

# Reference Guide for Recommended Future Research

Summary of Specific Actions Necessary to Advance Research

## THEORIES AND MECHANISMS RELATED TO ORAL HEALTH

- Develop theoretically based core of clinically relevant outcomes and health service delivery measures
- Develop testable theories between study-specific working hypotheses and all-encompassing conceptualizations to understand how behavioral and social factors shape oral health
- Specify detailed, multi-level causal pathways that bridge proximal and distal determinants of oral health

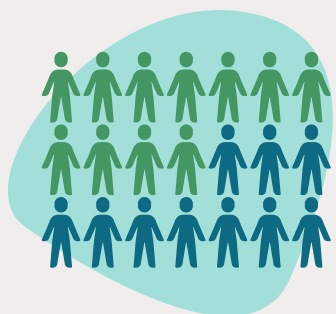
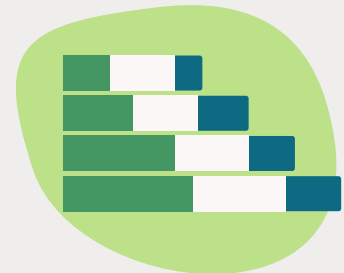


## USE OF MULTIPLE AND NOVEL METHODOLOGIES

- Create and validate contemporary gold standard measures with strong psychometric properties
- Use qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods data approaches
- Adopt methods for testing theories related to cognitive, affective, and motivational bases of behavior
- Utilize causal analysis, complex systems science, and community-engaged research

## DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF INTERVENTIONS

- Focus on individual and population levels in intervention research, tailoring interventions to individuals and systems, and communities that are at-risk, disadvantaged, and marginalized
- Adopt technological approaches that maximize intervention customization and diffusion through large systems
- Involve multiple stakeholders at every stage
- Measure testable mechanisms of change
- Apply and test theories and intervention elements from other healthcare disciplines



## DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION (D&I) RESEARCH

- Meaningfully involve stakeholders in all aspects of D&I
- Attend to contextual factors (global and local)
- Adopt contemporary D&I research study designs, using precisely specified methods
- Focus on interdisciplinary research involving researchers, community members, practitioners, and public policymakers
- Leverage behavioral and social “big data” to reduce oral health inequities
- Inform public health and policy approaches that support upstream action and a commitment to equity

## OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

- Integrate behavioral and social sciences in the education, training, and mentoring of clinicians and researchers
- Adopt or enhance multi- and transdisciplinary collaborative and integrative efforts, especially including behavioral and social science disciplines underrepresented in oral health
- Focus on inclusive research
- Include positive aspects of oral health in research

