



MAY 2023

MDAC TO HOST JUNE ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT

Focus on Medicaid Expansion, Maternal and Child Health, and Workforce Diversity

On June 26, 2023, MDAC will host an in-person summit on *Expansion of Oral Health Coverage in Maryland - A Call to Action to Improve Health Equity*. Meeting sessions will address system changes and challenges to improve and support programs that facilitate and broaden equitable access to oral health care. These sessions will include the expansion of Maryland Medicaid dental coverage for adults, integration of oral care into maternal and child health education and outreach, and the importance of a diverse dental workforce. MDAC members, partners, and oral health stakeholders statewide are highly encouraged to attend to learn from peers and share information on programs and strategies to address equitable access to care in order to achieve optimal oral and overall health. MDAC is pursuing approval of CEUs for participation in the Summit by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. Session topics include:



Maryland Medical Assistance – Dental Coverage for Adults

By June 2023, six months will have passed since the launch of the Maryland Medical Assistance – Dental Coverage for Adults program (initiated January 1, 2023). Statistics on utilization during the first four months speak to the dire need for and importance of Medicaid dental coverage with over 70,000 unique adult members receiving care from over 900 providers participating in the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program. While it is too soon to conduct a thorough analysis on impact, the timing is right to hear from providers and care coordinators on their experience to date, including barriers to participation, challenges, impact of the new program (individual and safety net center), and more.

Improving Maternal and Child Health Outcomes

In 2020, Maryland designated Maternal and Child Health as a population health priority area under the Statewide Integrated Health Improvement Strategy. This session will highlight the importance of integrating oral health care into prenatal and postpartum care to support healthy outcomes for mom and child and will feature Maryland programs that are addressing the myriad of issues faced by this population and existing disparities to accessible care.

Addressing Workforce Diversity

Racial and ethnic minorities face a higher level of burden when it comes to accessing healthcare. It has been found that having a provider who truly represents the community they serve can make patients feel more comfortable. There is a lack of diversity in the dental workforce that is needed, especially in terms of black providers. Actions need to be taken to improve the diversity to have the best possible patient outcomes. This session will highlight the importance of having a diverse workforce and will address challenges to achieving it.

The full agenda for the June 26 MDAC Oral Health Summit can be found [here](#).

[Register Now](#)

Hidden Crisis: Pediatric Oral Health in Rural America

A Brief by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Research and Policy Center



The latest brief identifies and calls attention to challenges faced by children and families in accessing dental care. The document proposes actions for improving the oral health of America's rural children by recognizing that most effective approaches will be structured around the unique assets and needs of each community. These initiatives must involve coordination among many stakeholders working in collaboration to be impactful.

The brief highlights how local health departments can be credited with developing innovative strategies to improve community oral health. In rural Garrett County, Maryland, for example, the health department developed *Something to Smile About*; an initiative that advocated for policies to incentivize dental providers to work in the area. The department also established a dental surgical center at the local hospital and a community dental clinic, provided continuing education for medical professionals, advocated for community water fluoridation, and provided oral health education in the public schools. Among its successful measures, Garrett County now boasts the highest percentage of children who have been to the dentist in the past year of any county in the state.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry encourages providers, clinical teams, policymakers, educators, community leaders, and advocates for children to partner on similar efforts. In addition to the *Something to Smile About* program, the new brief offers examples of effective model programs in other states and shines a spotlight on pediatric dentists serving rural communities. Click [here](#) to view the brief.

On May 6, MDAC joined the Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in hosting an oral health symposium, *Championing Oral Health from Womb to/thru Adulthood: The Fruits of Medical-Dental Collaboration*, at the Maryland Medical Society, Baltimore, Maryland. Presentations from speakers addressed pediatric oral health in Maryland, legislative actions for oral health improvement in Maryland, infant/toddler oral health, oral health considerations for populations, and current caries management. The audience included pediatricians and pediatric primary care practitioners, oral health champions/practice managers, pediatric dental providers and educators. We hope this is the start of a series of symposiums addressing the critical importance of interprofessional collaboration to oral and overall health for all people, all ages.

Senator Cardin Joins Colleagues in Advocating for Better Access to Surgical Oral Health Care for Medicare Patients with Special Needs



U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), and five Senate colleagues urged the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to increase access to dental surgical facilities for Medicare recipients, especially those with disabilities. The senators pressed the agency to include a recently established code for dental surgical services on the list of ambulatory surgical center (ASC) covered procedures.

