

## **CDC INITIATIVE CREATES NEW WATER FLUORIDATION TECHNOLOGY**

### **Water fluoridation now accessible for small water systems**

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded research initiative offers access to optimally fluoridated water for up to 19 million people in the U.S. for the first time.

The new fluoridation method is designed to dissolve in a small amount of water, much like the chlorine tablets used in swimming pools. This tablet system could allow nearly 32,000 small public utilities – often in underserved, rural areas – to contribute to the national Healthy People goal of providing access to fluoridated water to 77.1% of the U.S. population by 2030.



Drinking fluoridated water has greatly improved oral health outcomes for over 75 years, keeping teeth strong and reducing cavities by about 25% in children and adults. Oral health is critical to overall health, yet oral diseases – ranging from cavities and gum disease to oral cancer – cause significant pain and infections across the globe. Untreated oral diseases can lead to problems eating, speaking, and learning. Over \$45 billion is lost in productivity in the United States each year because of untreated oral disease.

“Drinking fluoridated water keeps teeth strong and reduces cavities, resulting in less pain, fewer fillings or teeth pulled, and fewer missed days of work and school,” said Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director of CDC’s National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. “I am proud we could, for the first time, make available such an important prevention strategy to so many people.”

### **Oral Disease Highlights Inequities**

The burden of oral diseases highlights disparities in access to dental care and preventive services. In the U.S., children and adults from low-income households are two to three times more likely to have untreated cavities compared to those from higher-income households. Community water fluoridation is the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver fluoride to everyone in a community, regardless of their age, income, or education.

About 35% of people in the U.S. – and most people around the world – do not have access to properly fluoridated water, often because they live in a home not served by a public water system or because their public water system lacks resources to install and maintain cost-effective fluoridation systems.

### **CDC Identifies Need for New Technology to Reach Rural Areas**

The CDC recognized some smaller public water systems would need an alternative approach to optimally fluoridate water. In 2013, CDC announced a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) external icon funding opportunity to develop a method similar to chlorine tablets used in swimming pools, so small systems could provide fluoridated water to their customers. Through a competitive, objective process, KC Industries (KCI) of Mulberry, Florida, received a CDC Phase I SBIR award in 2014 to test the idea.

Following successful competition for Phase 2 funding, the awardee created a tablet and feeder system that is economical for systems that serve between 50 and 10,000 people. Nearly 19 million people in the United States are served by these small systems — often in rural areas with less access to school dental sealant programs, healthy foods, and public transportation to get to dental appointments.

## **MDH ISSUES 2020 ANNUAL ORAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

### **Cites oral health initiatives, improvements in access to care**



Oral Health recently submitted a legislative report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly on Maryland's oral health accomplishments in 2020.

The report focuses on key Office of Oral Health initiatives, including federally funded programs such as community-based prevention services and oral healthcare-based childhood obesity screening and prevention. It also highlights the department's work to expand oral health infrastructure, including community water fluoridation, oral cancer initiatives, the HIV oral health care referral program, and state grant and loan repayment programs.

The report also outlines improvements to Medicaid dental access, including the availability and accessibility of dentists in Medicaid, Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program and HealthChoice utilization, and recent dental legislation and program expansions such as the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program.

[Read the report](#) to learn more about the oral health accomplishments in Maryland.

## **OOH GUIDE LISTS AFFORDABLE PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL SERVICES**

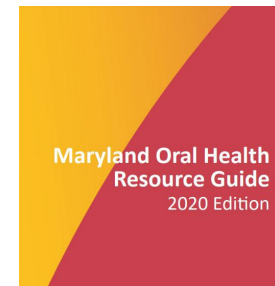
### **Valuable resource for families, caregivers, advocates**

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

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.

Only those dental public health programs or facilities that provide discounted, low-cost, and/or special needs dental services are listed in the directory. Information about other resources, including the Maryland Healthy Smiles Program and programs in nearby Delaware and Washington, D.C., also are listed



The 2020 Oral Health Resource Guide is available in English and Spanish [online](#). Hard copies are available by contacting the Office of Oral Health at [mdh.oralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.oralhealth@maryland.gov).

