

WHO Oral Health Country/Area Profile Programme

The objective of CAPP – the WHO Oral Health Country/Area Profile Programme – is to present global information on dental diseases and oral health services. This programme's website can be found through the following link <http://www.whocolab.od.mah.se/>. This programme, referred to as 'CAPP', was established in 1995 through the collaboration of the World Health Organization Noncommunicable Diseases Cluster, several other WHO Collaborating Centres, many individuals and interested groups. It was developed as a server to communicate and disseminate oral health data. At the present time the main server is located at the WHO Collaborating Centre For Education, Training & Research In Oral Health, Centre for Oral Health Sciences Malmö University, Sweden. As far back as October 2002, there were more than 5200 requests from the server per day.

The website for this programme serves to help disseminate vital international information on dental disease and oral health services. The home page of the website is divided into five sections. These are (i) About and Help, (ii) CAPP Pages, (iii) Links, (iv) Oral Health Promotion and (v) Messages. Each section is very easy to navigate and provides a wealth of timely information for educators, clinicians and public health practitioners. In total this website encompasses about 1600 pages of information.

The About and Help section guides you through the website by defining what each section contains. It provides a search engine that allows searching the website by subject, topic or name. In addition, this section gives background information about the programme as well as provides definitions and examples of many of the more commonly used WHO dental indices for epidemiology surveys. Many of the forms that are used are also provided.

The CAPP Pages section contains oral health profiles for countries; significant caries index; tobacco and oral diseases

pictures, papers and abstracts; and periodontal conditions (from the Japan server). It also contains a section on oral diseases and related factors which include items such as world oral cancer, AIDS/HIV oral manifestations and world sugar consumption.

The section on Oral Health Promotion contains WHO programmes and projects in WHO regions. It also presents information on WHO mission reports for different countries. The Links section of the website provides access to the WHO Headquarters in Geneva, the WHO Oral Health Program and WHO Collaborating Centres. Other related links here include the US Centers for Disease Control, the NIDR, the FDI, Pub Med and numerous dental subject sites.

The final section, entitled Messages, provides updated news related to CAPP. In addition, it provides a means that the user can give feedback and/or comments about the website or information contained therein.

Overall, this website is very easy to navigate. It gives the user vital international dental information useful to the educator and researcher when seeking dental data and also to the public health practitioner when planning programmes, particularly those that might be implemented internationally.

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