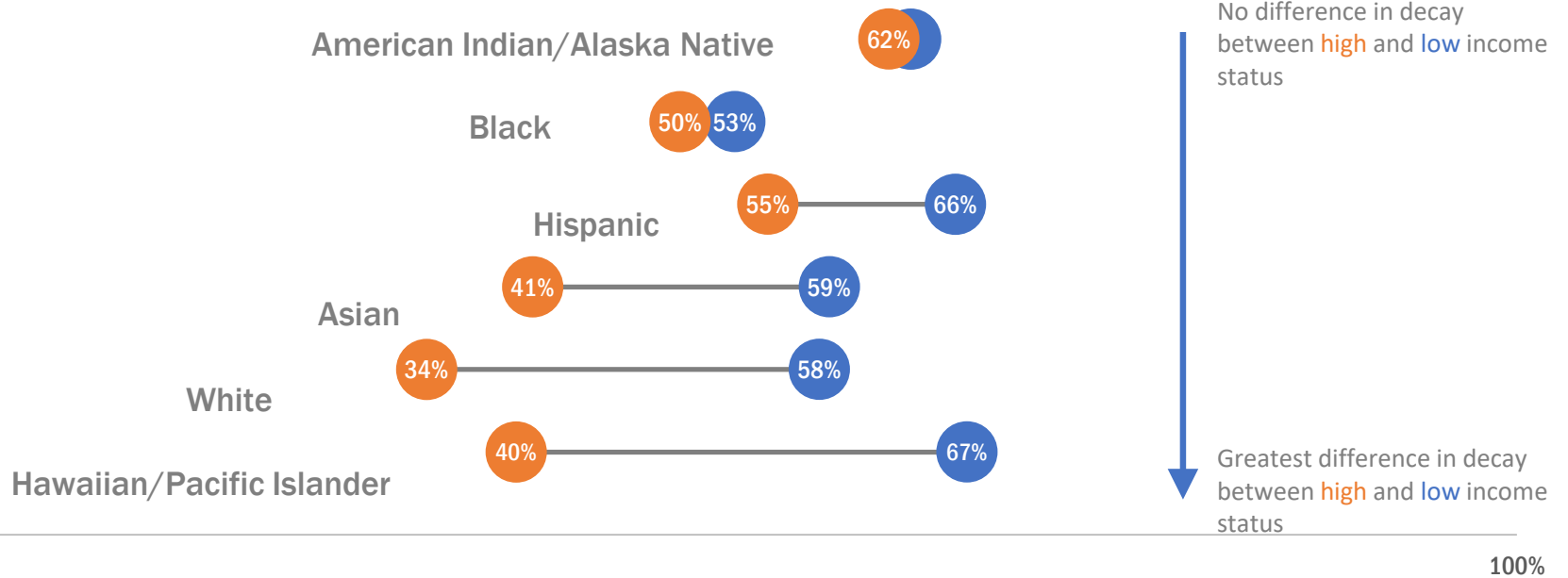
Source: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/144/2/e20191765>



# 2017 Oregon Smile Survey Data

Percent of children with cavities remains high regardless of **high** or **low** income status.