“[W]e encourage CMS to support access to needed dental surgical procedures by expanding operating room sites and urge CMS to allow the new Medicare dental code and its valuation to also be included within the ASC covered procedures list for all clinically appropriate procedures,” wrote the senators.

If left untreated, early childhood tooth decay and bone loss can result in emergency department visits and life-threatening infections, and hospital admissions. In adults with special needs and disabilities, dental infection can greatly compromise other medical conditions, which may result in the need for emergency care. Dental patient wait times for operating room access can be as long as six-months or more. Change is needed to ensure that children and adults with special needs, disabilities, and chronic health conditions are not forced to unnecessarily wait to receive treatment in a safe setting that can fully meet their needs.

Cassidy, Cardin, and Blackburn were joined by U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Steve Daines (R-MT), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Mike Braun (R-IN), and J.D. Vance (R-OH). The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Ambulatory Surgical Center Association have endorsed the changes.

Read the full letter [here](#).

During the 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly, an emergency bill passed requiring the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with the Maryland Hospital Association, to conduct a survey of Maryland hospitals to identify the availability of hospital operating resources for dentist use. In addition, the Maryland General Assembly required the Department and the Maryland Health Care Commission, in

consultation with the Maryland Hospital Association, to develop regional plans to ensure the availability of appropriate operating space for the performance of dental procedures for Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients. A report on the conducted survey needs assessment results, and regional plans are due December 1, 2023, to both the Senate Finance Committee and House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Families USA Issues New Report. Investing in our Moms: Three Ways State Medicaid Programs Can Improve Maternal Health



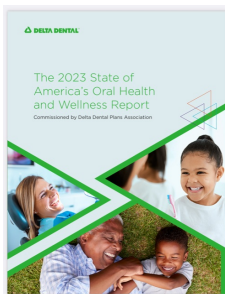
The United States is amid a maternal health crisis. Women are dying at rates the U.S. has not experienced since the 1960s. Maternal mortality rates increased by nearly 38% year-over-year from 2020 to 2021 and nearly doubled from 2018 to 2021. But it does not have to be this way. States have several policy options to combat the crisis, and Medicaid in particular should play a central role.

This [report](#) discusses how states can adopt and expand three powerful maternal health interventions to reverse recent trends: doula care, midwifery services, and group prenatal care.

In 2022, Maryland legislators passed a bill authorizing dental hygienists to co-locate in the practices of nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives, and certified midwives, for both prenatal and postpartum care. Good oral health is essential to good overall health, particularly during pregnancy, the postpartum period, and early childhood when many health-related habits are established. This legislation facilitates the integration of maternal and oral health as well as significantly addresses workforce issues women often face in rural counties.

The 2023 State of America's Oral Health and Wellness Report

Good oral health behaviors cultivated during the pandemic continue



Delta Dental commissioned a nationwide analysis of consumer opinions and behaviors of 2,000+ U.S. adults and parents of children 12 and under relating to oral health. The research illuminates what they thought about their oral health and what they did to properly care for it at home and with their dentist during 2022. Furthermore, the report indicates that adults and children plan to keep up with good oral health behaviors and positive dental hygiene practices cultivated during the pandemic.

Below are key findings from the 2023 State of America's Oral Health and Wellness Report:

A generational knowledge gap exists

- Most U.S. adults (92%) and parents (96%) say they consider oral health to be very important to overall health.
- However, when asked if maintaining good oral health enables a healthier lifestyle, 73% of Gen Z agreed compared to a higher average of 90% for Millennials, Gen X, and Boomers.

Preventive care helps avoid serious dental issues and expenses

- Approximately 4 in 5 adults (81%) who maintained regular dental visits said they did not require future unexpected care, showing that prevention works.
- Top motivators of practicing proper oral health care among adults include saving money (87%) and preventing dental issues such as cavities and gum disease (66%).

To read the full [2023 State of America's Oral Health and Wellness Report](#)

HRSA PROPOSES TRANSITION OF ORAL HEALTH PERFORMANCE MEASURE FROM NATIONAL TO STATE LEVEL

Proposal changes performance measure in place for over twenty-five years

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has proposed [transitioning the oral health national performance measure](#) in Title V (NPM 13) to a state performance measure (SPM). Oral health has been an NPM since 1997. If oral health is transitioned to an SPM, it will no longer be a national priority, and efforts to promote oral health care at the national, state, and local levels will suffer.

