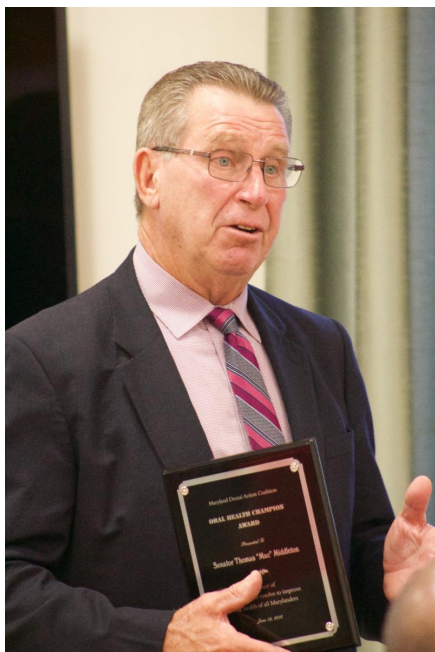


MDAC NAMES MIDDLETON ORAL HEALTH CHAMPION **Sponsored Medicaid adult dental pilot program legislation**



The Maryland Dental Coalition (MDAC) named former state Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton (D-Charles County) an “Oral Health Champion” for his work in securing passage of SB 284, which established a Medicaid adult dental pilot program that will go into effect early next year.

MDAC Executive Director Mary Backley surprised Middleton with the award at the September 12 Westlake Commercial Association “lunch and learn” event in Waldorf, where Middleton gave a keynote address on successful economic development models.

This past legislative session, Middleton, who has long recognized the importance of oral health to overall health, sponsored SB 284 – Maryland Medical Assistant Program – Dental Coverage for Adults – Pilot Program. His work to ensure that his legislative colleagues in both houses and on both sides of the aisle understand that poor oral health has both a personal and an economic cost resulted in passage of the bill.

In presenting the award, Backley said, “Maryland adults scored a huge victory and the state took a giant step forward with the unanimous passage of Senate Bill 284, which will establish a

Medicaid adult dental pilot program. The unwavering commitment, dedication, and leadership of Senator Middleton made this happen. His willingness to reach across the aisle on behalf of all Marylanders turned a formidable challenge into a reality, a remarkable example of bipartisanship at its best.”

Middleton and Delegate Mike McKay (R-Allegany and Washington Counties) are the first recipients of the Oral Health Champion Award. Both men recognized the acute need for dental coverage, particularly in rural communities in Maryland. During the 2017 legislative session, McKay sponsored HB 1158, a bill to authorize the state to provide more than emergency coverage for adult dental services. McKay’s floor amendments to SB 169, sponsored by Middleton, adopted language from HB 1158, resulting in the bill’s passage. Although the bill did not define the scope of coverage, it did authorize MDAC to conduct a study of the cost of emergency department visits by adults with chronic dental conditions. The study was key in demonstrating the need for dental coverage in the Medicaid program to enable adults to establish a dental home, obtain preventive care, and avert costly dental conditions.

Backley presented McKay with his award at MDAC’s June statewide convening.

[Read more](#) about the findings that led to the passage of the Medicaid adult dental pilot program.

Photo by Paul Lagasse, The Maryland Independent

MDAC SUBMITS LETTER IN SUPPORT OF §1115 WAIVER AMENDMENT **Outlines benefits of adult dental coverage**

[In an August 17 letter](#) to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in support of the Maryland Department of Health’s proposed §1115 waiver amendment to establish an adult dental pilot program, MDAC cited the importance of oral health to overall health and outlined the benefits of adult dental coverage in Maryland Medicaid.

MDAC requested approval of the waiver amendment, noting that a study of the cost of emergency department visits by adults for chronic dental conditions showed that the Maryland Medical Assistance Program spent a total of \$10 million for emergency department visits and \$1.4 million for inpatient visits in

fiscal 2016. Medicaid paid 53% of those costs, even though Medicaid participants account for only 15% of the adult population in Maryland. MDAC added that the proposed waiver amendment will allow Maryland to reinvest in funding being spent in the emergency department into limited dental coverage.

