



May 2021

## **NY STATE RELEASES STUDY ON DENTAL CARE, HEALTH OUTCOMES** **Shows effect of preventative dental care on health outcomes, Medicaid costs**

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An important new study on [Dental Services and Health Outcomes in the New York State Medicaid Program](#) demonstrates the effect of preventative dental care on health outcomes and Medicaid costs. The study, published in the Journal of Dental Research, was funded by the Santa Fe Group, John A. Hartford Foundation, and the DentaQuest Foundation.

The study of more than 500,000 New York State Medicaid recipients, nearly two-thirds of whom have one or more chronic diseases, proposed that dental services for a publicly insured population with significant systemic disease could help reduce emergency department and inpatient admissions and costs. The analysis demonstrated lower emergency department and inpatient utilization and health care costs compared to those without dental care services.

This milestone study demonstrates the association between dental care and better health outcomes, quantifies the financial benefits of dental coverage for adults on Medicaid, and provides a roadmap to enact policies to improve the oral and overall health outcomes and the fiscal health of Medicaid.

## **NIDCR TO RELEASE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL'S REPORT IN FALL 2021** **Follow-up to 2000 U.S. Surgeon General Report on Oral Health in America**

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Oral health is integral to the health and well-being of all, and the dissemination of current advances and challenges is essential for the health of our nation. As a twenty-year follow-up to the seminal Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) will release the new report Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges in the fall of 2021.

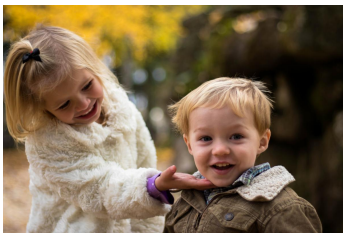
The report will illuminate new directions in the prevention and treatment of oral disease; identify disparities and inequalities in oral health care; and propose innovative strategies for ensuring all Americans share equally in the benefits of oral health. A forthcoming website and related publications will highlight data and key findings for oral health professionals, stakeholders and interest groups.

NIDCR acknowledges the tireless efforts of the hundreds of individuals who have contributed to the report.

## **U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICE SEEKS INPUT ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Task force proposes screening, interventions to prevent caries in young children**

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The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) is currently seeking comments on a [draft recommendation statement and draft evidence review](#) on screening and interventions to prevent dental caries in children younger than age 5 years. The USPSTF recommends primary care clinicians use fluoride varnish and fluoride supplementation in young children to prevent cavities.

The period for review and public comment is open to June 7, 2021.

## **ADA ISSUES GUIDANCE ON UPDATED CDC MASK RECOMMENDATIONS** **Posts FAQ regarding mask guidance for fully vaccinated people**

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The American Dental Association (ADA) has issued guidance to help

dentists answer questions and new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding mask use for fully vaccinated people.



The guidance, posted at [ADA.org](https://ada.org) and called "CDC COVID-19 PPE Screening FAQ," answers questions including:

- Do patients still need to wear a mask when visiting a dental office?
- May dental health care personnel stop wearing masks in the breakroom?
- Should dentists continue to screen patients and dental health care personnel?

The ADA guidance lists steps to ensure that everyone adheres to source control measures and hand hygiene practices while in a health care facility, including:

- Posting visual alerts (e.g., signs, posters) at the entrance and in strategic places (e.g., waiting areas, elevators, cafeterias) to provide instructions (in appropriate languages) about wearing a well-fitting form of source control and how and when to perform hand hygiene.
- Providing supplies for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, including alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol, tissues and no-touch receptacles for disposal at health care facility entrances, waiting rooms, and patient check-ins.
- Limiting and monitoring points of entry to the facility.
- Establishing a process to ensure everyone entering the facility is assessed for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to others with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, and that they are practicing source control.

The ADA reminds dentists that the CDC guidance should be considered in conjunction with any state or local regulations.

For more information on the ADA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [ADA.org/virus](https://ada.org/virus).

## **MDAC TO LAUNCH SERIES ON ORAL HEALTH EQUITY**

### **Will address critical role of oral health equity in achieving health equity**

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MDAC is launching a brown bag series to address the barriers too many Marylanders face in accessing oral health care, foster cross-professional collaboration and partnerships, and work to address oral health inequities to improve both oral and overall health outcomes.

