



The Maryland General Assembly 2025 Session

MDAC Addresses Dental Workforce Shortage

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MDAC Advocacy – Key Ingredients

- **Strong, Diverse Advocacy Base**
 - Providers, consumers, academia, social service organizations, care coordinators, students, Local Health Improvement Coalitions, etc.
- **State Legislators – Oral Health Champions**
 - Bipartisan support is essential
 - Both chambers and executive branch
- **Data and Research (state, county, national)**
 - Documentation; secures policymaker support
- **Messaging/Communication**
 - Good oral health means good overall health – all ages
 - An investment, not a “cost”
 - Medicaid “community & participants” not “population & enrollees”
 - Not “if” it happens, but “when” it happens

2023-2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Program Utilization

Year (DOS)	Claims	Adult Members	Unique Providers
2023	462,980	178,929	1,193
2024	484,503	184,649	1,230
2025	87,470	56,221	960

Stats through 3/25/2025

- 18,334 new adult participants in 2025
- 43 new providers participating in adult MHSDP in 2025 only

Source – Maryland Department of Health



2025 MDAC Legislative Package

Theme: Increasing Access through Innovative Dental Workforce Solutions

Access Priority 1: Children

HB1143/SB 988 Dental Services - Dental Hygienists in Schools and School-Based Health Centers and the Maryland Collaborative to Improve Children's Oral Health Through School-Based Programs (Bagnall/McKay). Passed.

Access Priority 2: Medicaid Participants in Underserved Communities

HB 265/SB 456 - Dental Services - Qualification for Maryland Dent-Care Program. (In partnership with Maryland Community Health System) (Bagnall/McKay). Passed.

Access Priority 3: Communities Across Maryland - Dental Hygienist Shortage Leading to Wait Times

HB 849/SB 492 – Commission to Study the Shortage of Dental Hygienists (Lopez/McKay). Did not advance this session, but paved the way for next session.

MDAC examined MDH Data on Children's Access



Percentage of Children Aged 4 through 20 Years Enrolled in Medicaid for at Least 320 Days Receiving Dental Services, by Type of Service

Source: Maryland Department of Health's Annual Oral Health Report

Calendar Year	Diagnostic	Preventative	Restorative
2007	48.6%	45.2%	16.4%
2008	53.1%	50.1%	21.3%
2009	55.5%	52.3%	21.8%
2010	61.9%	58.2%	25.0%
2011	64.5%	60.8%	25.1%
2012	66.0%	62.5%	24.3%
2013	66.8%	63.2%	24.4%
2014	66.2%	62.6%	23.2%
2015	67.6%	64.0%	24.0%
2016	67.0%	63.4%	23.3%
2017	66.5%	62.9%	23.2%
2018	67.4%	63.6%	22.9%
2019	67.75%	63.8%	23.0%
2020	51.9%	48.2%	16.0%
2021	58.3%	55.0%	19.0%
2022	58.9%	55.5%	19.0%
2023	69.8%	56.5%	18.9%

MDAC Supports Other Innovative Workforce Solutions

- **HB 672/SB 486** – School Health and Wellness Personnel (Bagnall/Lam). Passed.
- **HB 871** – Health Services Cost Review Commission – Community Benefits – Community Health Workforce (Bagnall). Passed.
- **HB 45/SB 21** – Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (Bagnall/Gile). Did not pass.

MDAC supported legislation to protect/expand access to care



Protect the ACA/Insurance Coverage

- HB 718 – Maryland Health Insurance Protection Commission (Rosenberg). Passed.
- HB 1082 – Establishment of the State-Based Exchange Subsidy Program (Pena-Melnyk). Passed.
- HB 869/SB 372 – Preserve Telehealth Act (Pena-Melnyk/Beidle). Passed.

Reduce Administrative Burden on Providers

- Credentialing Study – Commitment from the Insurance Commissioner at MCHS/MDAC request.
- HB 848/SB 474 – Adverse Decisions, Notices, Reporting, and Examination (Pena-Melnyk/Beidle). Passed.
- HB 995/SB 776 – Workgroup to Study the Rise in Adverse Decisions (Pena-Melnyk/Beidle). Passed.

Advancing Public Health

- HB 1222 – Public Safety Immigration Enforcement (Williams). Passed.
- HB 771 – Student Health – Program for Students Dental Health (Harrison). Did not pass.

Community Health Workers



Community Health Workers Empowerment Coalition of Maryland

- Comprised of CHWs from across Maryland and those who train, hire and support them. The coalition advocates to address inequities in the CHW field, including the lack of recognition, respect, and financially sustainable funding.
- <https://www.publicjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CHW-Flyer.pdf>

House Bill 871 – Health Services Cost Review Commission - Community Benefits - Community Health Worker Workforce Program

- Clarifies in Maryland's Community Benefit statute that non-profit hospitals may invest in community health needs by partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) to develop a CHW workforce to improve patient health outcomes.
- Provides guidance to non-profit hospitals and CBOs on elements that should be included in a plan to build a successful CHW workforce program

Action Steps



- ✓ Collect and share stories of the impact of Medicaid and dental safety net programs have had on the lives of Maryland residents
- ✓ Participation in state coalitions (MDAC, local health improvement coalitions, Community Health Worker Empowerment Coalition, etc.)
- ✓ Utilize local connections
- ✓ Establish productive relationships with State Oral Health Program and State Medicaid
- ✓ Facilitate/host site visits for local legislators
- ✓ Save the Date: MDAC Oral Health Summit, November 2025



THANK YOU!

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For more information about the Maryland Dental Action Coalition: www.mdac.us