CDHP BRIEF OUTLINES BARRIERS TO CARE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN Maryland at forefront in work to remove systemic hurdles

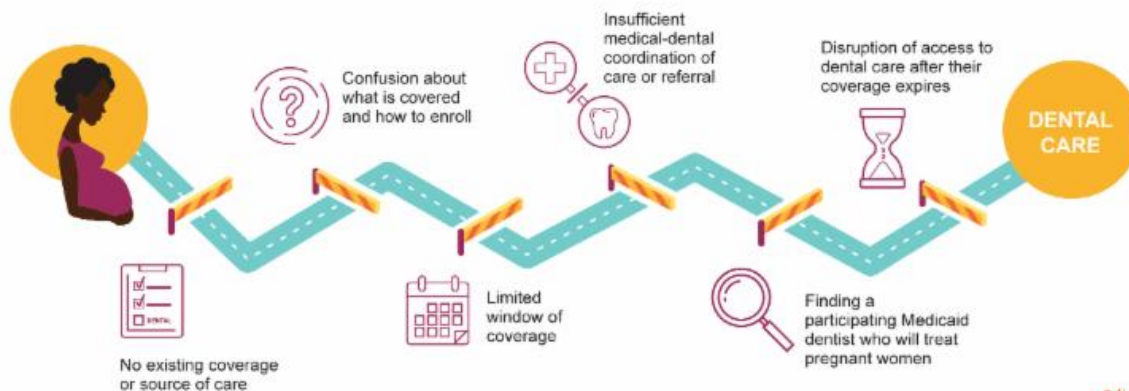
Dental Care During Pregnancy is Safe and Important



Pregnant women confront myriad hurdles when seeking dental care, ranging from confusion about Medicaid enrollment procedures to inadequate coordination between medical and dental providers, at a time when they must navigate these obstacles while meeting other time-sensitive needs. Roughly, 2 in 3 women of reproductive age are enrolled in the Medicaid program.

In its new issue brief [Oral Health During Pregnancy](#), the Children's Dental Health Project (CHDP) identified several core barriers to care that must be overcome to improve the oral health of Medicaid-eligible pregnant women:

- Insufficient data collection and reporting, which hampers the ability to know the full scope of pregnant women's oral health status and their access to coverage and care;
- An inconsistent patchwork of Medicaid dental coverage and enrollment procedures from one state to another;
- Attitudinal barriers among dental professionals and gaps in consumer education; and
- Missing opportunities to address oral health needs and literacy in non-dental settings.



Produced for the Children's Dental Health Project. For more info, visit cdhp.org



Although Maryland, unlike many states, provides Medicaid dental coverage for pregnant women through the Maryland HealthySmiles program, barriers to care still remain. Only 27% of pregnant women enrolled in Maryland Medicaid received a dental service. According to a 2014 Maryland Department of Health PRAMS Report, various factors were barriers to accessing oral health care during pregnancy:

- 24% said they couldn't afford to go to a dentist
- 17% thought it was unsafe to see a dentist during pregnancy
- 11% couldn't find a dentist who accepted Medicaid recipients
- 10% couldn't find a dentist who accepted pregnant women

Since 2015, the Maryland Department of Health, with the support of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has worked to provide oral health care services and education for pregnant women in Maryland through its Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement Project (PIOHQI). Although a healthy mouth is essential to a healthy pregnancy, half of pregnant women in Maryland do not have basic preventive care during pregnancy, and 15% report untreated oral health problems.

PIOHQI is a national leader in addressing these issues. Posters, charts and brochures to educate expectant mothers about the importance and safety of oral health care during pregnancy were developed as part of the Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids campaign and distributed through local health departments, federally-qualified health centers, safety net clinics, and more.

Most recently, PIOHQI formed an inter-professional steering committee to develop state-specific guidance for dental and health care providers. The [Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers](#) guide includes up-to-date, evidence-based information and useful resources for providers, including clinical images, a dental pharmacology chart, a dental referral form, and educational materials for pregnant women.

Untreated dental disease can have far-reaching consequences for women and their infants. It can harm a woman's overall health, may lead to birth complications, and can increase her child's risk of tooth decay. Moreover, poor oral health can impede a parent's job prospects, particularly among women in the workforce — jeopardizing her family's financial security.

