



August 2020

HHS LAUNCHES HEALTHY PEOPLE 2030

National objectives to improve health and well-being

On August 18, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) unveiled [Healthy People 2030](#), a set of science-based, 10-year national objectives to improve health and well-being in the United States. An interdisciplinary team of subject matter experts developed the Healthy People 2030 national health objectives and targets, which focus on high-impact public health issues and how the conditions where people live, work, and play affect their health and well-being.

Since 1980, the Healthy People initiative has built on the knowledge and success gained to address current and emerging public health challenges. Healthy People 2030 contain [14 objectives related to oral health and one developmental objective](#), with a focus on improving health by increasing access to oral health care, including preventive services.

RAISE PROFILE OF ORAL HEALTH IN 2020 ELECTION

Join OPEN virtual day of action on September 2



The Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) is hosting a Virtual Day of Action on September 2nd to raise the profile of oral health in the context of the 2020 election and help candidates understand the need to address oral health in their commitments to health care. With health care as a major voter issue, this election year is critical and provides opportunities for expanding coverage in Medicare and Medicaid. However, in order to elevate the importance of oral health, your help is needed! Our voice as a collective is powerful, and so is your voice as a constituent.

How to participate:

- [Join the kick-off call](#) on Sept. 1st at 3pm EST: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/8684655884>
- Use the [Virtual Day of Action Guide](#) to select one or several virtual activities to complete on Sept. 2nd, such as:
 - Contacting your Candidates
 - Joining the Twitter Chat @ 2pm ET
 - Sharing your story on social media
 - Committing to hosting a virtual gathering
 - Completing the "Ready, Set, VOTE" template

Who can participate:

- Anyone interested in uplifting the importance of oral health in the 2020 elections! All activities are designed to be allowable for 501(c)(3) organizations.

AUGUST IS NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

CDC issues toolkit and resources for patients and providers

In the U.S., HPV (human papilloma virus) causes more than 33,700 cases of cancer in men and women each year. The safe and effective HPV vaccine can prevent most of these cases. HPV vaccine prevents five types of cancer, including oral cancers.

To help health care professionals communicate with their patients about immunizations, including HPV, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has produced [toolkits and resources](#), including key

messages to help patients stay up-to-date on their vaccines, social media messages, graphics, and educational resources.

CDC's recent ["Interim Guidance for Immunization Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic"](#) can also help health professionals plan for safe vaccine administration during the COVID-19 pandemic.



CODA ACCREDITS DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAM IN ALASKA **Improves health equity, serves those outside traditional oral health delivery system**

The American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), which accredits all U.S. education programs for dentists and dental hygienists, has granted accreditation to a dental therapy education program for the first time, acknowledging the successful program at Iḷisaḡvik College in Utqiagvik, Alaska. This is a victory for underserved communities and dental therapists who help make dental care more accessible. Dental therapy has bipartisan support and is proven to increase access to dental care. The National Partnership for Dental Therapy has long fought for more dental care access. The partnership brings together a diverse group of supporters including Community Catalyst, the National Indian Health Board and the National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity.

APPLY NOW FOR DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESIDENCY PROGRAM **Applications accepted through September 28**



The CDC Division of Oral Health is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 Dental Public Health Residency (DPHR) Program. This formal training program produces skilled specialists in dental public health who can work collaboratively with their public health and dental colleagues in an array of health settings to achieve improved oral health for populations. Applications must be submitted by September 28, 2020 to be considered. For further information, [click here](#).

MARYLAND CERTIFIES MORE THAN 600 CHWs **Four CHW training programs accredited**

There is still time to join the more than 600 Marylanders who have become certified community health workers (CHWs)! CHWs have two pathways to certification in Maryland.

CHWs may continue to apply for certification based on experience until 30 days after the state of emergency ends in Maryland. CHWs may also apply for certification based on the completion of an accredited CHW certification training program. For more information, eligibility requirements and application instructions, visit [Community Health Worker Certification](#).

For information on certification based on completion of an accredited CHW certification training program, visit [Completion of an Accredited Community Health Worker Certification Training Program](#).

The first four CHW training programs have been accredited by the Maryland Department of Health! CHW training programs seeking retroactive accreditation must submit their applications by December 31, 2020. New CHW training programs may apply for accreditation at any time. To view the CHW Training Program Accreditation website, visit: [Community Health Worker Certification Training Program Accreditation](#).