## **HRSA OPENS FY2021 DENTAL FACULTY LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

### **Applications due by April 19, 2021**

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The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2021 for the [Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program](#). This program will increase the number of dental and dental hygiene faculty in the workforce. Grantees will create and manage a loan repayment program for individuals who serve as full-time dental faculty.

Please note: The funding opportunity has been modified to include grant award preference to applicants who provide loan repayment to pediatric dentistry faculty.

Eligible applicants are:

- Programs of general, pediatric or public health dentistry in public or private nonprofit dental or dental hygiene schools
- Approved residency in general, pediatric, or public health dentistry
- Advanced education programs in the practice of general, pediatric, or public health dentistry

For eligibility information, see page 9 of [HRSA funding opportunity HRSA-21-019](#). Applications are due by April 19, 2021. To apply, visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

HRSA expects approximately \$800,000 to be available in FY 2021 to fund eight (8) grantees.

## **CATHOLIC CHARITIES SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

### **Applications for Prince George's County site due March 31**

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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington is seeking volunteers to serve at their Prince George's County site. Volunteers including dentists, hygienists, or dental assistants are needed to serve on a pro bono basis for one year.

To learn more or apply by March 31, 2021, see: <https://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/volunteer/ongoing/>

**"Many vulnerable and underserved populations face substantial barriers to access dental care, but community water fluoridation ensures adequate fluoride exposure regardless of access to oral health care, insurance coverage, or the ability to pay for dental care."**

*-American Dental Education Association*

## NEWS

[Del. Mike McKay on HB 547](#)

[Cardin and Wicker Team with Clarke, Gosar, Simpson and Meng to Promote Loan Forgiveness to Recruit More Dentists](#)

[2021's States with the Best & Worst Dental Health](#)

[Carroll County Health Department: Dental Health Month Focuses on Importance of Water](#)

[Survey Reveals COVID-19 Is A Major Factor In Americans' Failing Dental Health](#)

[ADA Supports Improving the Social Determinants of Health Act](#)

[Trio of Organizations Agree More Research Needed on COVID-19's Effect on Oral Health](#)

[Did a Dentist Diagnose SARS-CoV-2 From a Dental Exam?](#)

[Less Drilling, Less Germ Spray: Dentistry Adapts to the Covid Era](#)

[HHS Sued for Allowing California to Limit Access to Dental Care for Older Patients and Patients with Disabilities, AARP Reports](#)

[Improving Oral Health Through Exercise](#)

[Are We Essential? The Oral Health Paradox](#)

[Is Psoriasis Linked to Dental Health?](#)

## ARTICLES & RESOURCES

## 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, 2021 through March 16, 2021:

- 1,422 claims were submitted
- 1,113 unique members filed valid claims
- 30 members met annual \$800 cap
- 332 unique providers submitted claims
- \$233,908.93 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

- 7,717 claims were submitted
- 4,065 unique members filed valid claims
- 297 members met annual \$800 cap
- 570 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,250,084.54 paid

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

- 8,006 claims were submitted
- 4,263 unique members filed valid claims
- 295 members met annual \$800 cap
- 564 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,358,714.53 paid

## 2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS

## COVID-19

[COVID-19 Poses Significant Barrier to Kids Receiving Preventive Oral Healthcare](#)

[OSAP: Infection Prevention & Control Guide for School Sealant Programs During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Oral Health Providers Could Accelerate Vaccine Distribution](#)

[Mouth May Be Powerful Site of SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Transmission, AARP Reports](#)

[Carolina Clinical Trial Tests Effectiveness of Mouthwash to Kill Coronavirus](#)

[Marylanders Are Eligible for 'No-Cost' COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)

[Research Finds 3.1% COVID-19 Infection Rate Among US Dental Hygienists](#)

