



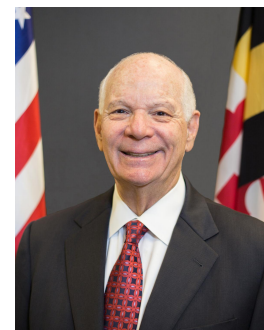
December 2021

## **CARDIN INTRODUCES MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT ACT OF 2021**

### **Bill would require Medicaid coverage of adult dental services**

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On November 4, 2021, U.S. Senators Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) introduced the [Medicaid Dental Benefit Act of 2021](#), a bill that would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to require Medicaid coverage of preventative and restorative dental services, including dentures and dental implants, benefitting tens of millions of low-income adults.



Senator Cardin introduced the bill saying, "Currently, States have flexibility to determine whether to provide dental benefits to adult Medicaid enrollees...The consequences of such haphazard access could not be clearer: higher costs and worse outcomes.. It is imperative that we use this once-in-a-generation opportunity (to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act) to increase access to dental care, which will improve the overall health of millions. To echo former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, 'there is no health without oral health.'"

The bill would help address the inequities faced by adults that have been marginalized by economic inequality and entrenched racism. Senator Cardin cited a recent report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that Black, Hispanic, and low-income adults visited the emergency room for dental care at the highest rates of any group in 2018.

## **MD ORAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS TO SPONSOR ADULT DENTAL BILL**

### **Legislation would add comprehensive adult dental benefits to Maryland Medicaid**

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At the 2021 MDAC Summit, oral health champions Senator Malcolm L. Augustine (D-Prince George's County), Delegate Bonnie L. Cullison (D-Montgomery County), and Delegate Michael W. McKay (R-Allegany & Washington Counties) announced they will sponsor a bill, to be introduced in the 2022 legislative session, that would add a comprehensive adult dental benefit to Maryland Medicaid. Senator Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County) will join his legislative colleagues as a bill co-sponsor.

Maryland is just one of three states without adult dental coverage in Medicaid. More than 30 states provide comprehensive or limited adult dental coverage in their Medicaid programs. The remaining states provide some dental coverage to most adults in emergency situations, except for the states of Maryland, Alabama, and Tennessee.

Dually eligible adults under age 65, pregnant and postpartum people, and young adults who have aged out of foster care have some dental coverage through Maryland Medicaid. However, far too many adults do not, 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.

MDAC is very grateful to legislative leaders and oral health champions Senator Augustine, Senator Guzzone, Delegate Cullison and Delegate McKay for their support and commitment to addressing the oral health disparities that disproportionately affect people of color and those with low incomes.

## **SUPPORT AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN MARYLAND MEDICAID**

### **Attend MDAC's December 15 webinar to learn how you can help**

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Robyn Elliott and Suhani Chitalia of Public Policy Partners will present the next MDAC Oral Health Equity Brown Bag Webinar, *Advocacy to Secure an Adult Dental Benefit in Maryland Medicaid* Learn how MDAC is working to secure a comprehensive adult dental benefit in Medicaid, and how you can contribute to statewide efforts.

## **POSTPARTUM MEDICAID DENTAL COVERAGE NOW IN EFFECT**

### **Dental coverage opportunity to improve oral health of mother and child**

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Effective November 15, 2021, Maryland Medicaid provides dental coverage during pregnancy and until the end of the second month following the end of the pregnancy, the same as medical coverage. (For example, a person whose pregnancy ends on December 15, 2021 would have postpartum dental and medical coverage until February 28, 2022.)

During pregnancy, seeing a dentist is just as important as seeing the doctor, as the health of a pregnant person's teeth and gums affects their health and that of their baby. Access to dental care is a significant opportunity to improve pregnancy outcomes, as poor oral health can

lead to pre-term or low-weight babies.

Pregnancy and the postpartum period is an opportune time to address oral health issues and provide oral health education. Studies have shown that when a physician talks about oral health during pre- and post-natal visits, their patients are more likely to visit a dentist during pregnancy, practice good oral hygiene habits, and have children with fewer dental caries, the most common chronic childhood disease.

## **CHOPTANK EXPANDS SCHOOL-BASED DENTAL SERVICES**

### **Will serve students in Kent, Queen Anne's County public schools**

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Choptank Community Health Systems has increased access to oral health care on Maryland's Eastern Shore through the addition of school-based dental services in Kent and Queen Anne's County public schools. Choptank also provides school-based dental services in Dorchester County public schools, and dental and medical services in Caroline and Talbot County public schools. Registered dental hygienists provide dental screenings, fluoride treatments, sealant applications, and oral health screenings on-site, limiting the amount missed classroom instruction.



