



October 2021

MDAC TO HOST NOVEMBER 10 SUMMIT ON ORAL HEALTH EQUITY

Will focus on roots of oral health inequities, actions to improve access to care in MD

On November 10, 2021, MDAC will host a virtual summit on *Actions to Improve Oral Health Inequities in Maryland*. Meeting sessions will address systems change, the roots of health disparities, challenges and opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and actions to address health inequities to improve the oral and overall health of all Marylanders. MDAC members, partners, and oral health stakeholders statewide are highly encouraged to attend. Participants are eligible to receive 4 CEUs as approved by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners. [Register here.](#)

Systems change

Systems change is needed to improve oral and overall health in Maryland and nationally. U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) provide an update on Congressional efforts to improve oral health access through changes to Medicare and Medicaid. State oral health champions, including Senator Malcolm L. Augustine (D-Prince George's County, Delegate Bonnie L. Cullison (D-Montgomery County), and Delegate Michael M. McKay (R-Allegany & Washington Counties) will discuss the legislative outlook to improve the oral and overall health of Marylanders.

Health disparities

Structural racism affects where people live, work, and play and their ability to access social and economic benefits such as housing, education, wealth, and employment. Eleanor Fleming, PhD, DDS, MPH, Associate Professor- Department of Public Health at Meharry Medical College will discuss how social determinants of health drive inequities in communities of color and increase the risk of poor health outcomes.

The Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health and Maryland Dental Action Coalition recently mapped social determinants of health in Maryland. Debony R. Hughes, DDS, Director, and Olivia Polkuzio, MPP, Evaluation and Surveillance Program Manager, Office of Oral Health – Maryland Department of Health will discuss how oral health stakeholders can use the maps to develop strategies to address the challenges faced by particular populations and regions of the state.

Meeting the challenge of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the benefits of teledentistry for both patients and providers. Sandra Garbely-Kerkovich, DMD, Senior Vice President and Chief Dental Officer, Tumouh Al-Allaq, DDS, Associate Clinical Dental Director, and Carrie Secrist Simpler, RDH, EDR Optimization Manager – Choptank Community Health System will discuss how a safety net clinic in rural Maryland is using teledentistry to improve access to care and the oral health of its patients.

The pandemic forced the suspension of many school sealant programs, but one county health department is meeting the challenge to provide dental screenings and preventive care. Learn how Gretchen E. Seibert, DDS, MAGD, Director of Dental Health and Erin Hilgeman, RDH, Dental Sealant Coordinator – Allegany County Health Department are working to prevent a growing oral health crisis.

University of Maryland Extension staff will also address the barriers to school dental sealant programs, identify unmet needs, and provide recommendations for future program growth.

Actions to address oral health inequities

Sinsi Hernández-Cancio, JD, Vice President for Health Justice, National Partnership for Women & Families, will discuss the growing inequities in Maryland's maternal mortality rates and how the extension of Medicaid pregnancy benefits to 12 months postpartum provides a significant opportunity to improve pregnancy outcomes and the oral and overall health of pregnant people and their babies.

The new postpartum dental benefit also presents an opportunity to integrate oral health into primary care settings. West Cecil Health Center is at the forefront of a multi-state project to integrate medical and dental care for pregnant women and children 0-40 months. Mozella Williams, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer and Emily Davis, DDS, Dental Director – West Cecil Health Center will discuss their innovative work to improve

the oral health competencies of center providers, increase capacity for oral health case management, and better address the needs of its patient population through interprofessional collaboration.

RADM Timothy Ricks, DMD, MPH, FICD, Chief Dental Officer, U.S. Public Health Service and Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service will give a closing keynote address on the Healthy People 2030 public health priorities to help individuals, organizations, and communities across the United States improve health and well-being. He will also discuss how state coalition partners can work to help achieve the 2030 data-driven national oral health objectives.

REGISTER NOW

MDAC, CAREQUEST RELEASE REPORT ON ED VISITS BY COUNTY

Reports show significant opportunity to reduce costs, improve oral health outcomes

As a follow-on to the *Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions in Maryland: An Update* report published last month, MDAC and the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health have released county-level reports that show the financial impact of emergency department visits in Maryland by adults for non-traumatic dental conditions from 2013-2019.



