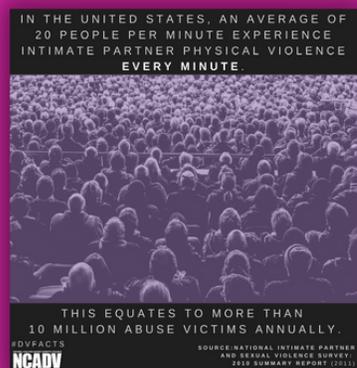


THE CHRONICLE MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN DENTISTS

highlights



@womendentists

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The dental professional can play a vital role in preventing violence against women and children, by helping to identify the abuse early, providing the victim with necessary treatment and referring to appropriate care.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the 'Day of Unity' in October 1981 observed by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels. The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has previously been recognized as a major public health issue among dental and oral healthcare professionals. Increased knowledge and awareness of IPV among dental professionals has been demonstrated to significantly improve referrals for IPV-specific support services and other effective intervention programs.

Oral health care providers are crucial to the screening and identifying of individuals experiencing IPV since most injuries occur in the head and neck region. The most commonly reported IPV traumas involve facial contusions and lacerations, dental concussion, and mandibular fractures.[1] "Dental professionals are in a key position to identify neglect and abuse caused by family violence and to intervene on behalf of victimized patients. However, research shows that dental professionals are the least likely of all health care providers to do so." [2]

Dental professionals can and do help patients by asking about violence, performing a brief safety assessment, documenting abuse in the dental chart, and making referrals to domestic violence experts. Asking the questions and making the referral need not be complicated or time consuming. The dental professional doesn't have to have a solution for the individual. What patients need is the space and time to talk it over with an empathetic listener who doesn't blame them. The simple act of asking about violence, responding with compassion, and validating the patient's experience when the answer is "yes" is a powerful intervention.[3]

Continued on next page

Use Your RADAR

Routinely inquire about violence

Ask direct questions

Document findings

Assess safety

Revue options and referrals

If you are not screening for IPV already, consider implementing the RADAR model to your screenings.

Use Your Radar[4]

1. Routinely Inquire About Violence: Ask even if physical indicators are absent. Use a private setting. Use framing statements: "because violence is common in many people's lives, I've started asking all my patients about it."
2. Ask direct questions: Validate and be non-judgmental. Use culturally/linguistically appropriate language.
3. Document findings: Include patient's statements about incident, relationship, and injuries; relevant history; results of physical evaluation; lab and other diagnostic procedures. Use body diagram. File reports when required by law. ***IPV should not be documented on any discharge forms or billing statements, as it may increase the risk of violence to the victim.**
4. Assess safety: Review history of abuse. Inquire as to whether the batterer has harmed the child(ren). Determine what the patient perceives as risks. Employ safety planning/protective strategies. Utilize the [Danger Assessment Tool](#).
5. Review options and referrals: Become familiar with local resources. Let the patient decide what is the safest option. Schedule a follow-up appointment or plan.

References listed on page 4

NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH

October, 2022

AAWD philanthropy corner

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The month of October is most recognized for Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating for bags full of candy. So, it shouldn't surprise us that October is also recognized as National Dental Hygiene Month! That's right—an entire month dedicated to promoting healthy mouths, gums, and teeth to allow ourselves to enjoy our well-deserved candy at the end of the month!

Another great reason to participate in National Dental Hygiene Month is because it also celebrates our hard-working dental hygienists. Did you know that there are over 200,000 dental hygienists in the United States that work hard to help keep our mouths happy and healthy?

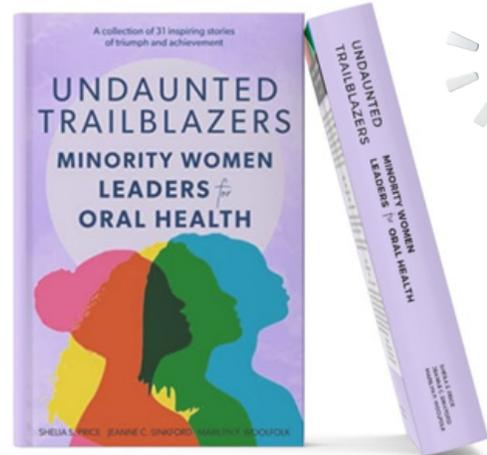
Download the Dental Hygiene Coloring packet for your practice!

BOOKFLIX

Top Pick for You: *Undaunted Trailblazers | Minority Women Leaders for Oral Health*

Authored/edited by Dr. Jeanne Sinkford, first woman School of Dentistry Dean in the USA; Dr. Marilyn Woolfork, AAWD Life time member; and Dr. Shelia Price, AAWD member, *Undaunted Trailblazers | Minority Women Leaders for Oral Health* is a must read. Packed with authenticity and realism, this book relates, in their own voices, the untold stories and experiences of thirty-one contemporary minority women leaders who have succeeded in a male-dominated profession and advanced oral health for the well-being of generations.

This is not a coffee-table book. It is from the heart and souls of minority women leaders who found a way through perseverance when there was no way for them. The book presents poignant aspects of their personal and professional journeys and captures challenges faced and surmounted to make a lasting impact. Their substantive accounts, retrieved through "reflective contemplation", constitute a timeless template for emerging leaders to follow, highlighting the importance of mentoring in career progression and achievement. These courageous oral health pioneers have "disrupted the norm" with resilience, patience and persistence. The candid testimonies will motivate aspiring leaders and will enlighten those who have the power and capacity to help minority women push beyond the glass ceiling to the upper echelon of leadership in any organization.



Smiles at Sea Return of the Dental Cruise Tickets Still Available



SMILES AT SEA



FT. LAUDERDALE TO
BAHAMAS &
COCOCAY

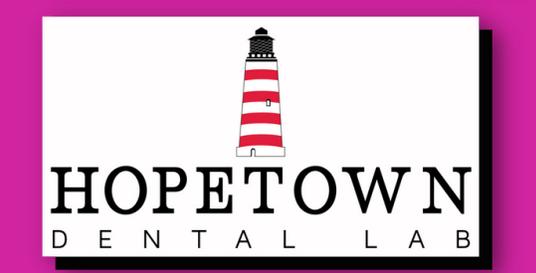
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References from cover story

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MEMBER BENEFIT

spotlight



Hopetown Dental Lab is a state-of-the-art digital dental laboratory located in Ft. Worth, Texas. They originally partnered with AAWD in 2019 offering excellent customer service and a HIGHLY competitive fee schedule that is exclusive to AAWD members.

In their words:

"Our team of experienced technicians handle each case with full attention and care from start to finish. We use the best materials available, state-of-the-art equipment, and with our well executed systems, you are guaranteed consistency. We live for the happiness and success of our customers and we love building those relationships.

We also take a lot of pride in being "THE LAB THAT THINKS LIKE DENTISTS". Each and every day we work with and train our staff to see each case through the eyes of the clinical team, and recognize the struggles that can occur chair-side. This mantra helps us to better serve our customers and produce restorations that take the least amount of chair-time to deliver."

"We are very excited to earn your trust and build a relationship for years to come!"

