

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

The Department of Health is the health adviser of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and an executive arm in health legislation and policy. Our main role is to safeguard the health of the community through various promotive and preventive services, while also providing some curative and rehabilitative services. Over the years, there is a growing public expectation for the Department to strengthen our role in health promotion to safeguard public health and improve the quality of life of the population.

Oral health is essential to every person's general health and well-being. In oral health care, the Government's objective is to improve the oral health of the population by promoting oral hygiene and oral health awareness in the community and by facilitating the proper use of oral care services. Preventive and promotive oral health care services are provided to the general public. Our School Dental Care Service promotes oral hygiene and provides basic and preventive oral health care to primary school children. Our Oral Health Education Unit fulfils the Government's objective in promoting oral health.

The Department's motto is ***Partnership in Health*** which calls for active involvement of the community as well as other health care professionals, in a joint effort to improve the health of the people of Hong Kong. Every individual of the community has the ultimate responsibility of knowing what and how best to improve their health and oral health.

This report should be of interest to the dental profession and other health care professionals. It should also arouse a sense of control for every individual to improve their oral health. The report should also be of use to all those who believe that good oral health is an integral part of one's general health.

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