The current oral health NPM focuses on preventive dental visits for pregnant women and for children and adolescents ages 1–17. It is a building block that supports efforts toward achieving greater health equity for the MCH population.

Next steps for you and other stakeholders:

- See the webpage, [Making the Case to HRSA for Retaining the Oral Health National Performance Measure](#), for background information, talking points, and a sample communication to help individuals and organizations prepare comments in response to HRSA's proposed change.
- Share your perspective on the importance of oral health and on retaining the oral health NPM with HRSA.
- Send your comments by e-mail to paperwork@hrsa.gov or by mail to Health Resources and Services Administration, Information Collection Clearance Officer, [5600 Fishers Lane](#), Room 14N39, Rockville, MD 20857.
- In your communication, state that you are commenting on [Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to States Program: Guidance and Forms for the Title V Application/Annual Report, OMB No. 0915-0172—Revision](#).
- Submit comments by July 5, 2023.

We know that oral health care is most effective and least costly when it's routine. Regular oral health care can help prevent oral disease and identify small problems for early intervention before disease becomes serious.

Maryland Office of Oral Health Plans Pathways to Bright Futures



The article below was submitted by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health:

Maryland is facing a critical shortage of dental professionals, especially in regions designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as Dental Health Professional Shortage areas (DHPSAs).

Approximately 50% of Baltimore City, 90% of the Eastern Shore, and 75% of the

Western Maryland region have less than 20 dentists per 100,000 residents, far below the national average of 61. To address this issue, the Maryland Office of Oral Health is creating a program intended to connect youth living in DHPSAs to pathways in the dental professions. The program, Pathways to Bright Futures (PBF) funded by HRSA, will focus on three major DHPSAs: Baltimore City, the Eastern Shore, and Western Maryland. This is a collaborative effort working with many partners, including the National Museum of Dentistry, University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and the Maryland Dental Action Coalition.

PBF will roll out in Maryland over a four-year period with the goal of connecting 750 youth living in DHPSAs to pathways to dental professions. The PBF program has created a robust Advisory Committee to guide the development and implementation of the program and its many components. Components of PBF include: an annual event at the National Museum of Dentistry, presentations to youth in DHPSAs from dental professionals, experiential learning opportunities, scholarship awards for aspiring dental professionals from DHPSAs, and seminars and externships at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry to encourage dental students to practice in DHPSAs.

Throughout the PBF program a comprehensive communication campaign will also generate awareness of the PBF program as well as help to educate and inspire youth to participate. The PBF Program is expected to launch in spring 2024.

"The current dental workforce does not reflect the diversity that is demonstrated throughout the United States."

Cherae Farmer-Dixon, DDS, MSPH, MBA, FACD, FICD, Dean and Professor

School of Dentistry, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee

Addressing Oral Health Disparities Through Increased Access to Care and Diversity Workforce

United States Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care

NEWS & RESOURCES

Access to Care

[An Oral Health Crisis: Identifying and Addressing Health Disparities](#)
[Senator Cardin Opening Remarks](#)

[Dentists Praise Expansion of Dental Care in Federal Budget](#)

[American Indian, Alaska Native communities face 'disproportionate burden' of poor oral health](#)

[ADA chief economist presents testimony in Senate hearing in order to contribute to health care solutions](#)

[To Boost Oral Health in its Youngest Patients, NYC Health + Hospitals Adds Dental Hygiene Services to Pediatric Practices](#)

Cancer

[Oral Cancer: Recent Findings, Risk Factors, and the Role of Providers](#)

[5 major risk factors for head and neck cancers are within your control](#)

[Warning Signs of Oral Cancer](#)

COVID-19

[COVID-19 Impact on Oral Health Market Research Report 2023-2031 Market Share, Size, Trends and Growth 2023 to 2033](#)

Diabetes

[Bad Oral Health Can Cause Diabetes, Heart Diseases, Cancer: But What's The Connection With Mental Health](#)

[You, your teeth, and Type 2 diabetes - University at Buffalo](#)

