Winter 2006

Oral Cancer Prevalence in Virginia

Karin C. Loftin  
*Old Dominion University*

Michele Darby  
*Old Dominion University*

Stacey Plichta  
*Old Dominion University*

Sophie Thompson  
*Old Dominion University*

Shreeram Kumar  
*Old Dominion University*

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalhygiene_fac_pubs](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalhygiene_fac_pubs)

Part of the [Community Health and Preventive Medicine Commons](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/communityhealth-preventive-medicine), [Dental Hygiene Commons](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalhygiene), [Dental Public Health and Education Commons](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalpublichealth), and the [Oral Biology and Oral Pathology Commons](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/oralbiology)

**Repository Citation**
Loftin, Karin C.; Darby, Michele; Plichta, Stacey; Thompson, Sophie; Kumar, Shreeram; and Abbey, Louis. "Oral Cancer Prevalence in Virginia" (2006). Dental Hygiene Faculty Publications. Paper 20.  
[http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalhygiene_fac_pubs/20](http://digitalcommons.odu.edu/dentalhygiene_fac_pubs/20)

**Original Publication Citation**
Authors
Karin C. Loftin, Michele Darby, Stacey Plichta, Sophie Thompson, Shreeram Kumar, and Louis Abbey
Oral Cancer Prevalence in Virginia

Karin C Loftin, Michele Darby, Stacey Plichta, Sophie Thompson, Shreeram Kumar and Louis Abbey

Karin C. Loftin, PhD; Michele Darby, BSDH, MS; Stacey Plichta, ScD; and Sophie Thompson, MHS, CT (ASCP) (IAC), are professors at Old Dominion University. Shreeram Kumar, PhD(c), is a doctoral student at Old Dominion University. Louis Abbey, DMD, is a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Purpose. Oral and pharyngeal cancer affects 30,000 Americans a year and kills one fourth of those diagnosed. The primary risk factors for oral cancer are past or present cigarette and tobacco usage, and alcohol consumption in conjunction with tobacco use. Even though the prevalence of oral cancer is relatively low in the younger age groups, this group is most likely to benefit from intervention programs designed to change risky behavior such as smoking, and to prevent oral cancer in the later years. The goal of the study was to identify high-risk target areas for an oral cancer prevention program in Virginia.

Methods and Materials. The specific objectives were to analyze the 1986 to 2001 Oral Biopsy Database from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry for diagnosed cases of oral cancer. To test the hypothesis that Hampton Roads, Virginia would be a high-risk target area, diagnoses were correlated with the 11 zip-code regions in Virginia to identify specific geographical areas with high numbers of oral cancer cases. The oral cancer data set consisted of 4,712 cases. Frequencies and cross-tabulations were calculated for all the variables using Statistical Package for Social Scientists software (SPSS Inc., version 10.1, Chicago, IL).

Results. Results indicated that the Hampton Roads region had the second highest number of squamous cell carcinomas, with 231 total cases. The Richmond area had 435 cases, almost twice as many.

Conclusions. Therefore, Hampton Roads and Richmond are high-risk target areas that would benefit from an aggressive oral cancer prevention and intervention program in its public schools.
Copyright of Journal of Dental Hygiene is the property of American Dental Hygienists Association and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.