Children may be represented by one or more racial/ethnic identity



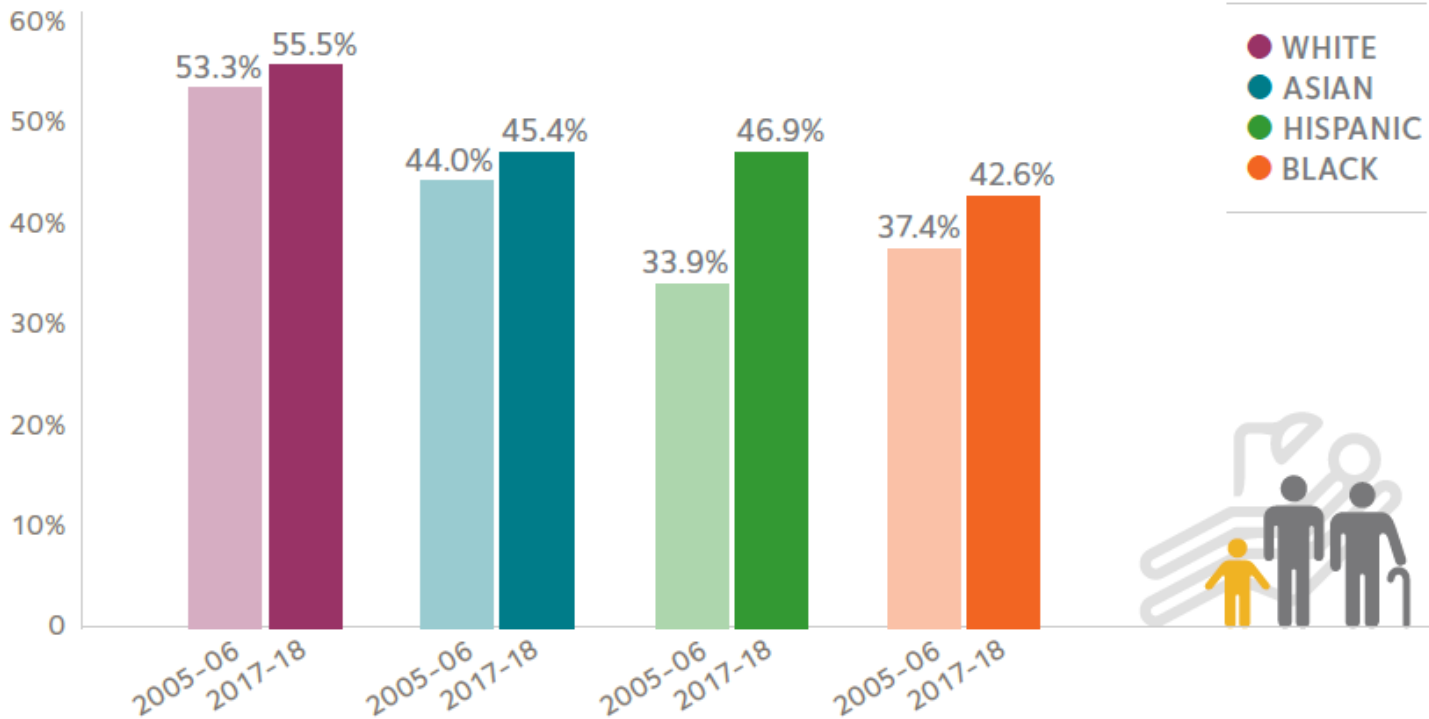
# National trends in Oral Health Access

HPI Health Policy Institute

ADA American Dental Association\*

## Dental Care Utilization Among the U.S. Population, by Race and Ethnicity

### PERCENTAGE WITH A DENTAL VISIT IN THE PAST YEAR – CHILDREN

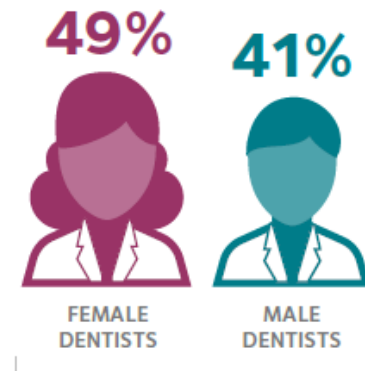


# National trends in Oral Health Access

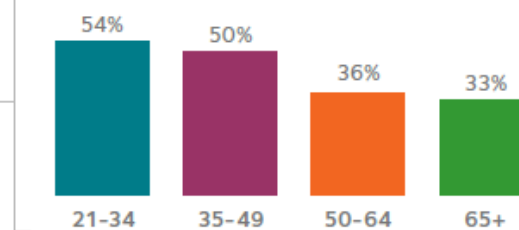
**HPI** Health Policy Institute  
ADA American Dental Association\*