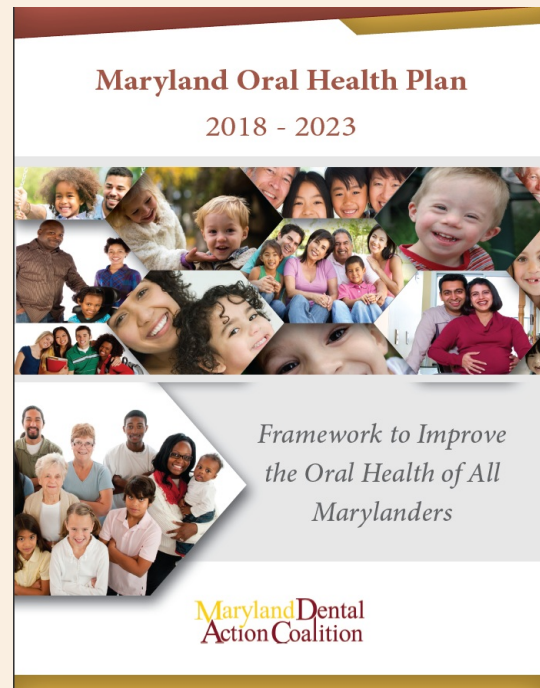
Disease Prevention

[Why Oral Hygiene Is Crucial to Your Overall Health](#)

[Dentist warns of six worrying oral health symptoms you shouldn't ignore - The Mirror](#)

[Toothache Bothering You? It May Be](#)

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.

Oral Health Data

[ADA to Conduct National Survey on EDR, EHR Interoperability](#)

[New Study Reveals Canadians' Views on Strengths and Gaps in Oral Health Care Access](#)

[American Indian and Alaska Native Communities Face a 'Disproportionate Burden of Oral Disease'](#)

Oral Health Policy

[Delta Dental Report Reveals U.S. Adults Recognize Importance of Oral Health](#)

Oral and Overall Health

[Oral Hygiene Home Care Practices in America](#)

[Something Other Than a Cavity](#)

[Yes Great Falls, Your Brain Health and Dental Health are connected. Doctor Explains.](#)

[Bumps on the Back of Your Tongue? Here's What You Need to Know](#)

[What's in the mouth, doesn't stay in the mouth: How oral health links to systemic health](#)

Fluoridation

[Federal science panel recommends revisions to fluoride-IQ report](#)

[Water fluoridation may trump free dental care in preventing tooth decay](#)

[Protecting Children from Cavities: The Case for Allowing More Providers to Apply Fluoride Varnish](#)

[Dental Fluoride Treatment Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report By Product, By Region And Segment Forecasts, 2023 - 2030](#)

[The Hard Facts About Fluoride](#)

Health Equity

[100 Million Mouths Campaign: Creating a Pilot Program to Advance Oral Health Equity](#)

[NIH-funded study highlights the financial toll of health disparities in the United States](#)

[Policy Statement: Social Determinants of Health and Improving Oral Health Equity](#)

[Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Preventive Dental Services Use and Dental Caries Among Children.](#)

[Indigenous Canadians Join Class Action Against ISC for Dental Work Done](#)

[The Link Between Poverty and Dental Health](#)

[CareQuest Institute Awards \\$2.7 Million in Grants to Help Advance Health Equity](#)

Maternal and Child Health

[The Role of Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits During Pregnancy and](#)

[Why Are Family Doctors Still Not Addressing Oral Health?](#)

[A Healthy Mouth for Every Body campaign](#)

[Prevention and Management of Discolored Tooth Preparations](#)

[Solving the Single Tooth Dilemma](#)

[Seeing is believing: Benefits of using a phase contrast microscope in dental hygiene](#)

[Value-based oral health care model helps dentists find footing post COVID](#)

[Ask a Doctor: Can gum disease cause other health problems?](#)

[Here's how oral health is overall health - Hey SoCal](#)

Work Force

[Community Health Worker Integration With and Effectiveness in Health Care and Public Health in the United States.](#)

[Early Childhood Referrals by HealthySteps and Community Health Workers.](#)

[Workforce Strategies to Improve Access to Oral Health Care](#)

[New Research from Harvard School of Dental Medicine Finds Oral Health Workforce Expansion Improves Health Outcomes in Underserved Communities](#)

[Dentists in western NC brush up on skills in new pilot program to better care for underserved](#)

[Number of bills moving in state legislatures on Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact](#)

[Lawmakers discuss dental workforce at Congressional hearing](#)

[Understanding How Community Health Workers Build Trust with Low-Income Women of Color At-Risk for Maternal Child Health Disparities: A Grounded Theory Study.](#)

Teledentistry

[Teaching Oral Systemic Health \(TOSH\) Faculty Facilitation Guide Virtual Interprofessional Experience](#)

