

Our vision

« *Today, only a positive image of dentists and of oral health is acceptable, because we know that good dental health has a positive impact on the general health, social life as well as physical and mental well-being of everyone.*

Our challenge is to place dental surgeons at the heart of the health path of all French people, regardless of their age, origin or wealth, and to give them the means to play an active role in health prevention and promotion.

The UFSBD has a great deal to contribute, but it also has a lot to learn from sister structures in other countries. Making ourselves known and learning about the work of others are our ambitions as a WHO Collaborating Centre. »

Dr. Sophie DARTEVELLE - President of UFSBD

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.

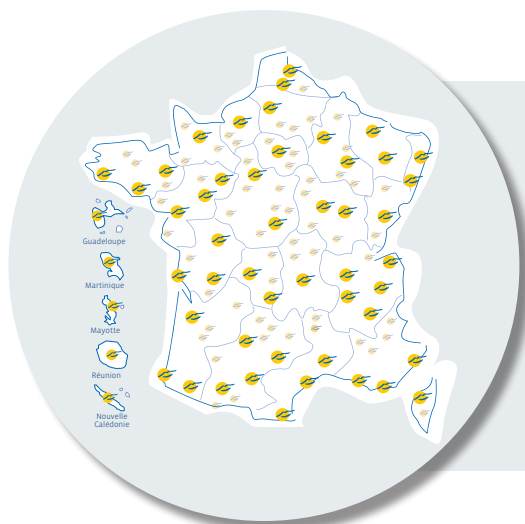
The UFSBD carries out **education, awareness-raising and screening activities** as well as trainings.

- 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.



UFSBD in the world



A network covering the whole territory of France....

The UFSBD implements national programmes and organized local activities in the field of oral health and its risk factors. Its strength comes from its local and regional network, ensuring coverage of the entire country and facilitating involvement at various strategic levels in the new regional health policy.

Part of the international landscape...

The UFSBD has been a WHO Collaborating Centre since 1998, for the development of new education concepts and practices in oral health. It is well established in the public health landscape at both levels : nationally and internationally.

Networking has been set up both within Europe and internationally.

Thus, the UFSBD regularly takes part in expert commissions and working groups of organisations such as the ERO (European Regional Organisation of the World Dental Federation), the FDI (the World Dental Federation), the GADEF (the Group of French-Speaking Dental Associations). The UFSBD also attends consensus conferences bringing together representatives from European countries within the framework of a European health surveillance programme funded by the European Commission.

Increasing numbers of foreign organisations involved in the field of prevention are also asking the UFSBD to provide information, materials and assistance for future actions and are requesting to meet us and to share experiences related to public health.



Proposal of a public health programme matching the population's needs and the objectives of public health-policies

Why?

The UFSBD has always proposed targeted solutions for prevention and the management of oral health, taking into account specific needs, types of behaviour and environmental resources.

Our “intervention” should be envisaged at two levels:

- **“In the field”** focusing on populations: in schools, kindergardens, retirement homes, medical and educational institutions, workplaces, hospitals, prisons and so on. It helps to reach people that never go to the dentist, by focusing the prevention programme on the environment in which the person is found.
- **At dental surgeries**, where dental surgeons are consulted for their expertise in health and must fulfil their role in prevention.

For our programme of actions 2012 - 2014, we have selected five priority areas:

- **Childhood, infancy and pregnant women,**
- **The elderly and dependent old people,**
- **The disabled,**
- **Health in the workplace,**
- **The launch of a large-scale plan for periodontal diseases.**

And several types of action:

- Educational and awareness-raising activities for the public;
- Lobbying for regular oral health examinations: health path
- Involvement in the educational environment;
- Training of educators.

However, these subject areas and approaches are not exclusive. We are currently studying and experimenting other subject areas that may lead to action in the field of: the health of adolescents and young adults, the health of sportsmen and sportswomen, the health of prisoners and drug addicts, for example.



Helping the development of professional practices in the dental surgery within the framework of overall patient care

Why?

- Because our ambition to make progress throughout the dental profession cannot be dissociated from activities carried out at dental surgeries.
- Because our mission of prevention and education must be carried out together in all fields of action, including dental surgeries, to optimise their impact.
- Because only the repetition of motivating messages can guarantee success in the long term.
- Finally, because a well-trained, responsible and confident dentist is best able to manage the overall health of his or her patients.

The role of the dental surgeon has changed considerably and one of the principal missions of the UFSBD is to help all dentists to cope with this change.

The UFSBD should play an essential role in dental surgeries as well as in all other public health environments.



How?

