

News

[The Reason Your Dental Work Isn't Covered by Medical Insurance](#)

Articles

[AAPD Policy on the Use of Silver Diamine Fluoride for Pediatric Dental Patients](#)

[Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Populations with Complex Needs: Implementation Considerations](#)

Events



MDAC Members' Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2017
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
 MSDA
 8901 Hermann Drive
 Columbia, MD

[Maryland 2017 Rural Health Summit, December 1, 2017](#)

[Maryland Minority Health and Health Disparities Conference, December 7, 2017](#)

[American Society on Aging Conference, March 26-29, 2018](#)

[Sixth Annual Public Health Research at Maryland Day, April 3, 2018](#)

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

[2018 National School-Based Health Care Convention, June 24-27, 2018](#)

Webinars

[Oral Health Community Taking Action, Thursday, Nov. 30](#)

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

Optimal Oral Health for All Marylanders



Chalmers to Present Emergency Department Study Results at December 7 MDAC Members' Meeting

Natalia Chalmers, D.D.S., Ph.D. will present the findings of a MDAC study on the cost of emergency department visits for adults with chronic dental conditions at its December 7, 2017 members' meeting, to be held at 5:30 PM at the Maryland State Dental Association, 8901 Herrmann Drive, Columbia. All members are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Chalmers, Director of Analytics and Publication for the DentaQuest Institute, led the study to evaluate the cost of emergency department visits for adults with chronic dental conditions, and to assess whether state funds can be reinvested to establish an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. The study will be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Department of Health by December 1, 2017.

Although Maryland has become a model for the nation in improving the oral health of children, too many Maryland adults face serious financial obstacles to obtaining dental care, which puts many of our most vulnerable citizens at risk of untreated pain and serious health issues. In 2015, the MDAC board of directors unanimously agreed to turn the focus to improving the oral health of adults. MDAC conducted a survey on the status of adult oral health in Maryland and an analysis of the cost to expand Maryland Medicaid to include adult oral health benefits.

The Emergency Department study is a key strategy in our collective efforts to establish an adult dental benefit in Medicaid. Its findings will likely demonstrate that Maryland should reinvest funding from ER visits into Medicaid adult dental benefits.

Following Dr. Chalmers' presentation, Robyn Elliott of Public Policy Partners will discuss the legislative efforts to add an adult dental benefit to Medicaid. Although the passage of Senate Bill 169 authorized the addition of adult dental benefits to Medicaid, funding of the benefit is needed to enable adults to establish a dental home, obtain preventative and comprehensive oral health care, and avert costly chronic dental conditions.

MDAC and its coalition partners across the state strongly advocate for Medicaid coverage of adult dental services. We hope to gain the support of Governor Larry Hogan so Maryland can ensure low-income adults have access to affordable oral health care.

CHCS Examines Oral Health Care Utilization, Expenditures

Many low-income adults face serious challenges in obtaining oral health care, putting them at risk for poor oral health, which can lead to lost workdays, reduced employability, increased risk for long-term chronic conditions and preventable dental-related hospital visits for adults enrolled in Medicaid.

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), with the support of the DentaQuest Foundation, used a number of individual-, community-, and state-level factors to analyze dental service use and cost factors for non-elderly Medicaid-enrolled adults. The purpose of the analysis is to help federal and state policy makers, Medicaid agencies, public health departments, health and dental plans, providers, advocates and other oral health stakeholders identify opportunities to improve access to oral health care.

The analysis is part of CHCS's *Faces of Medicaid* data series, and can be found [here](#).

