

## Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Dental Coverage For Adults Legislation moves forward after approval in House and Senate committees



In Annapolis, legislation to expand dental coverage to all adults in Maryland Medicaid is moving forward and has passed the crossover phase in both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly!

The hard work of members, partners, and stakeholders through a multi-year campaign to expand access to oral health care for all low income Maryland adults has resulted in a growing recognition of the significance of oral health to overall health by Maryland legislators. These efforts aided the passage of legislation that gradually integrate dental care into health care delivery systems across Maryland. And now, during the 2022 session of the Maryland General Assembly, state legislators are taking monumental steps to

further invest in the overall health and well-being of Maryland's vulnerable adult population by establishing adult dental coverage as part of Maryland Medicaid.

As we all know, and Maryland legislators recognize, the need for adult dental coverage in Medicaid is great. Although dental professionals statewide strive to help at-need patients through programs that offer low-cost care, or through non-profits that offer free services, it is not enough. The struggle to obtain needed dental care puts many of our most vulnerable citizens at risk, often resulting in oral health issues that make it difficult to manage dental pain, control a chronic disease, obtain employment, or even eat, speak, or socialize.

With just a few weeks remaining in the 2022 legislative session, members, partners, and stakeholders are strongly encouraged to continue to communicate with their legislators, thanking them for their important support of adult dental coverage in Maryland Medicaid and for taking a critical step forward in dismantling health disparities experienced by many low income Maryland adults and change the lives of hundreds of thousands of Maryland residents for the better.

## National Health Leaders Call for Action on Oral Health Inequities

### Understanding of the intersection of oral, overall, and mental health needed

In a recently published perspective article in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), NIDCR Director Dr. Rena D'Souza, Science Advisor to the President and former NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins, and US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy highlight that addressing oral health disparities will require significant changes. Drawing on findings and recommendations from Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges, the article's authors advocate for actions to make oral health care accessible and affordable for all Americans that includes understanding the intersection of oral health with overall and mental health.

In the article, national health leaders note that equalizing oral health and access to care will require research and policy initiatives that make oral health care more affordable, accessible, and responsive to communities. These initiatives would need to include integrating oral, medical, and behavioral health care into traditional and non-traditional health care settings, such as schools and community health centers. In addition, communities need to be included in the planning, design, and execution of these oral health care systems.



Harshening policy changes and fully integrating oral health with a greater emphasis on prevention can effectively address inequities and improve the overall health of individuals, families, and communities.

## **Oral Health Care and Primary Health Care: Stronger Together in Recognizing and Managing Diabetes**

*A new research report from the American Dental Education Association*

Evidence continues to grow on the strong link between oral health and overall health. Also known as the oral-systemic link, the connection between oral health and systemic health has called attention to the role of oral disease in contributing to poor overall health. According to an increasing number of studies, oral health diseases—particularly periodontitis—are associated with a variety of serious, systemic diseases. The most prominent among these is diabetes, one of the leading causes of death in the United States.

In 2020, the Maryland Department of Health issued its first ever Diabetes Action Plan, which includes intervention strategies for health care providers, stakeholders and individuals to help reduce the burden of diabetes in Maryland. Issued as a roadmap to preventing and managing diabetes, the plan includes a chapter dedicated to oral health, specifically citing periodontal disease as the most common dental disease affecting those living with diabetes. Periodontal disease has been reported to complicate the management of diabetes and metabolic control, while diabetes in turn is an established risk factor for periodontal disease. A coordinated approach to the management of both diabetes and periodontitis is critical to achieve optimal health in patients with these diseases.

The need for organized management of systemic and oral diseases has helped give rise to the integration of oral health care and primary health care. The recognition that the burden of chronic diseases can be lessened by a movement toward whole body health has helped advance efforts to integrate oral and general health care. Taking this into account, oral and primary health care are developing means of collaboration—such as providing mutually supportive tools that support the integration of care. The 2022 American Diabetes Association's Standards of Care guidelines currently reinforce the need to screen for diabetes in the dental setting.

