

News

[Jerome Adams, M.D. Confirmed as New U.S. Surgeon General](#)

[MD Researchers Describe Role of Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic in Building Community Capacity and Meeting Unmet Need](#)

[Gum Disease Tied to Cancer Risk in Older Women](#)

[Oral Health Component Added to NLN's Advancing Care Excellence for Seniors Faculty Resources](#)

[Energy and Commerce Passes Action for Dental Health Bill](#)

[Prevalence of Caries in Older Children Remains Unchanged](#)

Upcoming Events

[Meeting of the \(HHS\) Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion & Disease Objectives for 2030, September 6-7, 2017](#)

[National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Annual Meeting 2017, September 6-7, 2017](#)

[Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic & Health Equity Festival, September 7-10, 2017](#)



Next MDAC Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
5:30-7:30 PM
8901 Herrmann Drive
Columbia, MD 21045

[ASTHO Policy Summit, Gala, and Annual Meeting, September 19-21, 2017](#)

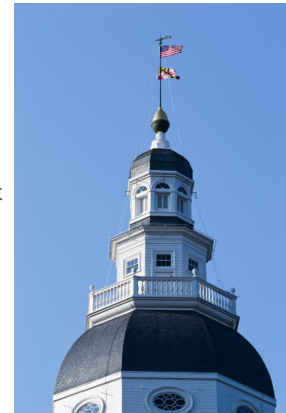
[The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Conference on Improving Population Health Now, Across People's Lives, and Across Generations to Come, October 2-4, 2017](#)

Maryland Dental
Action Coalition
Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders



Moving Ahead on Adult Dental Coverage in Medicaid

MDAC is continuing the campaign to establish adult dental coverage in Medicaid. We made great strides with the passage of [Senate Bill 169](#). The bill authorizes MDAC to study the costs of emergency room visits for chronic dental conditions. Our findings will help determine if Medicaid funds should be redirected from the emergency room into adult dental coverage. The study must be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Department of Health by December 1, 2017.



MDAC is working on the study with Dr. Natalia Chalmers, DDS, Ph.D. at the DentaQuest Institute. Dr. Chalmers has extensive experience with emergency room data. Her most recent publication is [Racial Disparities in Emergency Department Utilization for Dental/Oral Health-Related Conditions in Maryland](#) in the July issue of *Frontiers in Public Health*.

Please stay tuned. There will be some exciting advocacy opportunities in the next few months. This is a team effort, and MDAC appreciates the collaboration of all our partners. We will make adult dental coverage in Medicaid into a reality.

Without Federal Funding, CHIP Scheduled to Expire in September

Twenty years ago this month, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was founded to provide free or low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private insurance for their children. In 2009, dental coverage became a guaranteed part of CHIP programs.

Although more than 1 in 8 children were covered by CHIP in 2016, including [137,592 in Maryland](#), the [future of state CHIP programs is uncertain](#). Federal funding for CHIP expires on September 30, which could result in freezing programs or disenrolling children. Maryland's CHIP program depends on federal funds that pay the majority of CHIP costs. Without federal funding, many children in Maryland will be left unsupported, and in many cases, uninsured.

MDAC needs your help to protect Maryland children. Please reach out to your members of Congress and state legislators to ask for their support to extend federal funding for CHIP. The good progress we've made in improving children's oral health depends on it.

For further information on how CHIP would impact oral health - and how you can help - visit the [Children's Dental Health Project](#).

**Become an Oral Health Advocate for
OHA Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill**

[Oral Health America Fall for Smiles Advocacy Day, October 3-4, 2017](#)

[2017 Maryland Rural Health Conference, October 5-6, 2017](#)

[National Network for Oral Health Access Conference, November 12-15](#)

[Mid-Atlantic PANDA Train the Trainer 2017, November 17, 2017](#)

[8th Annual Ava Roberts Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Seminar, December 1, 2017](#)

Resources

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

[Trust for America's Health Special Analysis: How Healthy is Your Congressional District?](#)

[Maryland Department of Health HPV Toolkit](#)

[HPV Fact Sheets for Parents](#)

[HPV Fact Sheets for Parents \(Spanish\)](#)

[Oral Health America Teen and Young Adult Oral Health Fact Sheet](#)

[Fun Family Activities to Teach Your Child About Oral Health](#)

[Updates to the ASTDD Child Basic Screening Survey](#)

[ASTDD Dental Hygienist Liaisons Webcast: Strategies to Increase the Impact of State Dental Hygienist Liaisons](#)

