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[2018 National Oral Health Conference, April 16-18, 2018](#)

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[Pediatric Disease Management: The Role of the Dental Hygienist and Promotora de Salud in the Reduction of Childhood Caries, January 24, 2018](#)

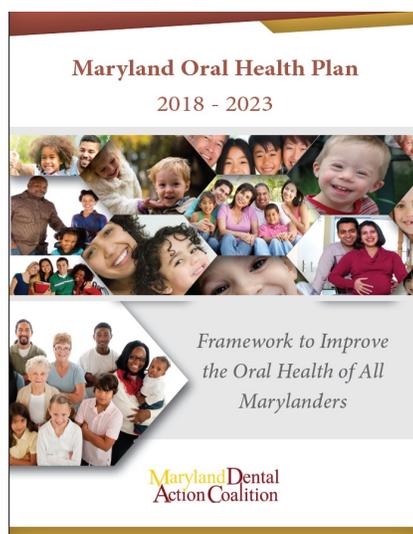
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders



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MDAC Releases 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan



The Maryland Dental Action Coalition is pleased to announce the release of the Maryland Oral Health Plan 2018-2023 (MOHP), a five-year roadmap to improved oral health for all Marylanders. The plan builds on the oral health improvements achieved since the release of the first state plan in 2011, identifies critical remaining gaps, and outlines strategies to expand access to oral health care, prevent oral diseases and injury, and improve the oral health and overall health of all Marylanders.

Thanks to the collective efforts of MDAC and its coalition partners, Maryland has become a model for the nation in improving the oral health of children since the issuance of the first plan in 2011. Although dental caries is the most common chronic disease of children and adolescents ages 6-19, the vast majority of Maryland's public school children have no unmet dental treatment needs, and less than 1% have any type of urgent need. Improved access to oral health care, more preventative oral health care programs, statewide oral health literacy campaigns, and higher levels of community awareness have all contributed to

Improvements in the oral health status of Maryland's children.

The updated plan notes the need to do the same for adults. Oral health is a critical component of overall health and quality of life, but many Maryland residents, particularly low-income adults, still lack access to oral health care, primarily due to cost, and experience preventable oral disease. The single most important step to improve the oral health of Maryland adults is a Medicaid program that provides adult dental benefits. Although progress has been made with the passage of SB 169, which authorizes the addition of adult dental benefits in Medicaid, funding of the benefit is needed.

The Maryland Oral Health Plan 2018-2023 is a framework to guide our collective efforts. The plan outlines 11 key goals, which are intentionally non-prescriptive to enable the development of innovative implementation strategies to meet the needs of Maryland's unique regions and communities. The goals are as follows:

Access to Oral Health Care Goals

- All Maryland children have comprehensive dental insurance coverage through public (Medicaid/CHIP) 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 Goals

- 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 Goals

- 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.

[Let's Talk: Pediatricians and Oral Health, February 23, 2018](#)

Continuing Education

[Treating Tobacco Use in Maryland: Tools for Helping Your Patients Quit](#)

Resources

[Families USA: America's Seniors Need a Medicare Oral Health Benefit Fact Sheet](#)

[Oral Health 2020 National Policy Landscape Resources](#)

[Compendium of Rural Oral Health Best Practices](#)

[ASTHO Telehealth Resource Guide](#)

[ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and You](#)

[ADA: Championing Oral Health in Schools](#)

[ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and HPV](#)

[ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and Older Adults](#)

[ACP Fact Sheet: Oral Health and Diabetes](#)

[Brush, Book and Bed Implementation Guide](#)

[Strengthening Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports in an Evolving Policy Environment: A Toolkit for States](#)

[Stem the Tide: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

[Oral Health in America: Experiences of Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Maryland Department of Health HPV Toolkit](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oral Health Data Portal](#)

[Unlocking the Door to New Thinking: Frames for Advancing Oral Health Reform](#)

[Updates to the ASTDD Child Basic Screening Survey](#)

[ASTDD Dental Hygienist Liaisons Webcast: Strategies to Increase the Impact of State Dental Hygienist Liaisons](#)

- Educate medical professionals and students about the importance of the oral/systemic connection and foster collaboration between medical and dental disciplines and communities.