This research report discusses the importance of dental education in preparing future oral health care providers with the training necessary to recognize the oral-systemic link, and thus to contribute to the integrated care needs of all patients.

For the full report please click [here](#):

## **ADA Urges HRSA to Prioritize Workforce, Oral Health Disparities Encourages installation a Chief Dental Officer to oversee efforts**

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The American Dental Association is asking the Health Resources and Services Administration to prioritize several issues, including addressing dental workforce shortages and oral health disparities.

In a Feb. 15 letter to Carole Johnson, the new HRSA administrator, the ADA President Cesar R. Sabates, D.D.S. alongside the ADA Executive Director Raymond A. Cohlmiya, D.D.S., welcomed the opportunity for the Association to work with HRSA on the following issues:

- Addressing dental workforce shortages through Title VII oral health training grants.
- Expanding efforts to increase the dental workforce in underserved communities through the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program.
- Continuing to fund the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program, including the National Students Service Loan Repayment Program.
- Expediting Provider Relief Fund reconsideration applications.
- Improving public and medical provider education about oral health to meet the HHS Healthy People target for utilization of the oral health care system.
- Addressing oral health disparities to achieve optimal oral health for all people.
- Continuing to prioritize integration of oral health and primary care practice.
- Reforming health professional shortage area scoring.
- Addressing parity between dental case management and medical case management.
- Training Medicaid auditors to ensure that dental program integrity is fair and efficient without jeopardizing access to care.
- Ensuring loan repayment equity for early career-dentists in federally qualified health centers with added clarity on eligible health professional shortage area scores.
- Giving loan repayment to dentists collaborating with addiction specialists.
- Supporting medical-dental collaboration projects.
- Promoting the value of community water fluoridation.
- Addressing maternal and child dental needs such as sealants and access to care for pregnant women.

# Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP)

## Launches New Healthy People 2030 Webinar Series

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Social Determinants of Health



Social determinants of health have a major impact on people's health and well-being — and they're a key focus of Healthy People 2030. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) is excited to announce the launch of the new Healthy People 2030 Webinar Series. Throughout the decade, these webinars will feature the Leading Health Indicators, Overall Health and Well-Being Measures, and Healthy People 2030 objectives and the latest data released on [Healthy People 2030](#). To register now, please click [here](#).

The first webinar will take place on March 31 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET. Titled Bridging Healthy People 2020 and Healthy People 2030, this webinar will launch the series with a presentation on Healthy People 2020 achievements and the transition to Healthy People 2030. A discussion moderated by ODPHP Deputy Director Carter Blakey will follow. During the webinar, presenters will explore the resources that focus on achievements and challenges for Healthy People 2020 and how last decade's Healthy People 2020 objectives compare to Healthy People 2030 objectives:

### [Healthy People 2020: An End of Decade Snapshot](#)

The report “Healthy People 2020: An End of Decade Snapshot” provides a high-level summary on the progress made over the last decade in meeting the Healthy People 2020 objective targets.

### [Healthy People 2020 Final Review](#)

The Healthy People 2020 Final Review provides a quantitative end-of-decade assessment of the nation's progress toward achieving the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-led Healthy People 2020 objectives. Explore the Healthy People 2020 Progress Tables, Progress by Population Group, and Foundation Health Measures for a deeper dive into the final progress status for objectives and measures.

### [Healthy People 2030 Crosswalk](#)

To help you continue your work in the new decade, we've created a tool that labels each [Healthy People 2020](#) objective as retained (with data that can be compared across decades), modified, related, or removed, and directs you to any similar objectives in Healthy People 2030. Explore [what else has changed since Healthy People 2020](#).

To register, please click [here](#).

## The Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Training Program Over 1000 CHWs Have Been Certified in Maryland!

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MDAC has long recognized the critical role that CHWs play in helping individuals navigate pathways to good health. They work with individuals in their homes to improve health behaviors, address social determinants of health, and facilitate access to needed services. They also conduct workshops to help individuals manage chronic diseases and participate in outreach events to educate the public on the benefits of good health behaviors. CHWs provide a critical link to better health, working in health departments, clinics, senior centers, hospitals, area health education centers, and community organizations. The job of a community health worker requires core competencies including cultural humility; strong communication, interpersonal, observational, and organizational skills, and a solid foundation in care coordination, health education, outreach, and capacity building.