## Cross-Professional Collaboration

[Integrating Oral Health Into Primary Care: A Resource Guide](#)

[ADEA JDE: Oral Health Professionals Have Greater Role to Play in Improving Overall Health](#)

[CDC Announces Medical-Dental Integration Partnership](#)

## Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

## Disease Prevention

[Preventing Tooth Decay](#)

[How Oral Health May Affect Your Heart, Brain and Risk of Death](#)

[Can Increasing Vitamin C Intake Help Stop Bleeding Gums?](#)

[Communication Strategies to Help Disheartened Parents to Try Again](#)

## Health Equity

[The Race to Health Equity](#)

## Maryland Oral Health Plan

2018 - 2023



*Framework to Improve  
the Oral Health of All  
Marylanders*

MarylandDental  
ActionCoalition

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.

## ARTICLES

### School-based Sealant Programs

[Longitudinal Caries Prevalence in a Comprehensive, Multicomponent, School-based Prevention Program](#)

### Value-Based Care

[The Wicked Problem of the Oral Health Care System](#)

[Moving Toward Value-Based Payment in Oral Health Care](#)

### Workforce

[HPI: The Dentist Workforce – Key Facts](#)

## EVENTS

[How Federal Policymakers Can Advance Racial Equity in Oral Health](#)

[How COVID-19 is Keeping Kids Away From the Dentist — Especially Children on Medicaid](#)

[Cultural Competence: Developing Best Practices](#)

## Healthy People

[Big Cities Health Coalition and Healthy People: Making Data Accessible to Urban Health Departments](#)

[CARTEEH and Healthy People: Addressing Transportation's Impact on Health](#)

## Maternal and Child Health

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A Resource Guide](#)

[Improving Maternal Health Outcomes: State Policy Actions and Opportunities](#)

## Medicaid

[Maximizing Medicaid's Potential to Close the Disparities Gap and Improve Health Equity \(video\)](#)

[MACPAC's Recommendations Hit the Mark on Immediate Ways to Improve Medicaid](#)

[Medicare-Medicaid Integration: A Reference Guide to Emerging Evidence and Technical Assistance Tools](#)

## Oral Health Policy

[Improving Access to Dental Care for Pregnant Women](#)

[A Call for Adult Dental Benefits in Medicaid and Medicare](#)

[The Catastrophic Cost of Uninsurance: COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Closely Tied to America's Health Coverage Gaps](#)

[American Rescue Plan Strengthens Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services](#)

[Congress Should Act Quickly to Protect Oral Health Coverage for](#)



## MDAC MEMBERS MEETING

Monday, April 19, 2021  
2:30 PM to 4:30 PM  
via Zoom

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[Public Health Research @ Maryland \(virtual\), April 13-14, 2021](#)

[National Oral Health Conference \(virtual\), Fridays and Saturdays April 16-30, 2021](#)

[2021 OSAP Virtual Conference, June 2-5, 2021](#)

[Public Health Improvement Training \(virtual\), June 7-9, 2021](#)

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## WEBINARS

[Vaping and Oral Health: Seeing Through Clouds, March 25, 2021](#)

[Health Care Drumbeat: New Polling and Messaging to Move Federal Action in 2021, March 31, 2021](#)

[HPI: How COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Dental Care Sector \(recorded\)](#)

[New Research Reveals Impact of COVID-19 on Dental Hygienists \(recorded\)](#)

[Infection Prevention & Control Guidance and Considerations for School Sealant Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(recorded\)](#)

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## LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

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## SUPPORT MDAC

[People Hit Hardest by COVID-19](#)

[Oral Health Policy Equity Tool](#)

**Oral Disease Prevention**

[Survival of Silver Diamine Fluoride Among Patients Treated in Community Dental Clinics: A Naturalistic Study](#)

**Rural Health**

[Rural Early Childhood Health Promotion Toolkit](#)

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)



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.

## 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