The county-level reports clearly demonstrate the opportunity to reduce ED visits for chronic dental conditions through an adult dental benefit in Maryland Medicaid.

[Learn about the cost of emergency department visits in your county.](#)

Read the report: [Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions in Maryland: An Update](#)

CHALMERS APPOINTED FIRST-EVER CMS CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER

Was lead researcher on 2017 MDAC study of ED visits for dental conditions



Dr. Natalia Chalmers has been appointed the first-ever Chief Dental Officer in the Office of the Administrator at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Dr. Chalmers was the lead research analyst for 2017 MDAC/DentaQuest study on the *Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits by Adults for Dental Conditions in Maryland*. Her presentation to the Maryland House Health and Government Operations and Senate Finance Committees on key findings from the report, coupled with MDAC's advocacy efforts, were key to the passage of legislation that established the Medicaid Adult Dental Pilot Program. Dr. Chalmers was also a member of the Medicaid Adult Dental Collaborative, where she made substantial contributions to the success of the program.

In her role as CMS's chief dental officer, Dr. Chalmers will advance the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to care for the whole person, a key to reducing health disparities and advancing health equity. Dr. Chalmers is a board-certified pediatric dentist, oral health policy expert, and public health advocate who brings more than 20 years of clinical, research, industry, and regulatory experience to CMS. Previously, Dr. Natalia Chalmers served as a Dental Officer at the US Food and Drug Administration.

ASTDD SELECTS MDAC MEDICAID ADULT DENTAL MAPPING PROJECT

Project included in ASTDD Best Practices Approach Report

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) Best Practices Committee has selected MDAC's [Maryland Medicaid Adult Dental Pilot Program Mapping Project Descriptive Report](#) for inclusion in its Dissemination of Data from State-Based Surveillance Systems Best Practices Approach Report. ASTDD Best Practice Approach Reports are meant to serve as a mechanism for imparting information on specific subject matter as it relates to improving oral health.

With the help and support of Maryland Medicaid and the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health, MDAC developed a series of maps to depict the location, by county and/or zip code, of dual-eligible adults, locations of safety-net providers that treat adult dental patients on Medicaid, and social service agencies that work with the dual-eligible population. The maps enabled MDAC to identify areas of the state with the highest concentrations of dual-eligible adults and shortages of Medicaid providers to treat them. The MDAC Medicaid Adult Dental Collaborative used learnings from the mapping project to develop a targeted direct mail campaign to make duals aware of their new dental benefit, increase the number of Medicaid providers in areas of the state with the highest concentrations of duals, and form effective partnerships with key social service agencies.

The ASTDD Best Practices Committee reviews and evaluates the Descriptive Reports selected for inclusion in ASTDD Best Practice Approach Reports. The Committee evaluates the content of each submission using five criteria: impact/effectiveness; efficiency; demonstrated sustainability; collaboration/integration; and objectives/rationale. The selection of the MDAC mapping project indicates that ASTDD has determined it will serve as a valuable resource for other organizations looking to implement a new program or to enhance an existing program.

SHEPLEY VOTED ADA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Held leadership roles in MSDA and on ADA committees

George R. Shepley, DDS, a Baltimore dentist and former president of the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA), has been voted president-elect of the American Dental Association (ADA).

Shepley served as president of the MSDA from 2013 to 2014. A member of ADA for 41 years, Shepley has served as chair of the ADA Budget and Finance Committee, Standing Committee on International Accreditation and the ADA Council on Communications, and trustee of the ADA's 4th District, which includes Delaware, Washington, DC, Maryland, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Shepley, a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Dentistry, is also a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

MARYLAND MOUTHS MATTER HELPS ENSURE ACCESS TO CARE

Program ensures children have access to preventive dental services



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

The Maryland Department of Health's Office of Oral Health (OOH) works to ensure children across the state have access to preventive services, such as fluoride varnish. The Maryland Medicaid Program reimburses Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) medical providers who apply fluoride varnish to children, ages nine months through age five. The Maryland's Mouths Matter Program trains providers on the dental caries

process, caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, the fluoride varnish application and the importance of referrals to a dental home. Primary care providers can play an integral role in establishing a dental home for their patients before their first birthday. For more information, including how to participate in the Maryland's Mouths Matter program, visit the [OOH website](#).