Advocates, providers, and other experts will share how oral health equity is essential to the success of initiatives to achieve health equity. Topics will include efforts to educate all Marylanders about the oral health benefits of fluoridated tap water, the importance of provider-patient communication to the oral health outcomes of African American adults, and Medicaid and Medicare workarounds to help dental patients with signs of oral cancer access further care. The series will also address how private early childhood education centers can replicate successful Head Start oral health education programs and birthing centers can leverage the new Medicaid postpartum dental and health coverage to improve pregnancy outcomes and the oral health of mother and baby.

Further information about the series will be sent to MDAC members, partners, and stakeholders and posted in the events section of the [MDAC website](https://mdac.org).

## **ORAL HEALTH IMPORTANT DURING PREGNANCY, POSTPARTUM PERIOD**

### **OOH offers oral health tips for pregnant, postpartum people**

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

Good oral health is important for your overall health and the health of your baby. During pregnancy, changes in your body can cause your gums to be sore, red, puffy and bleed easily. If you have any of these conditions, see a dentist at once. Make an appointment to see the dentist as soon as you know you are pregnant. It is important to have healthy teeth and gums before you deliver so germs do not pass from you.

Getting dental care while you are pregnant is safe and covered by Maryland Medicaid during pregnancy and soon, Medicaid coverage will extend a year postpartum.

Following these [tips](#) will help keep you and your baby stay healthy.

## **APPLY NOW FOR CHW CERTIFICATION BASED ON EXPERIENCE**

**Application deadline is June 30, 2021**

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Applications for CHW certification based on experience will now be accepted through **June 30, 2021**. Visit the CHW Certification homepage for information about certification, full eligibility requirements, and application instructions.

To apply for CHW certification based on experience:

- Log into Maryland OneStop
- Upload the required form of age verification and two letter of validation forms
- Submit the application

Once the experience pathway closes, the only pathway to CHW certification will be based on the completion of an accredited CHW certification training program.

Join the over 750 CHWs who have been certified in Maryland!

Questions? Contact [MDH.CHWApplications@maryland.gov](mailto:MDH.CHWApplications@maryland.gov) or 410-767-5971.

**"One key factor compounding inequitable access to dental care is how many of our health care policies position oral health as a luxury: adult dental benefits are an optional coverage category in state Medicaid programs, are not considered an essential health benefit in private Marketplace plans and Medicare includes no dental coverage at all. "**

*-Kasey Wilson, Community Catalyst*

## NEWS & RESOURCES

### Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

### COVID-19

[The Pandemic Was Bad for Our Teeth. Will It Change Oral Health Forever?](#)

[Pandemic Considerations on Essential Oral Health Care](#)

[Delta Dental: The State of America's Oral Health Report](#)

[COVID-19: A Few Steps Forward: Many Steps Remaining – A Look at February and March](#)

[COVID-19 Infection Rates of Dentists Remain Lower Than Other Health Professionals](#)

### Diabetes

[Study Examines Connection Between](#)

## 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 May 27, 2021:

- 3,355 claims were submitted
- 2,293 unique members filed valid claims
- 91 members met annual \$800 cap
- 446 unique providers submitted claims
- \$539,612.30 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

[Oral and General Health in Patients with Diabetes](#)

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

## Health Equity

[Solutions to Oral Health Inequities](#)

[Fostering Health Equity: Perspectives from a Medicaid Medical Director](#)

[Leveraging Accountable Care Organizations to Address Health Equity: Examples from States](#)

## Healthy People 2030

[Addressing Oral Health Inequities, Access to Care, Knowledge, and Behaviors](#)

## HPV

[HPV Vaccination Rates Continue to Climb Among Young Adults in US](#)

[Declines in Prevalence of Human Papillomavirus Vaccine-Type Infection Among Females after Introduction of Vaccine — United States, 2003–2018](#)

[A Mixed-Methods Examination of Factors Related to HPV Vaccination Promotion in Private Dental Settings, Iowa, 2019](#)