[The Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Certification Training Program Accreditation Application](#). The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is accepting accreditation applications from Community Health Worker (CHW) training programs. Individuals who complete an accredited CHW certification training program may apply to MDH for certification.

Webinars are listed below to learn about the requirements and application process for CHW training programs which are accredited by MDH, and the Maryland OneStop application process. Dates and Times for the webinars are:

- March 29, 10 am - 11 am
- April 19, 2 pm - 3 pm
- May 23, 2 pm - 3 pm
- June 23, 11 am - noon

[Register here](#) to pre-register for a webinar. Following the registration, your login information will be sent a few days prior to the webinar.

[Is it Time to Renew your CHW Certificate?](#) Community health worker (CHW) certificates are effective for two years from the issued date. Webinars are scheduled to address the requirements and application

process for CHWs to renew a CHW certificate as well as information on the 20 hours of professional development required for CHW certificate renewal. CHW Certificate Renewal Application Webinars will be held on:

- April 8, 10 am - 11 am
- May 11, 11 am - noon
- June 16, 11 am - noon

[Register here](#) for one of these webinars. Login information will be sent a few days prior to the webinar.

For additional information on Community Health Worker Certificate Renewal in English, [click here](#).

Para [más información](#) sobre la renovación del Certificado de Promotor(a) de Salud en español.

## **Improving Maternal Health in the Postpartum Period: Strategies, Models, and the Postpartum Coverage Extension Option**

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) invites you to attend a webinar on improving maternal health during the postpartum period. Most pregnancy-related deaths occur during the postpartum period, from one day to 12 months after delivery, and many deaths are the result of conditions that can be addressed with high-quality, ongoing postpartum care. This webinar will describe the clinical and social risks postpartum individuals face that contribute to their morbidity and mortality and strategies to improve postpartum care and outcomes. This webinar will also look at how the American Rescue Plan's 12-month postpartum extension option in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides the time and access to care needed to better meet the needs of postpartum individuals.

During this webinar, presenters will:

- Describe the need to increase the use and quality of postpartum care to improve health outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries
- Describe evidence-informed drivers of equitable access to high quality postpartum care:
  - Cross-cutting strategies
  - Person-centered models of care
  - Addressing specific needs
- Share examples of state Medicaid and CHIP agency strategies to improve postpartum care and outcomes

**Register for webinar [here](#).**

Date: March 25, 2022

Time: 2:00-3:00 PM EST



*The Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health submitted the following article:*

## **Maryland Dent-Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program For Dentists Now Accepting Applications**

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The Maryland Dent Care Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MDC-LARP) is the student loan repayment program **for dentists**. Like similar physician repayment programs, MDC-LARP provides student loan repayment assistance to dentists for treating Maryland's most vulnerable populations. The purpose of MDC-LARP is to increase access to oral health care services for Maryland Medical Assistance Program (MMAP) recipients by increasing the number of dentists treating this population.

Applications are now being accepted for a 3-year term starting January 1, 2023 and are due no later than **July 29, 2022**.

Application eligibility requirements for the Maryland Dent-Care Loan Assistance Program are:

- Be a licensed dentist in the State of Maryland,



- Have outstanding higher education loan debt,
- Be able to serve three years in a full-time (minimum 32 hours clinical with 8 hours administrative), eligible, dental practice site(s). (Providers having completed 3 years of service in the MDC-LARP program are not eligible to re-apply.)
- Treat a minimum of 30% Maryland Medicaid recipients as a portion of the total patient population already being seen at practice site,
- Be enrolled with the Maryland Healthy Smiles Program, and
- Able to keep record of all patients treated (Medicaid and non-Medicaid) and provide monthly written reports to the Office of Oral Health.

Additional program information, including application materials, can be found on the Office of Oral Health's [website](#).