Find a list of accredited CHW Training Programs, visit: [Accredited Community Health Worker Training Programs](#).

COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION **Celebrating 75 years!**

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

This year (2020) marks the 75th Anniversary of Community Water Fluoridation in the United States. The first fluoridation of a public water supply was introduced in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1945. Since then, cities and states across the U.S. have undertaken this important step in promoting oral health. As a result, in 1999 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognized water fluoridation as one of the ten



greatest public health achievements of the 20th century.

Fluoride occurs naturally in water, but the controlled adjustment of fluoride in a public water supply can help to reduce tooth decay. In Maryland, approximately 93% of residents receive naturally occurring or supplemented fluoridated water.

Oral health affects every aspect of our lives: sleep, mental health, heart and lung health, diet, and social connections. Promoting good oral health practices and preventing tooth decay is imperative to overall wellness.

Drinking water with fluoride (most tap water) -- along with other basic oral health practices such as using fluoridated toothpaste and flossing -- provides children and adults safe and effective protection against tooth decay!

Learn more about [the benefits of fluoride](#) and how you can [give your child a healthy mouth with fluoride](#).

Note: MDAC has Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids fluoride brochures available for you to distribute in your dental practice or community center. To order, please e-mail info@mdac.us, and include a contact name, the quantity needed, and ship to address.

MRHA SCHOLARSHIP

Four CHW training programs accredited

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) is now accepting applications for their Annual Student Scholarship Program. MRHA will award scholarships to three deserving students who will be attending an accredited four-year college, community college, graduate school, nursing school and more for the 2020-2021 school year.

Applicants must be a Maryland resident accepted to and/or attending an accredited academic institution, and must successfully demonstrate how they have impacted a rural community or plan to have an impact in a rural community. The application deadline is September 1, 2020. [Apply here.](#)

"Regular preventive dental care can catch problems early, when they're usually easier to treat. But many people don't get the care they need, often because they can't afford it. Untreated oral health problems can cause pain and disability and are linked to other diseases."

-Healthy People 2030

NEWS

[Coronavirus Pandemic Magnifies History of Racial Disparities in Oral Health](#)

[Pandemic Threatens to Deepen Disparities in Dental Health](#)

[Could There Be a Link Between Oral Hygiene and the Severity of SARS-CoV-2 Infections?](#)

[Is Telemedicine Here to Stay?](#)

[Ninth Wave of HPI Poll Shows Dental Care Rebound Tapering Off](#)

[A Public Health Expert Says The Pandemic](#)

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



[Is The Tip Of The Iceberg When It Comes To Health, Equity, And Social Justice](#)

[With Fewer People on Health Insurance, Health Care Jobs Could Be In Jeopardy, Report Says](#)

ARTICLES

[COVID-19 is an Opportunity for Reform in Dentistry](#)

[Health Care Organizations Should Take Action Now to Promote Racial Justice](#)

[The Key to Excellent Patient Communication? Empathy.](#)

[Lessons from the Pandemic: What COVID-19 Is Teaching Us About Teledentistry](#)

[Getting to the Heart of It: Oral Health's Connection to Heart Health](#)

[Lessons From the Pandemic: What COVID-19 Is Teaching Us About Value-Based Care](#)

[The Importance of Good Oral Health During the Pandemic](#)

[Training and Supporting Community Health Workers and Promotores: Lessons for California and Other States](#)

[Evidence and Implementation Tools for Community Health Worker Programs: A Brief Resource Review](#)

[Integrating Social Determinants of Health Into Dental Curricula: An Interprofessional Approach](#)

[Considerations For the Provision of Essential Oral Health Services in the Context of COVID-19](#)

[Opportunities for Age-Specific Interprofessional Collaboration Between Physicians and Dentists in Pediatric Patients](#)

[Parent Perceptions of Dental Care Providers' Role in Human Papillomavirus Prevention and Vaccine Advocacy](#)

[Health Care Access for Infants and Toddlers in Rural Areas](#)

WEBINARS

[HPI: Economic Impact of COVID-19 on the Dental Care Sector \(Insights from Data for](#)

The Maryland Adult Dental Waiver Program is off to a terrific start! According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2020 through August 18, 2020::