MDAC will lead statewide implementation of the Maryland Oral Health Plan through a series of thought leadership workshops held across the state, with the goal of presenting the Maryland Oral Health Plan, developing implementation plans, and building momentum towards achievement of the plan goals. The success of the 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan is dependent on the collaborative work of MDAC's members, partners and stakeholders statewide. MDAC looks forward to working with its coalition partners to build on the successes from the first plan and address areas for improvement to ensure optimal oral health for all Marylanders.

[Download a copy](#) of the Maryland Oral Health Plan, 2018-2023. The plan is also available on the MDAC website at www.mdac.us.

[Please take our survey](#) so MDAC can learn more about the actions you're taking to improve oral health in your community.

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

MDAC to Present ED Study Results to MD General Assembly

MDAC's work to build support for establishing an adult dental benefit in Medicaid, coupled with keen legislative interest in the results of the MDAC study on the financial impact of emergency department visits for adults with chronic dental conditions, has resulted in the scheduling of two early-session briefings to the Maryland General Assembly.

Natalia Chalmers, DDS, Ph.D., Director of Analytics, DentaQuest Foundation and the study leader; Donna Behrens, chair of the MDAC board of directors; and MDAC consultant Robyn Elliott of Public Policy Partners will present the study results to the state Senate Finance Committee at 1:00 PM and to the House Government Operations Committee at 2:00 PM on January 24. The purpose of the study was to assess whether state funds can be reinvested to establish an adult dental benefit in Medicaid.

The briefings have taken on added importance, as the budget released by Governor Larry Hogan on January 17 does not include funding for adult dental benefits. Although the passage of Senate Bill 169 authorized the addition of adult dental benefits to Medicaid, funding of the benefit is needed.

MDAC has been working to garner legislative support for Medicaid adult dental benefits. MD Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton (District 28, Charles County and Chair of the Senate Finance Committee) will introduce a bill this session that would mandate funding of the benefit to enable adults to establish a dental home, obtain preventive oral health care, and avert costly chronic dental conditions. MDAC applauds Senator Middleton's support for a Medicaid adult dental benefit, and appreciates his efforts to ensure that low-income adults in Maryland will have access to oral health care.

[Follow MDAC on Twitter](#). MDAC will tweet a link to the live stream of the briefings on January 24.

[Read the cover letter](#) MDAC submitted to the Maryland General Assembly with the report.

[Read the report](#) MDAC submitted to the Maryland General Assembly.

[Learn more](#) about the financial impact of hospital visits for dental conditions in Maryland.

[E-mail MDAC](#) for a report on the rates of emergency department visits for chronic dental conditions in your county.

MDAC Makes Maryland a Leader with Strongest Dental Plan Requirements in the Country

Maryland now has the nation's most robust requirements to ensure that commercial dental plans have enough dentists in their networks to see patients within a reasonable time and distance, the result of a successful MDAC-led advocacy campaign. The network adequacy regulations also require dental plans to include enough safety net providers, such as federally qualified health plans, in their networks.

There are a growing number of people with commercial dental insurance, so it is critical to ensure those plans have enough dentists. The enrollment growth is primarily the result of the success of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Maryland adopted the requirements as a result of legislation passed two years ago that required the Maryland Insurance Administration to work with stakeholders on developing network adequacy regulations for both health and dental plans. Only a handful of states have such requirements for dental plans, putting Maryland in the forefront on this issue.

Anne Arundel County Recipient of REACH PLUS Grant

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission has awarded the Anne Arundel County Department of Health a \$200,000 REACH PLUS grant to help low-income adults who need emergency dental services.

Legislative Contacts

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

Contact Us

Do you have events or announcements you'd like us to post in the MDAC newsletter? Send them to info@mdac.us. We'll make every effort to include them, as space permits.