Questions? Contact Stacy Costello, MDC LARP Program Manager, [stacy.costello@maryland.gov](mailto:stacy.costello@maryland.gov)

***“Maryland must follow the data that demonstrates dental coverage improves overall health and saves money in managing chronic diseases and substance use disorders. Perhaps even more important, we need to recognize the dignity of all those who participate in Medicaid.”***

Guest Commentary Lawmakers: Now Is the Time for Equity in Maryland Medicaid for Dental Coverage

Senators Malcolm Augustine and Guy Guzzone and Delegates Bonnie Cullison and Mike McKay

February 11, 2022 Maryland Matters

## NEWS & RESOURCES

### Access to Care

[Three Opportunities Facing Oral Health in 2022](#)

[The New Healthy Anne Arundel Coalition Website & Newsletter](#)

### Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

### COVID-19

[COVID-19 vaccines may benefit oral health](#)

[\\$2B in Provider Relief Fund Payments Heading to Providers](#)

[Employment Patterns of Dental Hygienists in the United States During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An update](#)

### Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

### Disease Prevention

## MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



Thousands of Maryland adults are accessing dental care through the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program.

According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2022 through March 15, 2022:

- 1,564 claims were submitted
- 1,224 unique members filed valid claims
- 25 members met annual \$800 cap
- 343 unique providers submitted claims
- \$262,203.51 paid

From January 1, 2021 through December 28, 2021:

- 9,027 claims were submitted
- 4,464 unique members filed valid claims
- 367 members met annual \$800 cap
- 591 unique providers submitted claims

[Preventive Dental Care and Oral Health of Children and Adolescents With and Without Heart Conditions — United States, 2016–2019](#)

## Health Equity

[Improving Health Equity in Medicaid: Data Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities | AcademyHealth](#)

[NIDCR highlights need to improve health inequities](#)

## Maternal and Child Health

[Tips for Good Oral Health During Pregnancy \(video\)](#)

## Medical/Dental Integration

[What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration](#)

[The Secret Lives of Baby Teeth](#)

## Medicaid

[Three Reasons Why Adults on Medicaid Need Dental Coverage](#)

## Oral Health Data

[USPHS Chief Dental Officer Newsletter, Issue #62 - March 2022](#)

[NIDCR: Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges](#)

[National Oral Health Data Portal](#)

## Oral Health Policy

[Time for Dental Care to be Considered Essential in US Health Care Policy](#)

## Oral and Overall Health

[Association Between Poor Oral Health and Developing Mental Health Issues Underscores Value of Dental Hygiene, says A-Z Dental Care](#)

## Teledentistry

[Telemedicine for Older Adult Nursing Home Residents to Avoid Emergency Department Visits: The Experience of the NHTeleED Project in Maryland](#)

· \$1,401,525.54 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

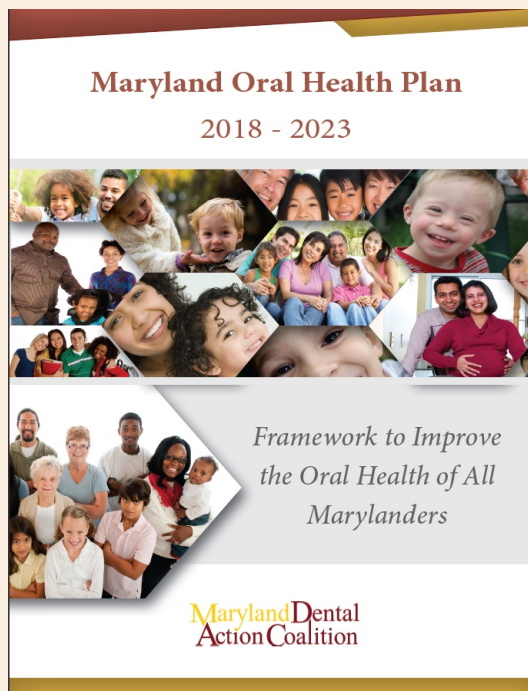
- 7,942 claims were submitted
- 4,151 unique members filed valid claims
- 313 members met annual \$800 cap
- 576 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,286,280.60 paid

Since the launch of the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program, Medicaid has paid \$4,262,757.90 in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

## MDAC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT FOR A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN MARYLAND MEDICAID

**SIGN ON NOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!**

## 2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS



The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas: access to oral health care, oral disease and injury prevention, and oral health literacy and education.

