

A happy mouth is key to overall health and wellbeing

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Mr KC Makhubele – CEO, South African Dental Association

Nearly 3.5 billion people suffer from oral diseases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The most common oral illnesses are tooth decay, severe gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancers, with untreated tooth decay affecting nearly 2.5 billion people.

“Oral health has long been neglected in global health, but many oral diseases can be prevented,” said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

World Oral Health Day, observed annually on March 20, is a significant global initiative dedicated to promoting awareness and education about the importance of oral health. Spearheaded by the FDI World Dental Federation, this day serves as a rallying point for healthcare practitioners, policymakers and communities worldwide to emphasise the critical role of oral health in overall wellbeing.

Healthcare practitioners play a pivotal role in advancing oral health education and care. Dentists, dental hygienists and other oral healthcare professionals serve as frontline workers and educators, providing crucial information and guidance on maintaining optimal oral health.

In 2024, for World Oral Health Day the SADA Young Dentists Council put its dentists where the mouths are!

In South Africa, more than 60% of primary school children suffer from tooth decay. More concerning is that more than 80% of these students remain untreated.

Members of the Young Dentists Council made a difference by visiting schools in five provinces in South Africa. Colgate Oral Health Kits were delivered to 5,388 students and oral hygiene education given to the students and teachers from each school. The education encompasses a range of essential practices aimed at promoting good oral health habits – from proper brushing and flossing techniques to advice on diet and lifestyle choices.

The Young Dentists Council collaborated with Clicks Radio Station, reaching 1.2 million listeners daily, educating them on “A happy mouth is a happy body!”.

For the whole of March 2024, the Young Dentists Council present oral health webinars to dental professionals and educational TikTok videos on brushing techniques and oral health to the public.

By empowering individuals with knowledge and guidance, we contribute to improving oral health outcomes and fostering healthier communities worldwide.

Together, let's make oral health a priority and celebrate World Oral Health Day!

Dr Robyn Kearney

YDC President

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (SADA) 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The SADA FYE 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM), previously set for 25 April 2024, is postponed due to finalisation of the auditing procedures. The majority of the work has been finalised, but the last parts are only being finalised in early April 2024. A new date will be communicated soon. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Dr N Osman

SADA Board of Directors

2 April 2024



SADA
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DENTAL ASSOCIATION