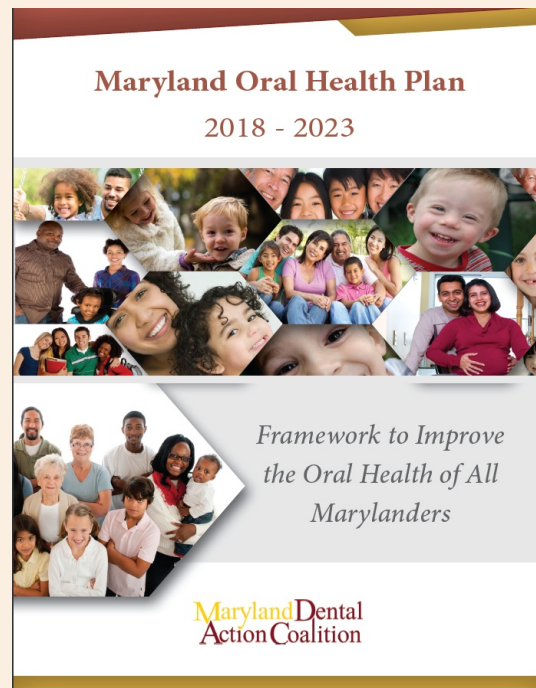
- 4,303 claims were submitted
- 2,694 unique members filed valid claims
- 111 members met annual \$800 cap
- 483 unique providers submitted claims
- \$690,852.97 paid year-to-date

From program launch on June 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019:

- 8,005 claims were submitted
- 4,262 unique members filed valid claims
- 295 members met annual \$800 cap
- 564 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,358,627.30 paid

Note: 2019 numbers have been adjusted to reflect claims received after the first of the year for services performed in 2019.

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:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance

[Week of August 10, 2020 - recorded](#)

[Five Trainings for Health Professionals to Integrate Racial Equity Into Practice](#)

[The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation \(recorded\)](#)

[CDC: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response \(Recorded\)](#)

EVENTS

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 18-20, 2020](#)

[Maryland Rural Health Association Annual Conference \(virtual\), October 19 - 20, 2020](#)

[APHA 2020 Annual Meeting and Expo, October 24-28, 2020](#)

[NNOHA Annual Conference, October 25-28, 2020](#)

coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.

- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

Oral health literacy and education:

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral health care system and establish a dental home.
- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

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

ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ORAL HEALTH POLICY

[Using Law and Policy to Promote the Use of Oral Health Services in the United States](#)

[Resources on Health Equity in the Context of COVID-19 and Disproportionate Outcomes for Marginalized Groups](#)

[Addressing Oral Health Inequities During COVID-19 and Beyond](#)

[The Fierce Urgency of Now: Federal and State Policy Recommendations to Address Health Inequities in the Era of Covid-19](#)

[Public Policy Partners COVID-19](#)

COVID-19 RESOURCES

[ADA Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Center for Dentists](#)

[Guidance on Providing Dental Care During the Pandemic](#)

[Approaches for Prioritizing Care in Response to COVID-19](#)

[A Guide to Dental Visits During the COVID-19 Outbreak \(video\)](#)

[What You Need to Know About Handwashing \(video\)](#)

[Caring for Your Teeth During COVID-19](#)

[Resources](#)

Medicaid

[Celebrating 55 Years of Medicaid at a Time When it's Needed Most](#)

[Inequities Amplified by COVID-19: Opportunities for Medicaid to Address Health Disparities](#)

[Early State Trends Signal Massive Surge in Medicaid Enrollment Related to COVID-19](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[Brush Up on Oral Health: Community Water Fluoridation](#)

[Anesthesia and Sedation Used for Oral Healthcare](#)

[Steps to Take if a Patient Reports COVID-19 Exposure After Treatment](#)

[Patient Information for Waiting Rooms in Dental Practices \(video/no sound\)](#)

[OSAP/DQP Best Practices for Infection Control in Dental Clinics During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Welcome to Teledentistry: Bringing Patient-Centered Care into the Synchronous Teledental Emergency Visit](#)

[CDC: Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Resources for Health Departments](#)

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.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

- Yishai Brown, University of Maryland School of Dentistry

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

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care

share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

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.

[Contact MDAC](#)

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www.mdac.us

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