**DOWNLOAD THE PLAN**

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

[The Growing Popularity of Dental Patient Portals](#)

[How a Virtual Visit to Your Dentist Can Help Keep Your Smile Bright](#)

## Water Fluoridation

[All About Fluoride](#)

## Workforce

[Development and maintenance of a successful dental data repository](#)

[Pandemic Bit Into Supply of Dental Hygienists](#)

[Oral Health Equity Leader: Pediatric Care - Online Course](#)

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## EVENTS

[State Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Advisory Committee Meeting April 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Google Meet: \[meet.google.com/xga-jocz-uha\]\(https://meet.google.com/xga-jocz-uha\) Phone: 641-519-0687 PIN: 926 824 243 # \[Pre-register for the meeting HERE\]\(#\)](#)

[2022 National Oral Health Conference, April 11-13, 2022](#)

[Mid Atlantic Telehealth Resource Centers Annual Conference Concord, NC \(Virtual and In Person\) April 24-26, 2022](#)

[Annual Rural Health Conference May 10-13, 2022 Albuquerque, N.M.](#)

[NNPHI Annual Conference, May 17-19, 2022](#)

[2021 Virtual Maryland Rural Health Conference October 24 – 25, 2022. \[Look for additional details in the spring of 2022!\]\(#\)](#)

## WEBINARS

[Henry Schein Dental Academy Presents The More You Know: Treating Older Adult Patients. On-Demand recording from 1/12/2022](#)

[2022 National Day of Racial Healing for the Oral Health Community \(recorded video - 1/18/2022\)](#)

[Addressing Rural Health Needs: COVID-19, Equity and Access to Care - Recording from 2/28/22](#)

[Launch of PCC's campaign: Better Health - Now Mar 29, 2022 01:00 PM in Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

[Maternity Care Workforce Expansion: Creating New Opportunities for Doulas Date and Time: March 29, 2022, 1:00-2:00 PM ET](#)

[2022 Politico Health Care Summit The Future of US Healthcare Thursday, March 31- 10:00 AM ET / 7:00 AM WATCH LIVE or IN PERSON](#)

[The National Academy for State Health Policy State Strategies to Support Telehealth Infrastructure April 7, 2022 1pm-2pm](#)

[Using Social Determinants Data to Prioritize Counties with Highest Need April 20, 2022 | 12:00 pm PT/3:00 pm ET](#)

[Care Model Redesign: Navigating Digital Transformation Where Are You On the Risk-Taking Continuum April 24-26, 2022](#)

[2022 MDAC Virtual Leadership Summit: Optimizing Maryland's Nursing Workforce Monday, May 23, 2022 Virtual](#)

[Henry Schein Dental Academy: A Lifetime of Optimum Oral Health Begins with Pediatric Preventive Care Webinar Registration, 5/26/2022 8:00 PM in Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

[Henry Schein Dental Academy Treating Patients Living With HIV+ Registration open for 6/27/2022 8:00 PM in Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

[The National Nurse Practitioner Residency and Fellowship Training Consortium 5th Annual Conference "The Power of the Past and the Force of the Future" Monday, May 23, 2022 - Virtual](#)

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## SUPPORT MDAC



### LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

[U.S. Senators \(MD\)](#)

[U.S. Representatives \(MD\)](#)

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

Give a little to make a big impact! Your gifts, both large and small, will be used to promote good oral health behaviors, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve access to oral health care for all Marylanders, no matter where they live or what their special circumstances might be. Please help us continue this important work.

**DONATE NOW!**

MDAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions to support its activities are most appreciated. Thank you.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Jill Jacobs Diss, RDH, MPH
- Adrienne Yoe

Join us! To become a MDAC member, [click here.](#)

### CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

**Contact MDAC**

### JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

**Join MDAC**

[www.mdac.us](http://www.mdac.us)

FOLLOW US





