

# Community

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## Treatment need & demand

Oral disease data are primarily collected in developing countries in order to help authorities plan health care systems. These epidemiological data may permit for an improved understanding of the nature of oral diseases and changing patterns of the diseases at the population level, because these studies are conducted in populations that so far have had very limited access to formal oral health care.

***Need:*** Is an important concept in public health. It is used to plan and manage health services including health improvement, resource allocation, and equity. However, need is a multi-faceted concept with no one universal definition.

***Demand:*** Is the expression by a patient or the public of a preference to receive health care related to their perceived needs.

***Utilization:*** Is the actual attendance by members of the public at dental treatment facilities to receive dental care. It is expressed as the proportion of a population who attend a dentist within a given time, usually a year or the average number of visits per person made during a year.

***Met need:*** Is measured by utilization data.

***Identified but unmet need:*** Are the needs identified by the profession which are not met.

There are various definitions of need, and there are *four categories of need:*

1. **Normative need**, defined by the professional.
2. **Felt need**, which is equated with want.
3. **Expressed need or demand**; felt need is converted into action by seeking care.
4. **Comparative need**, that is assessed by comparing care received by different people with similar characteristics.

### Four types of social need

Type of need	Definition	Examples
<b>Normative need</b>	Need that is defined by experts. Normative needs are not absolute and there may be different standards laid down by different experts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccinations,</li> <li>• A decision by a surgeon that a patient needs an operation</li> </ul>
<b>Felt need</b>	Need perceived by an individual. Felt needs are limited by individual perceptions and knowledge of services.	Having a headache, Feeling knee pain
<b>Expressed</b>	Felt needs turned into	Going to the dentist

<b>need (Demanded need)</b>	action. Help seeking.	for a toothache
<b>Comparative need</b>	Needs identified by comparing the services received by one group of individuals with those received by another comparable group.	A rural village may identify a need for a well or a school if the neighboring village has one

The concept of need is central to the planning, provision and evaluation of health services. For effective planning and evaluation of any health service, both estimates of levels of need as well as demand for treatment must be taken into account.

*The method of assessment of treatment need is by :*

1. Clinical examination
2. Measuring patients demand for treatment and perceived need for treatment
3. Survey system to determine oral health of the population

*Factors affecting Demands*

**1- Age:** dental utilization rates are lowest for children under 5 years and persons over 65 years.

**2- Gender:** females use dental services more than males, but the rates were similar in some age and education groups.

**3- Education:** the utilization rate increases with increasing the level of education. The education level of the head of the household is an important predicator of how frequently the family members will utilize dental services.

**4- Socioeconomic status:** higher social classes utilize dental services more frequently than lower social classes. However higher classes are often related to high incomes and good educational background, because these three factors are often positively associated with each other.

**5- Occupation:** persons in professional occupations visit their dentist more frequently than non- skilled manual workers.

**6- Residence:** persons in urban visit the dentist more than those in rural areas. Utilization also varied with the community size, the larger the community, the greater the utilization rate for dental services.

### ***Dental man power***

Dental manpower is defined as individuals with a kind of knowledge, skill, and attitude needed to reach predetermined health targets and ultimately health status objectives.

The heart of the dental public health program is the manpower required for carrying it out. Manpower planning is part of a general plan for providing health services.

## ***Dental health manpower planning***

Dental health manpower planning is defined as the process of estimating the number of persons and the kind of knowledge and skills they need to achieve predetermined dental health targets and optimal improvements in dental health of population

Such planning also includes specifying who is going to do what, when, where, how, and with what resources, for what population groups or individuals, so that the knowledge and skills necessary for adequate performance can be made available, according to predetermined policies and time schedules.

This planning should be a continuing and not sporadic process and it requires continuous monitoring and evaluation.

### ***Dental health manpower planning includes:***

1. Analysis and projections of dental health needs and demands for the population which obtained from epidemiological surveys and treatment records.
2. Assessment of present dental health manpower availability and its pattern of utilization.
3. Formulation of policy
4. .Estimation of future manpower requirements