The prenatal period is an opportune time to provide oral health services, assure women that oral health care during pregnancy is safe and important, and provide oral health education. Although children born to women with poor oral health are at high risk for developing dental caries, the most common childhood disease, basic oral health education can prevent tooth decay and improve the oral health of both the woman and her child.

[For further information on oral health during pregnancy](#) and to order print copies of the guidance document and free educational materials, visit www.OralHealth4BetterHealth.com and complete the [printed materials request form](#).

ORAL HEALTH MATTERS

Are policymakers paying attention? You can help!

The article below is from Melissa Burroughs, Oral Health Campaign Manager at Families USA:

Poor oral health is linked to diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes, heart disease, childhood illnesses, even lost school and work hours. Millions of Americans suffer the physical and financial consequences of untreated dental problems, and our health care system pays the price.

Yet oral health remains an isolated, and often too neglected, part of health care.

Between getting involved in conversations about oral health on Capitol Hill, elevating oral health during election season, learning more about what important oral health policies such as Medicare dental benefit could look like, and making sure real people's oral health stories are heard, there is a lot to get involved in.

Families USA's Oral Health for All campaign has put together a number of oral health resources to help health and oral health advocates speak up about this important issue.

To get involved, you can:

- Read the [white paper](#) we co-authored with a coalition of stakeholders on what a Medicare dental benefit should look like.
- Learn more about the [Action for Dental Health Act in our blog](#) explaining why this bill is a good baby step to addressing oral health issues. It should be considered in the Senate soon.
- Prepare to talk to candidates about oral health issues with our [oral health question guide](#).
- Discover the consequences of insufficient dental coverage in Medicaid through our brief [Treating Pain is not Enough](#).
- Read and share [Cheryl B's story](#) that speaks out for millions of Americans with oral health issues.
- [Share your own story](#) about poor oral health or lack of oral health coverage impacting your life.

Thanks for your continued advocacy!

CMS URGED TO COVER "DENTAL MEDICALLY NECESSARY CARE"

House, Senate send sign-on letters in support of Medicare coverage

The following update is from Melissa Burroughs, Oral Health Campaign Manager at Families USA:

Last week, the House and Senate sent sign-on letters to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services asking them to use their administrative authority to cover certain dental “medically necessary care” in Medicare. [43 House Representatives](#) and [28 Senators](#) signed these bi-partisan letters. This is a big step toward raising the profile of seniors’ oral health needs and improving coverage. You can find more detail in our blog [“Congress Shows Support for Medically Necessary Dental Care”](#).

Congress’ support for medically necessary dental care is thanks to you! Your efforts made these letters as well supported and powerful as possible.

Many network members participated in outreach to Members of Congress, educating them about this effort and encouraging them to sign onto these letters. From all of us leading this effort, including Families USA, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Oral Health America, ADA, ADHA, we appreciate the work many of you did to reach out to Members and support this effort.

Now, we must keep up the momentum!

We look forward to continuing to work with you as we keep up momentum around this issue and senior’s oral health issues and Medicare coverage more broadly. Stay tuned for more information on next steps.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WESTERN MARYLAND MISSION OF MERCY Dentists, assistants needed October 12-13, 2018

The Western Maryland Mission of Mercy is seeking volunteer dentists and assistants for its free two-day dental clinic, to be held October 12-13 at the Allegany County Fairgrounds Ag Building.

Adult patients who could not otherwise afford care will be provided free dental treatment on a first-come, first-served basis. Since its first clinic in 2010, the Western Maryland Mission of Mercy has treated more than 2,777 patients and provided more than \$2,340,000 in dental care.

For further information or to volunteer, [click here](#).

PHILLIPS APPOINTED DEPUTY SECRETARY, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES Joins MDH from Anne Arundel County Health Department

MDH Secretary Robert Neall has appointed Fran Phillips as the new deputy secretary for Public Health Services and Dr. Howard Haft as the new executive director for the Maryland Primary Care program.

