

# Improving Oral Health Equity for Marylanders



Learn More at

**[mdac.us](https://mdac.us)**

# Our Work

## Advocacy That Leads to Change

MDAC's advocacy efforts have resulted in the **passage of key legislation** to improve access to oral healthcare, nearly **every year since its founding**. MDAC's significant legislative achievements are part of its long-term strategy to address existing disparities in accessing care for every Marylander, regardless of age, income, or ethnicity.

Successes include:

- Advocated for and secured comprehensive dental coverage for adults enrolled in the Medicaid program.
- Expanded postpartum dental coverage.
- Assisted in passing the Healthy Babies Equity Act, providing comprehensive dental care to non-citizen pregnant women.
- Established the most robust network of adequacy requirements for private health plans in the country.
- Expanded the scope of practice of dental hygienists to include providing dental care to those in group homes, or medical daycare facilities, as well as co-locating in the practices of nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives and certified midwives for both prenatal and postpartum care.
- Engaged in activities centered on reimbursement rate increases for Medicaid dental services (2008, 2021, 2022).

## Oral Health Literacy and Education

MDAC leads the development and monitors the progress of the Maryland Oral Health Plan which addresses Marylanders' most critical oral health needs.

MDAC and its partners lead the way in educating the public and healthcare providers on the importance of oral health. These efforts include:

- Create and collaborate on programming and campaigns to promote healthy oral health habits in children and adults.
- Conduct statewide assessments and research to collect feedback on experiences accessing dental healthcare services in the community.
- Support educational initiatives for Latino and immigrant communities.
- Foster the integration of oral healthcare into the medical healthcare system.
- Present at and participate in statewide and national conferences and events addressing oral healthcare in marginalized communities.
- Research and development of data-based resources to support advocacy work and state policy change.
- Champion efforts to strengthen and expand Maryland's dental workforce.

See our mission in action and visit [mdac.us/initiatives](https://mdac.us/initiatives) today.

# Our History



In 2007, following the death of a 12-year-old child from an untreated dental infection that spread to his brain, the Maryland Secretary of Health formed the Dental Action Committee (DAC), the precursor to MDAC, in response to concern regarding access to dental care for low-income children. The DAC recommendations, incorporated in the delivery of oral health care services, made Maryland a national model for providing access to oral health care for low-income children.



In 2010, MDAC was established as an independent, statewide network of stakeholders dedicated to addressing oral health equity and disparities in accessible care for all Marylanders.



## About MDAC

The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) is the state's leading non-governmental oral health policy and advocacy organization. MDAC's primary goal is to improve oral health equity for all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy, and access to oral healthcare.

In partnership with its diverse network, consisting of both dental and non-dental professionals and organizations, MDAC addresses oral health equity through three primary focus areas: **advocacy, oral health literacy and education, and partner collaboration.**

# Make a Difference, Connect With MDAC Today!

Join an active, statewide coalition. As an MDAC partner, you:

- **Become part of a diverse partner base** made up of dental and non-dental individuals and organizations.
- **Gain knowledge, information, and expertise** on the challenges and opportunities to reach MDAC's mission.
- **Communicate, collaborate, and network** with other oral health stakeholders to share key issues, ideas, successes, and opportunities for partnership.
- **Receive updates and insights** on proposed state and federal policies and their impact on oral health care.
- **Highlight an organization or community's important work** in the MDAC newsletter and other materials.

Consider becoming one of our valued partners. Email [info@mdac.us](mailto:info@mdac.us) to connect with MDAC today.

*MDAC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and contributions to support its activities are deeply appreciated.*

**“Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks...You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived.”**

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg



## Interprofessional Collaboration

MDAC's diverse partner network is a group of dedicated individuals and organizations working together to make changes in Maryland that have a lasting impact on the health of all Marylanders.

These efforts include:

- Conduct oral health outreach to care managers, coordinators, physicians, nurses and others who serve vulnerable communities.
- Organize biannual oral health summits and other topical events.
- Gather support for statewide oral health legislation.
- Convene workgroups for MDAC programs and initiatives.

## Diversity of MDAC's Network is Its Strength

**100+**

Organizations signing on for expansion of Medicaid adult dental coverage.

**1,400+**

Individuals receive regular updates through the MDAC newsletter and other educational formats.

**4,000,000+**

Social media reach for the **My Reason to Smile** Campaign.





Make a Difference  
Connect with MDAC

Learn More at **mdac.us**



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