By adapting an continuing education offered

Offer dental surgeons a complete system of pedagogic assistance that is progressive, dynamic, interactive and adaptable.

By encouraging dialogue between dentists and their patients

We provide, in the form of practical guidelines and articles in our magazine or on our website, information and tools helping dental surgeons both to establish dialogue with their patients and manage them .

By making dental surgeries a genuine healthcare space

The dental surgery is much more than just a chair for tooth care. It is a complete healthcare space. The UFSBD should provide dental surgeons with advice, necessary means, training and services for the creation of this healthcare space.

By working to ensure the recognition of dental surgeons at the heart of the healthcare system and healthcare trajectories, for patients with chronic diseases

We should make the voice of the dental profession heard on subjects such as the prevention, follow-up and management of chronic diseases (obesity, cancers, diabetes etc.).

- *To be heard by the entire profession*
- *To be recognised as a legitimate association for carrying out our missions*
- *To act as both a guarantor and a guide for the general public*
- *To ensure that the general public is aware of us*
- *To propose tools for dental surgeries*
- *To increase our power of influence*



THE DENTAL HEALTH CONTRACT
The seven commitments of the dental surgeon:

- 1 - Prevention at all ages
- 2 - Care to improve well-being
- 3 - Maintaining good health
- 4 - Assessing and treating pain
- 5 - Complete transparency relating to information about costs
- 6 - Availability, listening to the patient and explaining
- 7 - Health care in complete safety



The annual congress organised by the UFSBD

Every year, the UFSBD organises a National Public Health conference. This event brings together the entire profession, and also members of institutions and other individuals interested in the subject covered.

- 2011:** Sport and oral health
- 2010:** Health in the workplace: what about oral health?
- 2009:** Oral health: where are the young people! The importance of oral health in young adults
- 2008:** Reparative sleep. We're all involved! Obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSAS) and oral health
- 2007:** Addiction and oral health
- 2006:** Nutrition and oral health
- 2005:** The dental surgeon: an actor to fight cancer
- 2004:** The health of the elderly: the current situation and perspectives.
Lessons to be learnt in the domain of oral health
- 2003:** Diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and oral conditions.



Programme for 2015 - 2018

UFSBD :

- **IS A COLLECTIVE PROJECT.** All our members share the same goal and the same values.
- **IS UNITED AND INDIVISIBLE.** The various levels of the organisation - local (*département*), regional and national - work together in an effective network.
- **IS ACTIVE IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS.** Dental surgeons are close healthcare professionals playing a key role in prevention, both at their surgeries with their patients, and in all areas in which they meet population groups.
- **FEDERATES ITS MEMBERS THROUGH AN IDENTITY CHARTER**, which acts both as guidelines and as a reference.

THE UFSBD'S VISION

No general health without oral health

Because oral health contributes to general health, the UFSBD has been helping to improve the health of the French population for the last 50 years and will continue to do so for the next fifty years and more.

THE UFSBD'S AMBITION

To involve all health care professionals

Because there is no general health without oral health, the UFSBD's ambition is to involve all those concerned by health care, whether they are dental professionals or not, public or private partners, active members of the health care system, politicians or patients, in the quest to achieve the same level of sustainable health for everyone.

THE UFSBD'S MISSION

To encourage and coordinate health prevention and promotion

Involving everyone in health care means encouraging and coordinating well-organised health prevention and promotion, at the service of preventive, participative, personalised and predictive health care - prevention shared by everyone, both the general public and professionals, focused on patients and their health.

THE UFSBD'S RESOURCES

We are a national authority, recognised by public health bodies.

We have a network of local (*département*) and regional associations, making it possible to implement policies and programmes throughout France and to adapt them to specific features (geographical, sanitary, socio-demographic or cultural...).

We are a network of practitioners working in dental surgeries to promote health and to carry the message of the UFSBD.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Social justice:

Oral health reveals the social inequalities of health. In order to fulfil our mission : "to improve the health of the entire French population", we need to pay particular attention to the most deprived and vulnerable populations.

Scientific credibility:

Our public health mission forces us to make health recommendations, sharing scientific research and evidence-based practice in oral health.

Moral commitment:

The practitioners joining our association share the same values and ethics. They are committed to:

- implement oral prevention measures in their dental surgeries
- to fight against social inequalities in health wherever their practice may take them,
- to make healthcare accessible to the most vulnerable,
- to improve collaboration between medical disciplines to the benefit of the patient,
- and strengthen the position of dental surgeons in the healthcare system.

Whatever their mode of practice, dentists of our network embody the values of the UFSBD, and this commitment is obvious in their practices.