Phillips, the acting Anne Arundel County health officer, previously served as deputy director for Public Health Services from 2008 to 2013. Prior to her first appointment in 2008, Phillips was the health officer for Anne Arundel County from 1993 to 2008, including a term in 2004 when she served as interim county fire chief.

Phillips will play a key role in the state’s efforts in the fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic, provide management oversight for the state’s rural health plan, and lead other state initiatives for programs including asthma, lead poisoning, smoking cessation, and more. She succeeds Haft, who served as deputy secretary since 2015.

In announcing the appointment, Neall said, “Fran will return to a role she is quite familiar with,” said Secretary Neall. “I’m thrilled to welcome her back and to see the great work she will do in leading public health efforts throughout Maryland.”

OCTOBER 14 WORLD CAVITY FREE-FUTURE DAY Groups worldwide unite to stop cavities, fight for a healthier future

Oral health stakeholders worldwide are marking the October 14 World Cavity-Free Future Day by working together to engage communities and share advice on the most effective ways to beat cavities and improve overall health.

Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of children and adolescents ages 6-19 years. Worldwide, 60–90% of schoolchildren and nearly 100% of adults have dental caries. According to 2015-2016 data from the National Center for Health Statistics at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 45.8% of children ages 2-19 years and 91% of adults over 20 in the United States have treated or untreated dental caries. Many do not know that early stages of dental caries can be prevented and controlled.



60%-90%
of school children
worldwide have dental
cavities



Nearly 100%
of adults have dental cavities.¹

1 World Health Organization, Oral Health. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs318/en/> Accessed August 26, 2016.

Cavities are preventable. By following three simple steps, everyone can work towards a cavity-free future:

1. Brush your teeth twice a day for two minutes with a fluoride toothpaste.
2. Reduce the amount of sugar you consume, and the frequency at which you consume it.
3. Make sure you schedule (and attend) regular check-ups with your dental team.

“Creating a cavity-free future will require a widespread shift in behavior that is only possible through cooperation and action,” said Nigel Pitts, Global Chair of Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future. “Now, more than ever, the dental care available to families is of utmost importance as we renew our commitment to fighting cavities while working towards our goal of a cavity-free future.”

The Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future, a global non-profit organization, established World Cavity-Free Future Day in 2016 to promote integrated clinical and public health action to confront the disease burden of caries, fight caries initiation and progression, and, along with a global community of supporters, progress towards a cavity-free future for all age groups.

More information and resources on cavity prevention can be found at www.acffglobal.org, www.allianceforacavityfreefuture.org and www.wcffday.org.

Information on global oral health status can be found at [World Health Organization Oral Health Report](#).

MDAC MEMBER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 10, 2018

Save the date for the December 10, 2018 MDAC members' meeting, to be held from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the Maryland State Dental Association (MSDA) in Columbia, MD.

We want to make our members' meetings productive and meaningful for you. If you have interest in topics that you would like MDAC to address at its members meetings, we'd love to hear from you! Please e-mail your suggestions to info@mdac.us.

FALL FOR SMILES: MAKE ORAL HEALTH A PRIORITY THIS AUTUMN

This fall, join Oral Health America in making oral health a priority by participating in Fall for Smiles. This annual communications campaign strives to educate communities about the importance of healthy food choices, regular dental visits, brush, rinsing and flossing your teeth, and avoid tobacco.

Download activities, resources and more by visiting www.oralhealthamerica.org/fallforsmiles.



ALLEGANY COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW ON-LINE COMMUNITY RESOURCE AlleganySpeaks.com hosts discussions on individual, community health

The Allegany County Health Department and AHEC West recently launched AlleganySpeaks.com, an online resource designed to encourage open conversation and community discussions about a healthier future for Allegany County.

The site includes topics relating to individual and community health, including opioid use and addiction, pregnancy and child health, and barriers to care, as well as resources including a county needs assessment and action plan and a listing of community services.

AlleganySpeaks.com is supported in part by the Public Health National Center for Innovations and the Garrett County Health Department.

"Our health care system doesn't reflect the fact that oral health is integral to our overall health."

