SANTA FE GROUP
Improving Lives Through Oral Health

Oral Health as a Pathway to Wellness and Longevity

Consensus Statement: Oral Health is Health

This Consensus Statement emerged from the Santa Fe Group's convening, Oral Health as a Pathway to Wellness and Longevity, June 2026 initiative. The undersigned organizations, programs, and individuals commit to a shared vision: a future in which every person has access to integrated, equitable, person-centered care, and in which oral health is fully embedded within the nation's approach to health, wellness, and longevity.

WE RESOLVE that the separation of oral health from the nation's health, public health, and care systems can no longer be accepted. Meaningful progress requires dismantling structural barriers, directing resources where needs are greatest, and ensuring equitable access to integrated care. This effort extends beyond improving coordination between medical and dental services. It represents an opportunity to transform how the United States defines health, organizes care, allocates resources, and holds institutions accountable for improving well-being.

WE COMMIT to a shared vision: a future in which every person has access to integrated, equitable, person-centered care, and in which oral health is fully embedded within the nation's approach to health, wellness, and longevity.

WE AFFIRM a shared commitment to ensuring that oral health is recognized, financed, delivered, and measured as an essential component of whole-person care. The long-standing separation of oral health from the broader healthcare system contributes to preventable disease, fragmented care, inequitable access, avoidable costs, and diminished quality of life. We commit to mobilizing collective action by aligning with network priorities, sustained leadership, enabling infrastructure, and accountability. Our priorities include advancing policies, payment models, education, workforce development, care delivery, research, data interoperability, health literacy, and community partnerships within health and healthcare systems. We also commit to changing the narrative by recognizing oral health as a vital pathway to wellness and longevity.

WE FURTHER AFFIRM that communities most affected by health inequities must be active partners in shaping priorities, designing solutions, implementing changes, and evaluating outcomes. Together, we will align our efforts, measure progress, share learning, and advance the systems change necessary to ensure that oral health is no longer treated as separate from health itself.

Sign On to the Consensus Statement