## Dentist Participation in Medicaid or CHIP

### BY GENDER



### BY AGE



### BY SPECIALTY



**43%**  
OF U.S. DENTISTS  
participate in Medicaid  
or CHIP for child  
dental services



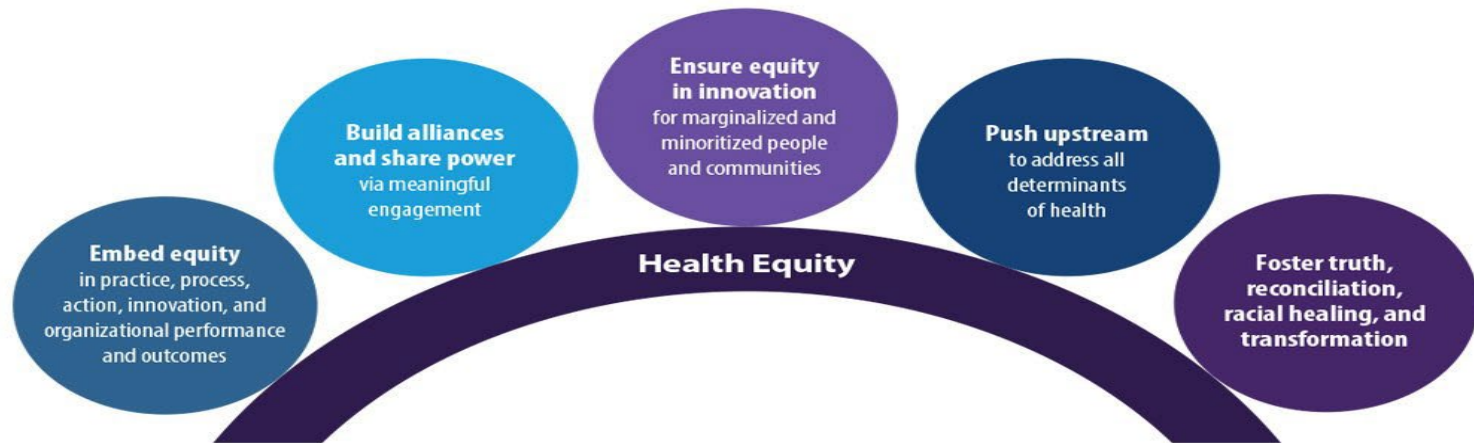
# Tools for Health Equity Work

- **Acknowledge Biases**
- **Acknowledge Trauma**
- **Continuing learning and education**



# American Medical Association

## AMA Strategic Approaches to Advance Health Equity



# Trauma and Healthcare

- Historical trauma
  - Forced sterilization among Native Americans
  - Medical research on non-dominant groups
    - 1932 Tuskegee experiment
    - Henrietta Lacks



# COVID-19

- In the U.S., more than 140,000 children have lost a primary caregiver due to COVID-19
- 65% of children who lost a primary caregiver due to the pandemic were of a racial and ethnic minority.



S Hillis, et al. [Covid-19-Associated Orphanhood and Caregiver Death in the United States\(link is external\)](#).  
*Pediatrics*. DOI: 10.1542/peds.2021-053760 (2021).

# Practical Tips for Health Equity Work

- Misunderstanding the “why?” What is the whole story, don’t assume you know.
- Have the tough conversations. Create spaces where community can be honest with you.
- Learning is ongoing, lifelong, and evolving. Involves personal and professional reflection.
- Assess the current situation and chart a course for the future. Don’t just wing it.
- Validate concerns, even if you don’t agree with them. Opportunity for growth! Individual issues are likely systemic, but you aren’t hearing from everyone.

Source: adapted from <https://www.turnerconsultinggroup.ca/store/c3/Resources.html>





# Implicit Bias Resources

- UC Berkley - Othering & Belonging Institute:  
<https://belonging.berkeley.edu/understand-our-biases>
- Harvard University – Project Implicit:  
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>
- American Psychological Association:  
<https://www.apa.org/topics/racism-bias-discrimination>



# Cultural Responsiveness Resources

- Think Cultural Health: <https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/>
  - Cultural Competency Program for Oral health Providers (E-Learning Program).
  - Free, online education tool with CE credits for Full Course.
  - Overview:  
<https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/resources/presentations/15/the-cultural-competency-program-for-oral-health-professionals>
  - Full Course:  
<https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/education/oral-health-providers>



# Cultural Responsiveness Resources

- Office of Minority Health
  - National - Good starting point
  - Think Cultural Health program
  - <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/>
- Office of Equity and Inclusion
  - Oregon – Good starting point
  - Trainings, resources, and support for promoting health equity
  - <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/index.aspx>



**Thank you!**  
**Questions?**