- Mary Otto, Journalist and Author

NEWS

[Middleton Receives Surprise Award for Oral Health Efforts](#)

[Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen to Serve as New Head of Planned Parenthood](#)

[Lack of Dental Coverage Hampers Medicaid Recipients, Suit Says](#)

[The Gaping Dental Gap: As Virginia Prepares to Expand Medicaid, Thousands Still Lack Access to Dental Care](#)

[States Showcase New Programs that Integrate Oral Health and Primary Care](#)

[CDC: 1 in 4 US Adults Live with a Disability](#)

[Maryland Department of Health Campaign: "Two Minutes with Your Dentist Can Save Your Life"](#)

ARTICLES

[American Fluoridation Society: Refute of Claims of Adverse Effects on Pineal Gland](#)

[Assessing the Validity of Existing Dental Sealant Quality Measures](#)

[Rising Rates of HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancers: A Challenge For Interprofessional Education and Practice](#)

[Oral Health Quality Improvement for the Maternal and Child Health Population: Identifying a Set of Quality Indicators](#)

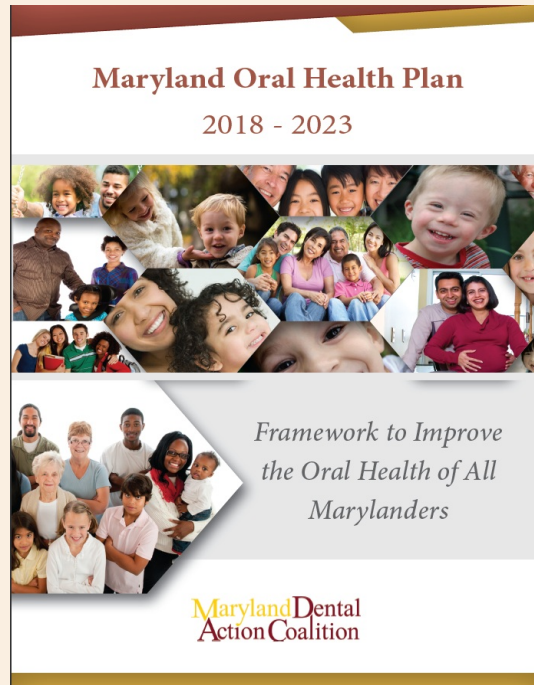
[Racial Disparities in Emergency Department Utilization for Dental/Oral Health-Related Conditions in Maryland](#)

[To Improve Health Disparities, Focus on Oral Health](#)

[When Regulations Block Access to Oral Health Care, Children at Risk Suffer](#)

[CDHP Fact Sheet: The Untapped Potential of Oral Health Risk Assessments](#)

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:

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/MCHP) or private insurance.
- All Maryland adults have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through Medicaid or private insurance.
- All Maryland residents have a dental home.
- Strengthen the oral health safety net provider system.
- Integrate the oral health care system within the medical health care system.

Oral disease and injury prevention:

- Use data to advance optimal oral health for all Marylanders.
- Improve public awareness of oral disease and injury prevention.
- Promote community-based oral disease and injury prevention programs.

Oral health literacy and education:

[Roadmap for Action: Advancing the Adoption of Telehealth in Child Care Centers and Schools to Promote Children's Health and Well Being](#)

[How Oral Bacteria Could Lead to Breakthroughs in Cancer, Weight Loss, and Overall Health](#)

[Medical-Dental Integration in Public Health Settings: An Environmental Scan](#)

[7 Options for Affordable Dental Care: Expert-Backed Tips for Handling Oral Health Costs, With or Without Insurance](#)

[Not Sold on Social Determinants of Health? Check Out LeBron James' I Promise School](#)

[Strengthening the Effectiveness of National, State, and Local Efforts to Improve HPV Vaccination Coverage in the United States: Recommendations From the National Vaccine Advisory Committee](#)

[Predictive Model for Caries Risk Based on Determinants of Health Available to Primary Care Providers](#)

EVENTS



9th Annual Ava Roberts Advanced Pediatric Dentistry Seminar
November 30, 2018

MDAC Members' Meeting
December 10, 2018, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

[4th Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science \(IAPHS\) Conference, October 3-5, 2018](#)

[Third Annual National Summit on the Social Determinants of Health, October 7-9, 2018](#)

[Public Health Law Conference 2018, October 4-6, 2018](#)

[9th National Summit on Smokeless Tobacco Prevention, October 16-18, 2018](#)

- Increase understanding of the relationship between oral health and overall health, and promote good oral health practices and access to oral health care.
- Improve collaboration between oral health and other health and human services providers so that patients understand how to navigate the oral health care system and establish a dental home.
- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

Download the plan now!