Support Us

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The goal of the REACH PLUS program is to provide free or low-cost community resources to low-income Anne Arundel residents in an effort to minimize use of hospital emergency rooms for dental services.

Senate Passes RAISE Family Caregivers Act

The legislative update below is from Beth Truett, President and CEO of Oral Health America.

Oral Health America (OHA) applauds Congress for passage of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act on January 8, 2018, announced OHA President/CEO Beth Truett. The bill goes to President Donald J. Trump for his signature.



Once enacted into law, the Act will direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy to support America's 42 million family caregivers, who provide \$450 billion annually in unpaid care.

"We are grateful to Congress for passing the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, and we look forward to its enactment," Truett said. "We appreciate the strong bipartisan support of the Act's champions, Senators Susan Collins and Tammy Baldwin and Representatives Gregg Harper and Kathy Castor, for shepherding the legislation through Congress. We also sincerely thank the members of the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Core Group, headed by AARP, and of which we are a proud member, for their hard work and advocacy that led to the bill's passage."

Caregiving is important to the oral health community. Family caregivers help with a myriad of activities for daily living, which include performing tasks related to oral health care, in addition to dressing, bathing, eating, and purchasing and administering medications. Moreover, family caregivers generally do not receive training or other instruction to help them provide proper oral care.

"Therefore, the oral health education of family, caregivers, and the aging network is essential if oral diseases are to be avoided later in life or if optimal oral health is to be achieved," Truett said. "OHA believes the implementation of the RAISE Act will make health resources, training and education for caregivers more readily available and should include materials about the importance of oral health for overall health and wellness."

MDAC Announces 2018 Board of Directors

MDAC is pleased to announce its newly elected 2018 board of directors:

- Chair: Donna Behrens, School Based Health Alliance
- Vice-Chair: Debony Hughes, DDS, Prince George's County Health Department
- Secretary: Eric Biagidi, MSDA
- Treasurer: Cheryl Bruce, RDH, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
- Immediate Past Chair and Policy Committee Chair - Salliann Alborn, Maryland Community Health System
- Literacy and Education Committee Co-Chair: Alice Horowitz, University of Maryland School of Public Health
- Literacy and Education Committee Co-Chair: John Welby, Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health
- At-Large Representative: Diane Romaine, DMD, Dr. Diane Romaine and Associates Dental Health Center
- Community Representative: Dean Shifflett, DentaQuest
- Student Representative - Olivia Straub
- Ex-Officio: Jane Casper, RDH, Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health
- Ex-Officio: Mary Backley, MDAC

MDAC thanks the following 2017 board members for their leadership and commitment to improving the oral health of all Marylanders: Carl Caiazzo, Andrea Cameron-Belvin, Leigh Cobb, Jonelle Grant-Anamelechi, Cindy Kaiser, Bill Maas and Christopher Vieira. MDAC very much appreciates your hard work and dedicated service!

APHA Accepting Abstracts for 2018 Annual Meeting

The American Public Health Association is now accepting abstracts for the 2018 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, to be held November 10-14, 2018 in San Diego, CA. Authors are encouraged to [submit abstracts](#) on the theme of the meeting, Creating the Healthiest Nation: Health Equity Now and current and emerging public health issues. Abstracts are due between February 20-24, 2018, and presenters will be notified of abstract status by e-mail on June 4, 2018.

Families USA Seeks Oral Health Care Stories

Families USA has launched Oral Health for All, a multi-year campaign to raise awareness and build

long-term support for expansion of oral health benefits.

Just like in other movements for health care, your voices will be critical in helping raise awareness of what's at stake.

Families USA wants to hear from you - what are you experiencing? What's keeping you from receiving the dental care you need? Tell them your story at [FamiliesUSA.org/Share-Your-Story](https://www.familiesusa.org/share-your-story).

MDAC Welcomes New Members



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Yishai Brown, University of Maryland
- Heather Kohlhepp, American Dental Hygienists' Association

Join us! To become an MDAC member, [click here](#).

The mission of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition is to develop and maintain a statewide partnership of individuals and organizations working together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.