

Glossary

- **Amalgam:** common filling material, also known as “silver fillings,” containing mercury (approx. 50 percent), silver, tin, copper, and zinc.
- **Anorexia nervosa:** a psychiatric diagnosis that describes an eating disorder characterized by low body weight and body image distortion. Individuals with anorexia often control body weight by voluntary starvation, purging, vomiting, excessive exercise, or other weight control measures, such as diet pills or diuretic drugs.
- **Bacteremia:** the presence of bacteria in the blood. It is most commonly diagnosed by blood culture.
- **Binge eating:** a psychiatric disorder in which a subject periodically does not exercise control over consumption of food.
- **Bright Futures:** a national health promotion initiative. It is a vision, a philosophy, a set of expert guidelines, and a practical developmental approach to providing health supervision for children and adolescents from birth through age 21. The mission of Bright Futures is to promote and improve the health, education, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, families, and communities.
- **Bulimia:** a psychological condition in which the subject engages in recurrent binge eating followed by an intentional purging. Purging typically takes the form of vomiting; inappropriate use of laxatives, enemas, diuretics or other medication; excessive physical exercise, or fasting.
- **Burning mouth syndrome (BMS) or (Glossodynia):** a condition characterized by a burning or tingling sensation on the lips, tongue, or entire mouth. Possible causes include nutritional deficiencies, chronic anxiety or depression, type 2 diabetes, menopause, oral disorders such as thrush or dry mouth, or damaged nerves.
- **Cardiovascular disease:** class of diseases that involve the heart and/or blood vessels (arteries and veins).
- **Caries experience:** represented by a missing tooth or presence of a cavity or a filling, indicating that opportunities for primary prevention may have been missed.
- **Children with special health care needs (CSHCN):** a broader classification that encompasses children with a range of conditions and medical needs. The term can cover not only children with disabilities, but also children with chronic conditions that range from mild to severe. Children with chronic physical health conditions (such as asthma, juvenile diabetes, sickle cell anemia), developmental disabilities or delays (such as mental retardation or cerebral palsy), acquired disabilities (such as paralysis or brain injury), behavioral and mental health conditions (such as attention deficit disorder, hyperactivity disorder, depression), or a combination of conditions can all be considered CSHCN. (MCH Bureau).
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD):** an umbrella term for a group of respiratory tract diseases that are characterized by airflow obstruction or limitation. The most common cause is tobacco smoking, but COPD can also be caused by exposure to other airway irritants such as coal dust or solvents. In some cases, there are no known causes (idiopathic COPD) or the disease may arise due to congenital defects. Conditions included in this umbrella term are chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and bronchiectasis.
- **Cleft lip:** formed in the upper lip as either a small gap or dent in the lip (partial or incomplete cleft) or continues into the nose (complete cleft). Lip cleft can occur as one-sided (unilateral) or two-sided (bilateral).
- **Cleft palate:** a condition in which the two plates of the skull that form the hard palate (roof of the mouth) are not completely joined. The soft palate is in these cases cleft as well. In most cases, cleft lip

is also present. Palate cleft can occur as complete (soft and hard palate, possibly including a gap in the jaw) or incomplete (a hole in the roof of the mouth, usually as a cleft soft palate). When cleft palate occurs, the uvula is usually split.

