

## UFSBD in a few words...

The French Union for Oral Health: Union Française pour la Santé Bucco-Dentaire (UFSBD) is an umbrella organisation of Regional Unions. The UFSBD membership is made up of over 15 000 dentists. It acts as a WHO Collaborating Centre and is the official organisation of the dental profession for the prevention and promotion of oral health.

The UFSBD was created and is managed by dental surgeons. Since its establishment in 1966, it has fulfilled public health missions in all fields of public health (both within and outside dental surgeries), **to improve the french oral health.**

This ambition, which motivates and drives all the members of the UFSBD, is closely linked to the strong conviction that dental surgeons should be recognised as **“mouth doctors” working at the heart of general health problems** and of public health policy. Indeed, oral health is an indicator of general health at all ages and **within specific populations.**

Our structure has become a source of proposals **and is strongly playing a proactive role.** It is now a veritable agency for the promotion of oral in France, with official recognition from public authorities.

The UFSBD **has been the driving force leading to new public health measures in the area of oral health.** It is consulted in the drawing up of major public health plans, such as the national nutrition plan, the governmental addictions plan and the national cancer plan.

Its aim is **to promote oral health** in France, by raising awareness of the whole population regarding the importance of oral hygiene and health through the creation of a “consciousness of prevention” in the dental profession.

The UFSBD carries out **education, awareness-raising and screening activities** as well as trainings.

- For various target groups : young children, the elderly, pregnant women, new parents, vulnerable populations, disadvantaged populations, disabled people etc.
- In different places: kindergartens, schools, retirement homes, day centres, prisons, workplaces and, of course, dental surgeries, which are genuine healthcare centres.

The UFSBD is thus helping **to develop**, at national and international levels, awareness through the promotion of oral health, supported by both dental surgeons and educational structures.