The Maryland Oral Health Plan is financially supported by the Maryland Department of Health.

WEBINARS

[Elderly Risk for Rapid Oral Health Deterioration: The ROHD Concept, October 11, 2018](#)

[Inclusion of Athletic Trainers into a School-based Health Centers: Next Steps in Interprofessional Practice and Community Health, November 19, 2018](#)

WEBCASTS

[What is the Defining Line Between Policy and Advocacy?](#)

[ASTDD: Chronic Disease and Older Adult Oral Health](#)

[ADA: Controlling Dental Caries with Silver Diamine Fluoride](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

[How to Conduct and Publish Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: An Interactive Workshop, November 8-10, 2018](#)

[Maintaining Your Sanity and Practice Viability as a Medicaid Provider: Embracing Program Integrity](#)

[Health and Wellness @ the Library: The Essentials of Providing Consumer Health Services](#)

[OHRC: School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#)

[2018 Rural Health Conference - MD's Rural Health Roadmap: Pathways to Creating Healthier Communities, October 22-23, 2018](#)

[Health Literacy in Action Conference, October 25-26, 2018](#)

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, November 10-14, 2018](#)

[NNOHA Annual Conference, November 11-14, 2018](#)

[Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, November 14-18, 2018](#)

[MDDH's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities 15th Annual Health Equity Conference, December 6, 2018](#)

Support Maryland Dental Action Coalition Inc.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



ORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE

Medicaid

[Health Coverage Matters for Children: The Role of Medicaid in the Healthy Development of America's Children](#)

[Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) Scorecard](#)

[Medicaid Provider Reference Guide](#)

[State Strategies to Incorporate Oral Health into Medicaid Payment and Delivery Models for People with Chronic Medical Conditions](#)

Medicare

[An Oral Health Benefit in Medicare Part B: It's Time to Include Oral Health in Health Care](#)

[America's Seniors Deserve Dental Coverage in Medicare: Martha's Story](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

Policy

[OH2020: Improving Systems to Ensure Oral Health for All](#)

[Four Ways Our Health Care Is at Risk in the Supreme Court Nomination Fight](#)

[Trump Administration 'Public Charge' Rule](#)

ORAL DISEASE AND INJURY PREVENTION

[AAP: HPV Champion Toolkit](#)

[Oropharyngeal Cancer \(OPC\) and HPV Prevention in Children](#)

[Answering Questions About HPV Vaccine: A Guide for Dental Professionals](#)

[ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report: Use of Fluoride in Schools](#)

ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND EDUCATION

[Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: Practice Guidance for Maryland's Prenatal and Dental Providers](#)

[Oral Health During Pregnancy: Oral Health's Unanswered Questions](#)

[Hallways to Health: Creating a School-Wide Culture of Wellness](#)

[CDC: Tips for Teachers](#)

[AAP: Protect Tiny Teeth Toolkit](#)

[Fluorosis Facts \(English\)](#)

[Datos Sobre la Fluorosis \(Spanish\)](#)

[Common Questions About Fluoride \(English\)](#)

RURAL HEALTH

[NRHA Policy Brief: Improving Rural Oral Healthcare Access](#)

[Maryland Rural Health Plan](#)

[CMS Rural Health Strategy](#)

[The Rural Primary Care Practice Guide to Creating Interprofessional Oral Health Networks](#)

[Success with CHWs: Oral Health Road Map](#)

[ASTDD: Oral Health Educational Resources for Home Visitors and Families: Environmental Scan](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Caitlin Donohue-Vega, RDH, Eastern Shore AHEC
- Susan Stewart, AHEC West

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

FOLLOW US