[Blog: The Evolution of Shared Savings Payment Methodologies for Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids \(Spanish\)](#)

[University of Maryland School of Public Health: Healthy Mouths for You and Your Baby](#)

[University of Maryland School of Public Health: Healthy Mouths for You and Your Baby \(Spanish\)](#)

[5 Reasons Why Fluoride in Water is Good for Communities](#)

[Scientific Review: Fluoride and Dental Caries](#)

As part of its annual [Fall for Smiles](#) campaign, Oral Health America invites individuals and organizations to join them in Washington, DC on October 3-4, 2017 to raise awareness of oral health issues. The theme of this year's Advocacy Day is Our Families, Our Future: Achieving Oral Health Equity.

[Register](#) as an oral health advocate and join OHA in briefing members of Congress on current issues in oral health, including oral health disparities and the need for equal access to oral healthcare to achieve good oral health outcomes. Oral Health America will provide training and assistance, including scheduling congressional meetings. The registration deadline is Friday, August 28, 2017,

MDAC Needs Your Opinion on Maryland Oral Health Access and Providers



Great strides have been made in Maryland to improve oral health care access for all. These gains are in no small part due to the hard work of all our MDAC members. Our work however is not done while we still have Marylanders without access to needed oral health care and oral health providers. We at MDAC will continue to work to ensure oral health care access is available for all. Your thoughts, opinions and input are vitally needed to guide our future work. We hope you will take a few minutes to answer [this brief survey](#) on Maryland oral health access and providers.

Thanks for your time and contribution.

Donna Behrens, Alice Horowitz, and Bill Maas
Board of Directors
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

MD Department of Health Seeks Help to Address HPV

Earlier this month, the Maryland Department of Health sent a letter to Maryland dental care professionals seeking their help in addressing under-vaccination of adolescents against the Human Papillomavirus, which infects about 14 million people each year and poses a significant public health risk. HPV can cause cervical, penile, anal, and throat cancers in both men and women, but can be prevented.

The Maryland Department of Health has asked dental professionals to encourage parents to have their preteen boys and girls vaccinated at age 11 or 12, because the HPV vaccine provides protection before exposure to the virus. Click [here](#) for further information about HPV.

Sugar Free Kids Maryland Scores 2 for Healthy Drinks and Snacks

Sugar Free Kids Maryland recently scored two major victories to make it easier for people in Montgomery and Prince George's counties to make healthy choices.

In late July, Montgomery County began implementation of a [bill](#) approved in April to remove unhealthy beverages and snacks from county vending machines and replace them with healthier ones.

On August 2, a [bill](#) unanimously approved by the Prince George's County Council to increase healthy vending options on county property, was approved by County Executive Rushern Baker.

These bills are an important step forward in preventing chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease and tooth decay.

Dental Mission of Mercy Seeks Volunteers

[Scientific Review: Fluoride Toothpaste](#)

[Fluorosis Facts](#)

[Is Fluoride Good for Your Teeth?](#)

[Community Water Fluoridation](#)

Legislative Contacts

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

Contact Us

Do you have events or announcements you'd like us to post in the MDAC newsletter? Send them to info@mdac.us. We'll make every effort to include them, as space permits.

The Mid-Maryland Dental Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival is looking for volunteers to help provide 2,000 patients with \$2 million in pro bono dental care on September 7, 8 & 10, 2017 at the University of Maryland Xfinity Center in College Park, MD. Clinicians and lay people can learn more or sign up to volunteer [here](#).

MDAC Responds to Baltimore Sun Article on Affordable Dental Care for the Elderly

A [letter to the editor](#) of the Baltimore Sun from MDAC Board Chair Salliann Alborn, outlining the need for a Medicaid program that covers dental services for adults, was published on July 27, 2017. The letter was in response to a recent [Baltimore Sun article](#) on the need for affordable dental care for the elderly.

Alborn's letter outlined MDAC's work to demonstrate how the high cost to the state for emergency dental services could be reduced and reinvested in dental services offered through Medicaid.



MDAC Welcomes New Members

MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- **Wenzell E. Carter**, DDS, Montgomery County Public Health Services, Dental Services Program
- **India Chance**, RDH, Learn2Prevent
- **Ronnie Coleman**, Benevis
- **Eleanor Fleming**, Ph.D., DDS, MPH
- **Lauren Gritzer**, MPH, University of Maryland School of Medicine
- **Dushanka V. Kleinman**, DDS, University of Maryland School of Public Health

Join us! For information about MDAC membership, click [here](#).

The mission of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.