

*Summary*

This CD-ROM will almost certainly be required study for adherents of the inverse anchorage technique. However, the fussy interface, specialized content, the lack of real knowledge imparted and the lack of a search or index facil-

ity seriously limits this CD's usefulness as an educational tool. A brave attempt but not recommended for individuals or libraries unless they have a particular interest in the technique.

David Birnie

## Community Oral Health (1997)

Cynthia M. Pine (Ed.)

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Community oral health draws together a wide range of academic disciplines. It is grounded in the principles and philosophy of the primary health care approach and seeks to improve the oral health of communities through organized, diverse and complex interventions. These may operate at the level of society, or be targeted at specific groups of individuals. The scope and range of this text reflects this underlying complexity.

The opening three chapters outline the theoretical perspectives adopted by most of those working within public health. The role of society in creating and maintaining 'health' and 'ill health' is outlined, together with the key features of the primary health care approach. There follow two chapters on health needs assessment including epidemiological surveys. This is followed by a long chapter which addresses the public health aspects of oral diseases and disorders, including dental caries, periodontal disease and dentofacial irregularities.

Other aspects that are covered in the remaining chapters are trends in oral health; strategies for improving the oral health of communities (including oral health promotion, fluoridation, community-based approaches, service planning); statistics; health economics.

The contributors are well-known and respected in the field. The various chapters have clearly been beautifully edited to give the reader the impression of a seamless text which mirrors in outline the practice of dental public health in communities: commencing from a philosophical foundation, through needs assessment and on to service planning and development.

This is an essential text for postgraduate students of dental public health, though the cost and depth of analysis may mean that it is beyond the scope of undergraduate teaching. I would strongly recommend this book to all dental libraries.

J. T. Newton