- **Community water fluoridation:** the adjustment of the level of fluoride in the water to the optimal level for preventing tooth decay. Water fluoridation (fluoride in water) prevents tooth decay in two ways: primarily through direct contact with teeth throughout life, and when consumed by children during the tooth forming years.
- **Co-morbidity:** the presence of one or more disorders (or diseases) in addition to a primary disease or disorder and the effect of such additional disorders or diseases on the individual.
- **Composite:** a tooth-colored filling made of plastic resin or porcelain.
- **Cortisol:** a corticosteroid hormone produced by the adrenal cortex that is involved in the response to stress; it increases blood pressure, blood sugar levels, may cause infertility in women, and suppresses the immune system.
- **Children with Special Health Care Needs:** those children who have a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition that lasts more than a year and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.
- **Dental encounter:** a dental encounter consists of all dental treatment other than a dental screening.
- **Dental sealant:** a thin plastic coating that is applied to the chewing surfaces of the molars (back teeth).
- **Dental implant:** an artificial device usually made of metal alloy or ceramic material that is implanted within the jawbone as a means to attach an artificial crown, denture, or bridge.
- **Denture:** a removable appliance used to replace teeth.
- **Destructive periodontitis:** the presence of one or more sites with four mm or greater loss of tooth attachment compared to surrounding periodontal tissues.
- **Distant metastasis:** cancer that has spread from the original (primary) tumor to distant organs or distant lymph nodes. Also known as distant cancer.
- **Early childhood caries (ECC):** decay of primary (baby) teeth that develop between the ages of six months and six years.
- **Edentulism:** complete loss of all natural teeth.
- **Endocarditis, Endocartitis or Bacterial endocarditis:** an infection of the heart's inner lining (endocardium) or the heart valves.
- **Etiology:** the study of causation. In medicine, the term refers to the causes of diseases or pathologies.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs):** also known as Community and Migrant Health Centers, are federally funded organizations required to take all patients regardless of ability to pay and to provide a comprehensive array of primary health care services, including oral health. They receive Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement enhancements, grants to serve the uninsured (Section 330 Grants) and some federal and state support for development. The Migrant Health Program (MHP) supports the delivery of migrant health services.
- **FQHC look-alikes:** are similar to a FQHC but do not receive Section 330 grants to serve the uninsured.
- **Full dentition:** the presence of all natural teeth, not including the third molars.
- **Free or charity care clinics:** clinics typically operated by churches or other community services

organizations using donated materials and labor. Some receive federal grants. Most charity care clinics limit care to a few hours or a few days a week.

- **Gingivitis:** an inflammation of the gingiva (gum tissue).
- **Healthy People 2010:** a set of health objectives for the nation to achieve over the first decade of the new century. It can be used by many different people, states, communities, professional organizations, and others to help them develop programs to improve health.
- **Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs):** Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) designations are used to establish initial eligibility for certain types of federal and state programs. The DOH Office of Community and Rural Health collaborates with local partners to prepare designation requests for federal review and to designate counties or specific census tracts as HPSAs. This voluntary designation is periodically reevaluated. HPSAs may be established for primary medical care, primary dental care, and mental health care. The three major types of HPSA designations are:
 - i. Geographic HPSAs, which have a shortage of health professionals for the total population.
 - ii. Population HPSAs, which have particular underserved population in a geographic area (such as the low-income people or migrant farm workers).
 - iii. Facility designations, which refer to specific types of facilities, including community health clinics, rural health clinics, and federal and state correctional facilities.

HPSAs are not the same as other commonly used federal designations such as Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs) or Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs). These designations refer only to the distribution of primary care physicians and generally do not expire, and the criteria and data requirements differ from those used for HPSAs. But a given area may qualify for all three designations.

- **Hypopharynx:** the bottom part of the pharynx and is the part of the throat that connects to the esophagus.
- **Incidence:** the number of new cases of disease occurring in a population during a defined time interval.
- **Incipient dental decay:** a small white spot on the teeth that indicates the first signs of demineralization (starting of caries process). The caries process can be halted here and even reversed.
- **Individuals with disabilities:** represent a specific group of individuals older than five years of age who, according to the US Census, have a lasting condition producing any one of the following: blindness, deafness or a severe hearing or vision impairment; difficulty in physical activities such as walking, carrying, lifting or climbing stairs; difficulty in self care such as bathing or dressing; difficulty learning or remembering; difficulty in going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office; difficulty working at a job or business.
- **In situ (cancer):** when malignant cells are present in the epithelium but have not invaded beyond the basal lamina into deeper tissues.
- **Kaposi's sarcoma:** a cancer that develops in connective tissues such as cartilage, bone, fat, muscle, blood vessels, or fibrous tissues (related to tendons or ligaments).
- **Localized (cancer):** cancer that is restricted to the site of origin, without evidence of spread.
- **Methamphetamine:** a psychostimulant drug used primarily for recreational purposes, but it is sometimes prescribed for ADHD and narcolepsy. Methamphetamine is highly psychologically addictive.
- **Meth mouth:** an informal name for the tooth decay and poor oral health seen in many cases of methamphetamine abuse.

