

Maryland Oral Health Plan 2026–2030

A Roadmap for Continued
Progress



Today's Speakers



Maryland Dental Action Coalition

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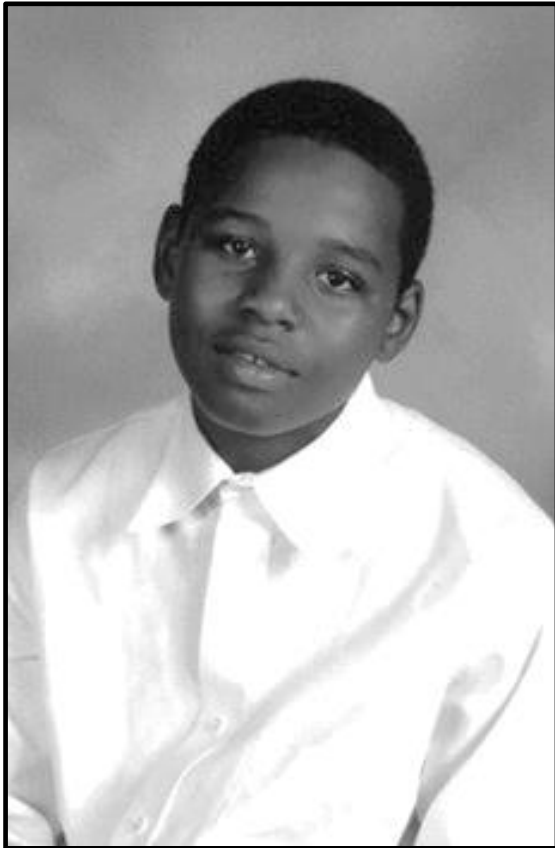
Alice Horowitz
Oral Health Literacy and Education

Questions to Consider During the Webinar

How would you like to get involved in the implementation of the strategies outlined in the Maryland Oral Health Plan?

What is already happening in your community or organization that you believe could be expanded or replicated to improve oral health across Maryland?

Continuing Maryland's Oral Health Story



- In 2007, 12 year-old Deamonte Driver, a child from Prince George's County, died from an untreated toothache that created an infection in his brain—the end result of failure to access care for an \$80 extraction.
- Medicaid coverage of dental services was limited, it was hard to find dentists, and reimbursement rates were very, very low.
- Maryland Department of Health convened the Dental Action Committee in 2007 to pull together stakeholders to improve outcomes.
- In 2010, MDAC was formed to continue this important work.
- In 2011, MDAC and MDH released the first Maryland Oral Health Plan



What is the Maryland Oral Health Plan?

- Maryland's strategic roadmap for improving oral health, advancing health equity and guiding coordinated efforts across the state.
- The 2026-2030 MOHP is the third state oral health plan developed in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health/Office of Oral Health, following the 2011 and 2018 versions.
- The MOHP is a guide, rather than a prescriptive list of actions.



A Plan Built by Marylanders

Data + Expertise +
Community
Perspectives =
Maryland Oral
Health Plan



What Is the State of Oral Health in Maryland?

Oral Health Strengths

- Comprehensive adult Medicaid dental coverage
- Medicaid utilization above national averages
- Strong foundation in children's oral health
- Expanded pregnancy/ postpartum coverage
- Strong HPV vaccination rates
- High community water fluoridation

Oral Health Challenges

- Persistent geographic and racial/ethnic disparities
- Dental provider shortages
- Lack of comprehensive surveillance data
- Rising childhood tooth decay
- Declining children's preventive care
- Increasing mouth and throat cancer incidence



Access – Prevent - Empower

Access to Oral Health Care

Everyone should have access to affordable, comprehensive oral health care.

Oral Disease & Injury Prevention

Create environments and systems that prevent oral disease and injury.

Oral Health Literacy & Education

Give people, providers, and organizations the information and tools they need to make informed decisions.

Health Equity

Priority 1: Access to Oral Health Care



Maryland residents need access to affordable, comprehensive oral health care to effectively address oral disease and improve their overall health and quality of life.

Access to Oral Health Care Goals:

1. Increase the number of Marylanders with dental coverage.
2. Improve access to oral health care by enhancing covered services when financially feasible.
3. Increase the number of dental providers that participate in Medicaid.
4. Increase dental provider participation in private insurance.
5. Build a sustainable dental professional workforce.
6. Accelerate integration of oral health care and primary care.

Priority 2: Oral Disease & Injury Prevention



Focuses on advancing evidence-based oral disease and injury prevention strategies through environmental and community interventions, and foster collaboration.

Oral Disease and Injury Prevention Goals

1. Advance social, physical and economic environments that reduce disparities and enhance oral health equity for all Marylanders.
2. Continue the current recommended level of water fluoridation for public water supplies in Maryland.
3. Improve oral disease and injury prevention by promoting oral health literacy and education programs.
4. Engage stakeholders in creating and implementing state and local policies to improve oral health for all to reduce oral disease and injuries.

Priority 3: Oral Health Literacy & Education



Focuses on increasing personal and organizational health literacy, emphasizing the oral-systemic connection and its impact on overall health, and calling for routine assessment to monitor oral health outcomes.

MOHP Goals

1. Increase the ability of individuals to find, understand, and use health information and services to inform oral health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others.
2. Increase opportunities for organizations to enable individuals to find, understand, and use information to make decisions about their oral health.
3. Educate students in health care and health-affiliated fields and health care providers in Maryland about the oral-systemic connection and its impact on overall health.
4. Conduct routine assessments to monitor the impact of strategies on the understanding, health outcomes and health decisions of individuals, populations and organizations informing interventions.

Roundtable Discussion

The Plan Is the Beginning, Not the End

The MOHP is a roadmap—not a checklist.

MDAC + Partners + Stakeholders



Develop tactics



Implement strategies



Track progress



Learn, adapt & collaborate



Celebrate progress



Help us turn the plan into progress.

How Can You Get Involved?

- **LEARN:** Read the Maryland Oral Health Plan, understand the background, goals, and strategies.
 - Available online: <https://www.mdac.us/initiatives/mohp/>
- **SHARE:** Share the plan with your organization, community and partners.
- **CONNECT:** Identify where your work aligns with one or more goals.
- **ACT:** Bring your expertise, resources and relationships to implementation.



Stay Connected

- Share more about the work you are doing to improve oral health in your community to identify opportunities for collaboration and strengthen collective action to advance oral health across Maryland.

Complete the MOHP Engagement Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MOHP>

- MDAC's Bimonthly Newsletter will feature updates on the MOHP implementation. Keep an eye out for these updates!
- Please complete our Webinar Program Evaluation!



THANK YOU!



Please complete our program evaluation survey!

For more information email Arin Ahlum Hanson at ahanson@mdac.us

Visit MDAC's website: www.mdac.us