NIDCR LAUNCHES DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

Full-time fellowship to initiate, conduct population-level oral health research

NIDCR has announced a new full-time, three-year fellowship on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD to equip dental professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to initiate and conduct impactful population-level oral health research that improves the well-being of individuals and communities.

The fellowship includes a one-year residency in dental public health, followed by two years of mentored postdoctoral-level training, with the fellow able to choose from several important research areas related to oral health and to receive mentorship from NIDCR and non-NIDCR staff. Training is designed to fulfill the advanced dental education requirements for the specialty of dental public health, helping fellows to become eligible to challenge the American Board of Dental Public Health examination process for specialty certification in dental public health.

All application materials must be submitted by November 17, 2021. The full-time fellowship will begin in July of 2022. A stipend is available for eligible fellows and there is no tuition. To learn more about the program, including admissions requirements, application instructions, and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the NIDCR [Dental Public Health Research Fellowship](#) page.

NHSC LOAN REPAYMENT APPLICATION CYCLE NOW OPEN

Applicants eligible for up to \$120,000 in loan repayments

The 2022 National Health Services Corps (NHSC) Students to Service (S2S) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) application cycle is now open.

Students in their final year of medical, physician assistant, nursing, and dental schools are eligible to apply for loan repayment. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$120,000 in loan repayments in exchange for a three-

"The vast majority of dental-related visits to hospital emergency departments are made for non-traumatic dental conditions that can typically be treated in a dental office. "

-Financial Impact of Emergency Department Visits for Dental Conditions in Maryland: An Update

NEWS & RESOURCES

Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

COVID-19

[CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic \(updated September 10, 2021\)](#)

[ADHA Joins Call for COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Among Oral Health Professionals](#)

[Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Dental Practices](#)

[Rebuilding Children's Oral Health Care](#)

Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

Disease Prevention

[Choptank Health Expands School-based Dental Health](#)

[Fluoride Toothpaste, SDF Make WHO's List of Essential Drugs](#)

[Vaccine for Caries? It's Not Science Fiction, Says NIDCR](#)

[Few Kids Get Dental Fluoride Treatments, Though Insurance Will Pay](#)

[Meeting the Dental Needs of An Aging Population](#)

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 October 19, 2021:

- 6,964 claims were submitted
- 3,820 unique members filed valid claims
- 249 members met annual \$800 cap
- 550 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,079,543.30 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

- 7,940 claims were submitted
- 4,151 unique members filed valid claims
- 313 members met annual \$800 cap
- 576 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,286,037.31 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 \$3,725,979 in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

2018-2023 MARYLAND

[Research Examines Whether Genetic Traits Are the Cause of Periodontitis](#)

[Using Fluoride Varnish to Combat Pandemic-Related Oral Health Risks](#)

[Oral Health Facts Your Patients Don't Know](#)

[Best Practice Approach: Oral Health Care of People with Special Health Care Needs](#)

Health Equity

[Three Ways Health Innovation Can Advance Equity and Justice](#)

[Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Maternal and Child Health Through Home Visiting Programs](#)

[Engaging Families in Program and Policy Development to Ensure Equitable Health Outcomes for Children](#)

[Incorporating Racial Equity into Trauma-Informed Care](#)

Healthy People

[Healthy People 2020 Final Review Progress by Population Group](#)

Infection Control

[New CDC Training Resource Outlines Principles of Infection Prevention, Control in Dental Settings](#)

Maternal and Child Health

[Dental Care Is a Reproductive Health and Birth Equity Issue](#)

Medical/Dental Integration

[The Partnership for Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care Project 2019–2021: Final Report](#)