- **Mortality:** the number of deaths (from a disease or in general) per 1,000 people and typically reported on an annual basis.
- **Mucosal infections/mucositis:** the painful inflammation and ulceration of the mucous membranes lining the digestive tract. In the mouth and esophagus, mucositis is characterized by painful ulceration.
- **Nasopharynx:** lies behind the nose and above the level of the soft palate.
- **Oral congenital anomaly/disorder:** a medical condition that is present at birth. Congenital disorders can be a result of genetic abnormalities, the intrauterine environment, or unknown factors.
- **Oral ulcers:** an open sore inside the mouth caused by a break in the mucous membrane or the epithelium on the lips or surrounding the mouth.
- **Oropharyngeal cancer:** cancer of the mouth and throat.
- **Oropharynx:** the oral part of the pharynx and reaches from the soft palate to the level of the hyoid bone.
- **Osteoporosis:** a disease of bone in which the bone mineral density (BMD) is reduced, bone microarchitecture is disrupted, and the amount and variety of non-collagenous proteins in bone is changed.
- **Pathogens:** a biological agent that causes disease or illness to its host.
- **Perimolysis:** decalcification of the teeth from exposure to gastric acid in people with chronic vomiting.
- **Periodontitis:** a disease involving inflammation of the supporting structures of tooth, including the gum, the periodontal ligament, and the jawbone.
- **Predisposing factors:** genetic, attitudinal, personality, and environmental factors that are associated with health, or lack of it, in a person.
- **Preterm births:** delivery of an infant before 37 completed weeks of gestation.
- **Prevalence:** the total number of cases of a given disease in a specified population at a specified time.
- **Prosthodontics:** the dental specialty dealing with the replacement of missing teeth and other oral structures.
- **Public health clinics:** the six clinics operated by Public Health-Seattle & King County that provide primary medical and dental care services.
- **Rampant caries:** advanced and severe caries that affects numerous teeth in the dentition. In the Smile Survey, it refers of seven or more teeth with caries in a child.
- **Regional lymph nodes:** lymph nodes located in a specific anatomic region or compartment.
- **Relative Value Units (RVU):** a numerical system for describing the value of a medical procedure for the purpose of assigning a price or charge.
- **Salivary glands:** glands which produce saliva, which keeps the mouth and other parts of the digestive system moist.
- **Singleton:** a fetus that develops alone.
- **Smoker (BRFSS):** respondents who reported having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke.
- **Stomatitis:** an inflammation of the mucous lining of any of the structures in the mouth that may involve the cheeks, gums, tongue, lips, and roof or floor of the mouth.
- **Streptococcus mutans:** a gram-positive, facultatively anaerobic bacterium commonly found in the human oral cavity and is a significant contributor to tooth decay.

- **Temporomandibular disorders (TMD):** disorders of the jaw muscles, temporomandibular joints, or the nerves associated with chronic facial pain.
- **Teratogens:** substances that cross the placental barrier and harm the developing baby.
- **Trigeminal neuralgia:** a disorder of the fifth cranial (trigeminal) nerve that causes episodes of intense, stabbing, electric shock-like pain in the areas of the face where the branches of the nerve are distributed (lips, eyes, nose, scalp, forehead, upper jaw, and lower jaw).
- **Varnishes:** a thin resin protective coating that is painted on a child's teeth to prevent cavities.
- **White spot lesions:** incipient dental decay.
- **Xerostomia (dry mouth):** the condition of not having enough saliva to keep the mouth wet due to inadequate function of the salivary glands.