[The Importance of an Online Presence for Dental Offices](#)

[Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry](#)

[Postpartum](#)

[30 States and D.C. Now Offer a Full Year of Coverage After Pregnancy](#)

[A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial of Prenatal Oral Hygiene Education in Pregnancy-Associated Gingivitis.](#)

[To Boost Oral Health in its Youngest Patients, NYC Health + Hospitals Adds Dental Hygiene Services to Pediatric Practices](#)

[Pediatric Oral Health Interprofessional Clerkship Guide](#)

[Prenatal Oral Health Interprofessional Experience Guide](#)

[Protect Tiny Teeth Implementation Guide](#)

[Promoting Oral Health During Pregnancy](#)

[Meet the pediatric dentist who is showing Newark how dental health is tied to overall wellness.](#)

Medicaid/Medicare

[Pediatric Oral Health Services in Medicaid Managed Care and Fee for Service.](#)

[New CareQuest Institute Analysis: More Than 14 Million People May Lose Dental Coverage Under Medicaid Redetermination](#)

[Nevada Medicaid expands dental care access for adults with disabilities](#)

Medical/Dental Integration

[Obstacles and Opportunities on the Path to Improving Health Professions Education and Practice: Lessons From HRSA's Academic Units for Primary Care Training and Enhancement](#)

[Double the Care: How Medical-Dental Integration Is Expanding Access in Ohio](#)

[Evaluation of the Oral Health Knowledge Network's Impact on Pediatric Clinicians and Patient Care](#)

[Partnering for Integrated Care: A](#)

[Frankel unveils teledentistry bill](#)

EVENTS

[2023 OSAP Annual Conference
June 1-2, 2023
The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
Tucson, AZ](#)

[Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors ASTDD Spotlight: Leveraging the MNOHI Environmental Scan in Ohio
June 1, 2023, at 1:00–1:30 p.m. ET
Join the *Spotlight* on Zoom
Meeting ID: 884 0451 9890
Passcode: 715717
To phone in for audio, dial:
\(719\) 359-4580 or
\(253\) 205-0468](#)

[American Dental Therapy Conference
October 2-9, 2023
Renaissance Waterford
6300 Waterford Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK.](#)

[Federal Service Immersion Program
October 9 to 13, 2023,
Washington, D.C.](#)

[National Network for Oral Health Access Conference
November 5–8, 2023
Denver, CO](#)

WEBINARS

[Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology Seminar Series: Caring for Older Adults: Improving Patient Care.](#)

[Oral Health Learning Café](#)

[American Indian and Alaska Native Oral Health: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

[Practical Considerations for Caring for Individuals with Disabilities](#)

[Advancing Equity Through Oral Health Grantmaking](#)

[Using Oral Health Equity Data to Improve Patient Care](#)

[Reducing the Proportion of Older Adults with Untreated Root Surface Decay \(OH-4\)](#)

[Strategies for Providing Care to Patients with Autism](#)

SAVE THE DATE

[Learning Collaborative for Primary Care and Oral Health Teams](#)

[Adopting Oral Health Integration to Advance Minimally Invasive Care](#)

[Implementation of a Community Health Worker-Focused Team-Based Model of Care: What Modifications Do Clinics Make?](#)

[Mixed Methods Evaluation of an Oral Health Education Program for Pediatric Dental, Medical and Nursing Providers.](#)

[Mobile Clinics Really Got Rolling in the Pandemic. A New Law Will Help Them Cast a Wider Safety Net.](#)

[Understanding Critical Factors Associated with Integration of Community Health Workers into Health and Hospital Systems.](#)

[Networks for Oral Health Integration \(NOHI\) Within the MCH Safety Net](#)

[Networks for Oral Health Integration Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Arizona](#)

[Networks for Oral Health Integration Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Colorado](#)

[Networks for Oral Health Integration Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net: Montana](#)

[Networks for Oral Health Integration Within the Maternal and Child Health Safety Net Wyoming](#)

[The Importance of Dental Labs](#)

[Dental licensure reform: The case for expanding interstate portability](#)

[The Importance of Going Beyond the Technical 'Drill & Fill' Skills](#)

**MDAC Oral Health Summit
June 26, 2023
Turf Valley Resort
Ellicott City, Maryland**

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

SUPPORT MDAC



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.



Join us! To become an 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

FOLLOW US