School-based health centers provide dental and medical care to students in Pre-K through 12th grade, regardless of a student's race, ethnicity, or family income.

## **SEALANTS FOCUS OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

### **Posters, program guide now available for February observance**

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"Sealants Make Sense" is the theme for the 2022 National Children's Dental Health Month, a national month-long observance held each February to promote the benefits of good oral health to children and their caregivers. According to the American Dental Association (ADA) Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, dental sealants placed on permanent molars can reduce the risk of caries by 80%.

To help dental professionals, healthcare providers, and educators promote the benefits of good oral health and preventative care such as dental sealants, the ADA has issued posters, flyers, and a planning guide that includes easy-to-do activities, program planning tips, a sample National Children's Dental Health Month proclamation and more that you can find [here](#).

## **NHSC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION CYCLE NOW OPEN**

### **Applications due by February 3, 2022**

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The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Programs 2022 application cycle is now open and accepting applications. Funding from the American Rescue Plan has enhanced the amount of funds available and increased the number of eligible applicants to be awarded in this year's application cycle than previous years.

For provider sites, clinicians may qualify for an award even if they work at an NHSC site with a Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) score deemed too low to be competitive for NHSC awards in recent years. These programs can be used to assist with recruitments and retention of providers in underserved

areas.

To check if your provider site is located in a HPSA, use the [HPSA Finder tool](#). For more information, [click here](#).

## OOH GUIDE LISTS PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL RESOURCES

Helps families, caregivers, and advocates find affordable dental care services



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

The Maryland Oral Health Resource Guide is produced by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health, to assist families, caregivers and advocates in finding affordable public health dental care services in Maryland and in the immediate surrounding regions.

The dental public health programs or facilities listed in the directory provide discounted, low-cost, and/ or special needs dental services. Information about other resources including the Maryland Healthy Smiles Program and programs in nearby Delaware and Washington, D.C. also are listed. The 2021 Oral Health Resource Guide is available [online](#). Hard copies are available by contacting the Office of Oral Health, [mdh.oralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.oralhealth@maryland.gov)

### Other news:

This year the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health supported Kinera's Trunk or Treat event which is an inclusive community event open to all children/youth/teens. Oral health educational materials and dental kits, to prevent dental disease, were included with their treats for their Halloween event.

Kinera Foundation is a non-profit organization, started in 2013 as a grassroots parent-to-parent support group by a mom with an autistic child. The mission of the Kinera Foundation is to help individuals with disabilities and special health care needs, and their families, by providing resources to support, inform and connect them with services and opportunities that will enhance their quality of life. In 2016, Kinera received grant funding to open the doors to a therapy, family-centered clinic at the KRM Chesapeake Bay Business Park, that serves children/youth/teens/young adults who have disabilities and special health care needs.

Photos can be viewed on the Kinera's Facebook page ([20+ Kinera Foundation | Facebook](#))

**"We should be working to strengthen and expand access to quality, affordable dental care for all Americans, regardless of age or income. "**

*-U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)*

### NEWS & RESOURCES

#### Access to Care

[The Unique Dental Care Barriers for Maryland's Medicaid, Elderly, and Migrant Communities](#)

#### Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

#### COVID-19

[COVID-19 Challenges and Consequences](#)

[U.S. Kids' Preventive Dental Care Slipped during Pandemic](#)

[Ventilation is Critical to Battling](#)

### 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,

## [Covid](#)

[Study Uncovers a Process in Cells that May Limit Infectivity of SARS-Cov-2](#)

[Dental Providers in Medicare/Medicaid Settings Must Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19](#)

[Why Having Bad Oral Health Could Raise the Risk of COVID](#)

## **Diabetes**

[What Can You Do to Improve the Oral Health of Your Patients with Diabetes?](#)

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

## **Disease Prevention**

[UMass Amherst Research Finds 'Very Low Rates' of Recommended Fluoride Varnish Treatment for Young Children](#)

[Trial to Explore Fluoridated Bottled Water for Caries Prevention](#)

[Brush Up on Oral Health \(tip sheets\)](#)

## **Health Equity**

[Why Dental Care Costs So Much In The U.S. \(video\)](#)