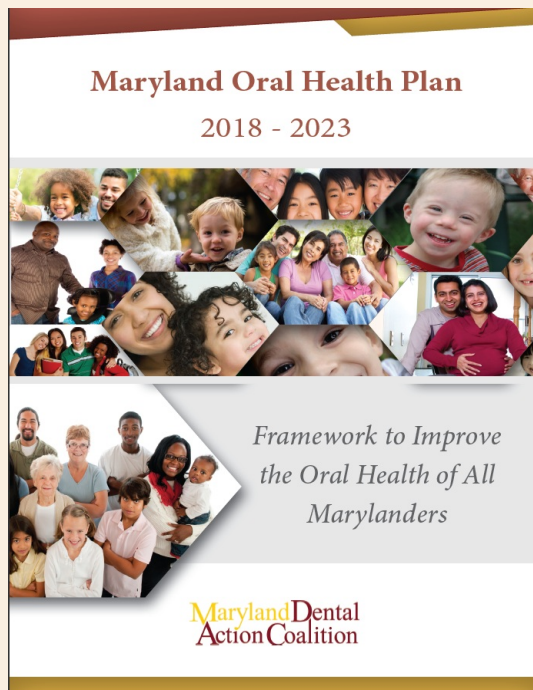
Medicaid

[Dentist Participation in Medicaid: How Should It Be Measured? Does It Matter?](#)

[Addressing Oral Health of Low-Income Populations: A Call to Action](#)

[Reimbursement Rates for Child and](#)

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.

MDAC ORAL HEALTH SUMMIT

November 10, 2021

8:45 AM - 3:00 PM

via Zoom

[REGISTER NOW](#)

WEBINARS

[The State of Oral Health: Increasing Access & Reducing Disparities, November 9, 2021](#)

[How Did the COVID-19 Pandemic Affect Dentist Earnings? \(recorded\)](#)

EVENTS

[Adult Dental Services in Medicaid by State](#)

[Comparative Analysis of Dental Procedure Mix in Public and Private Dental Benefits Programs](#)

Medicare

[Is It Finally Time for a Medicare Dental Benefit?](#)

[OPEN Medicare Dental Advocacy Toolkit](#)

[What's At Stake For America's Families: Why Congress Must Go Big and Bold in Reconciliation to Improve Health and Health Care For Millions of People](#)

[Adding Dental to Medicare Part B: 31 Million Low-Income Enrollees Would Gain Access to Medicare Coverage](#)

[Creating an Oral Health Benefit in Medicare: A Statutory Analysis](#)

[Voters Love It. Patients Need It. Why Dental Care Still Isn't Universal.](#)

Oral Health In America Report

[5 Q&As about "Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges"](#)

Oral Health Task Force

[Del. Bagnall: 'Benign' Law Offers Hope to Marylanders Seeking Oral Health Care](#)

Rural Health

[NRHA COVID-19 Resources](#)

Teledentistry

[Telehealth: Beyond the Pandemic](#)

[Teledentistry User's Guide](#)

[Teledentistry ROI: Lessons Learned in Public Health for Private-Practice Dentists](#)

[Teledentistry: What to Know and How It Works](#)

Treatment

[Provider and Public Perceptions of Silver Diamine Fluoride](#)

[APHA 2021: Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness Meeting, October 24-27, 2021](#)

[NCSL Legislative Summit, November 3-5, 2021](#)

[2021 NNOHA Annual Conference, November 14-17, 2021](#)



AVA ROBERTS ADVANCED PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY SEMINAR December 3, 2021

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.

[Six Things You Need to Know About Stress-Related Tooth Injuries Like Cracked Teeth](#)

Workforce

[Advancing and Sustaining the Community Health Worker Workforce in Baltimore](#)

[Hygienists Brace for Pitched Battles with Dentists in Fights Over Practice Laws](#)



Dental Hygienist - Charles County

The Charles County Department of Health is seeking a dental hygienist. For further information or to apply, [click here.](#)



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

- Ellen Dalina - Maryland Department of Health
- Jill Diss, RDH - NIH, NIDCR
- Brieana Harrison
- Alicia Murria, RDH, MS - Hygienists for Humanity

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

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