



## Definition of Basic Oral Health

### Overview and Background Facts:

When people talk about access to care and the inability of some to obtain care, it is important to define the common objective that everyone is striving to achieve.

“Basic oral health” is a simple term that requires further clarification. Are patients, the public and government simply looking to address episodic care needs or selected parts of an overall wellness plan? Is a plan in place to get populations to a maintenance level and overall wellness?

### Comments:

Home care is very important. The lack of good home care is often overlooked by the public and is a major contributing factor of perpetual dental disease. Patients need to participate in and be responsible for following dentist’s instructions to adequately maintain their oral health.

Programs that only look at part of the diagnosis and treatment of a patient are misguided. Ignoring the overall oral health needs of patients by offering a fragmented treatment plan can be detrimental to the future success of obtaining the “basic oral health” of the patient.

### ISDS Position Statement:

Basic oral health is defined as the freedom from pain and infection, and the ability to function in society.