[Actions Anyone Can Take to Start Addressing Structural Racism in Health Care](#)

[Cross-Agency Partnerships for Health Equity: Understanding Opportunities Across Medicaid and Public Health Agencies](#)

[Project Accessible Oral Health Promoting Equal Access to Oral Care for People with Disabilities](#)

## **Medical/Dental Integration**

[USPSTF: Primary Care Clinicians with Younger Patients Should Prescribe, Apply Fluoride](#)

[Oral Health, Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment: A Framework for Increased Coordination and Integration](#)

[Integrating Oral Health Into Primary Care](#)

2021 through November 30, 2021:

- 7,983 claims were submitted
- 4,153 unique members filed valid claims
- 304 members met annual \$800 cap
- 574 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,236,063.58 paid

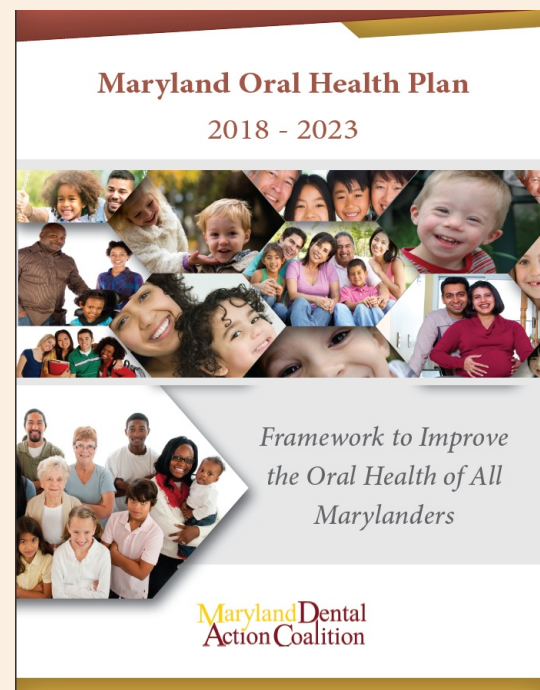
From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

- 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

*Note: 2020 numbers have been adjusted to reflect claims received after the first of the year for services performed in 2020.*

Since the June 1, 2019 launch of the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program, Medicaid has paid \$3,882,741.89 in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

## **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.

## **WEBINARS**



[A Qualitative Study of Health Care Providers' Views on Integrating Oral Health into Prenatal Care](#)

[Interprofessional Oral Health Collaboration: A Survey of Knowledge and Practice Behaviors of Hospital-Based Primary Care Medical Providers in New York City](#)

## Medicaid

[The Association Between Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage and Children's Oral Health](#)

[Medicaid Adult Beneficiaries Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions](#)

[A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Oral Health Care Spending over the Life Span in Commercial- and Medicaid-Insured Populations](#)

## Medicare

[Why We \(Still\) Need to Add Dental to Medicare](#)

[I Know How Lobbyists Make Sure Americans Don't Get Dental Care—I Was One of Them](#)

[The Push to Add Dental Coverage to Medicare](#)

[Getting Dental Coverage Added to Medicare Faces Pushback From Some Dentists](#)

[Denied Care, Millions of Americans Condemned to Toothache](#)

## Oral Health Policy

[Communities Must Be At the Center of Oral Health Policy Solutions](#)

[Equity and Community Engagement in Statewide Oral Health Policy Advocacy](#)

[Caries Prevention Partnership Advocacy Toolkit](#)

## Rural Health

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

## Teledentistry

[Teledentistry: Innovation to Improving Access and Delivery to](#)

[The COVID-19 Crisis: Past, Present, and Future, December 14, 2021](#)

[Effective Community Health Worker Programs: Critical Inputs for Supportive Systems, December 14, 2021](#)

[Best Practices for Teledentistry Today and in the Future, December 16, 2021](#)

[HIV Discrimination, Privacy and Confidentiality: Impact on the Delivery of Oral Healthcare, January 11, 2022](#)

## PODCASTS

[Putting Teeth Into Medicare](#)



## MDAC ORAL HEALTH EQUITY BROWN BAG WEBINAR:

### HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN MARYLAND MEDICAID

December 15, 2021 at 12:00 Noon

Join us via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82124233193>

## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

## SUPPORT MDAC

## Value-Based Care

[They're Not Just "Little Adults" — Value-Based Payment Models that Include Children Must Focus on Their Needs](#)



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:

- Brenda Shah, DDS

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