## Maternal and Child Health

[Can Pregnancy Make Your Teeth Fall Out? TikTok User Says It's Why She Has Dentures—Here's What to Know](#)

[Health Care Innovators: Fixing America's Maternal Health Crisis \(recorded\)](#)

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

## Medicare

[Opinion: Bernie Sanders and Pramila Jayapal: We Must Fix the Gaping Holes in Medicare](#)

## Oral Health & Overall Health

[Mouths Matter More Than You May Know: Oral Health's Connection to Overall Health](#)

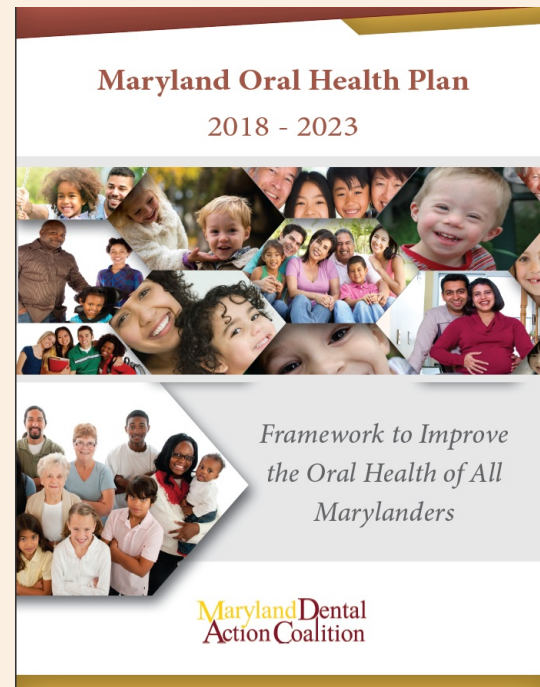
## Oral Health Policy

- 7,903 claims were submitted
- 4,131 unique members filed valid claims
- 313 members met annual \$800 cap
- 576 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,281,213.61 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 \$3,179,540.44 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

[Learning from the Convergence of Medical and Dental Insurance: Who's Driving the Change?, June 15, 2021](#)

[First Stop Enrollment: Getting it Right for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees, June 24, 2021](#)



## [Oral Health is a Right, Not a Luxury](#)

[United for Health: Messages that Bridge the Political Divide to Finish the Job on Health Reform](#)

## **Oral Health Workforce**

[Resilient Dental Schools, Better Oral Health Care for the Underserved: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on U.S. Dental Schools](#)

[Antibiotic Overprescription: Policy Considerations For Academic Dentistry](#)

[HPI: Projected Supply of Dentists in the United States, 2020 – 2040](#)

## **Patient-Centered Care**

[Delta Dental Launches Nationwide Effort to Advance Patient-Centered Care](#)

## **Rural Health**

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

## **School-Based Programs**

[Challenges in Implementing School-Based Oral Health Programs: Short- and Long-Term Impact of COVID-19](#)

## **Teledentistry**

[Preparing for Teledentistry: A Guide for Dental Practices](#)

[Teledentistry is an Effective Tool to Triage Patients and Save Money](#)

[Telehealth Best Practices: Dr Sean Boynes of CareQuest Institute for Oral Health On How To Best Care For Your Patients When They Are Not Physically In Front Of You](#)

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## **PODCASTS**

[CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky On Masks, Boosters, and Addressing Health Equity \(recorded\)](#)

## **EVENTS**

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

[The Virtual National Health Equity Summit, June 7-10, 2021](#)

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

[DDS Multicultural Oral Health Summit, June 17-19, 2021 \(virtual\)](#)

[OPEN Academy: Connecting for Collective Action to Advance Equity and Systems Change, June 22-25, 2021 \(virtual\)](#)

[ADHA 2021 Annual Conference, June 18-20, 2021 \(in person\); June 28-30, 2021 \(virtual\)](#)

[ADA SmileCon, October 11-13, 2021](#)

[MRHA Rural Health Conference: Rural Resiliency, Reflection, & Recovery, October 18-19, 2021 \(virtual\)](#)

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## **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.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

- Deborah S. Rodriguez, DDS - University of Maryland School of Dentistry

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

## CONTACT

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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

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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