NADP Analysis Shows Adults with Medicaid Preventive Dental Benefits Have Lower Medical Costs for Chronic Conditions

Recent Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data reveals an opportunity for states to

[Dental Care and the Special Needs Patient, December 1, 2017](#)

[Fluoride in Practice: Resources from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors \(ASTDD\), December 7, 2017](#)

[Understanding Dental Therapy in Minnesota: A Focus on Workforce and Case Studies, December 14, 2017](#)

[Collective Engagement: Lifelong Smiles Coalition, January 11, 2018](#)

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

Continuing Education

[Baby Teeth Matter: Oral Health Collaborative, November 28, 2017](#)

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

Resources

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

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

[ASTHO Telehealth Resource Guide](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare Dental Toolkit](#)

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

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

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

[Trust for America's Health Special Analysis: How Healthy is Your Congressional District?](#)

[Maryland Department of Health HPV Toolkit](#)

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

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

Legislative Contacts

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

provide both better care for the Medicaid population and potentially reduce the financial impact of Medicaid funding, according to an analysis commissioned by the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP). When a preventive dental benefit was provided for adult Medicaid recipients in 2014, this analysis reveals that the medical costs for patients with seven chronic conditions were lower by 31 to 67 percent.

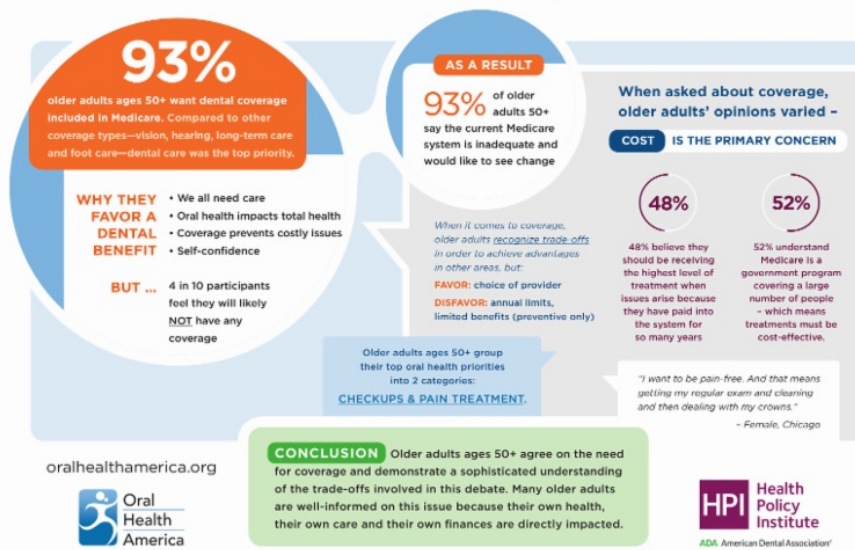
[The results of the analysis](#) suggest that policies and programs within Medicaid that encourage recipients to receive preventive dental care have the potential to dramatically reduce the health care costs associated with these conditions.

Without preventive dental services provided as a benefit to adult Medicaid recipients, there is a potential for higher health costs as patients lack an important component of their health care needs. Not only are health costs increased for the chronic conditions identified by this analysis, but Medicaid patients without dental care are more likely to seek out dental care in hospital emergency rooms rather than lower cost community health centers or private offices.

Oral Health America, ADA Health Policy Institute Release Infographic on Dental Coverage in Medicare

Thinking About Oral Healthcare

An increasing number of Americans understand the link between oral health and overall health, especially as they get older ...



Oral Health America and the ADA Health Policy Institute recently conducted a series of focus groups to better understand the views and attitudes of adults 50+ on adding a dental benefit to Medicare. An infographic summarizing the focus group results can be found [here](#).

Although more than 55 million older adults access healthcare services through Medicare, Medicare does not cover routine preventive or restorative oral health services such as screenings, exams, cleanings, fillings or extractions.

Of the older adults surveyed, 93% want dental coverage included in Medicare, but when asked what that benefit should look like, opinions varied.

Make Eating Out Healthier for Baltimore City Families

Baltimore City Councilmember Brandon Scott recently introduced the Healthy Kids' Meals Bill (17-0152) to the Baltimore City Council. The bill, supported by both Sugar Free Kids Maryland and the Baltimore City Health Department, would ensure healthier drink options for Baltimore City families by making water, milk, 100% fruit juice, and sparkling water the default beverage options for all kids' meals in Baltimore restaurants.

To show your support for the bill, [click here](#) to let Baltimore City Councilmembers know that having healthy choices will help ensure city families live long, healthy lives free of chronic disease.

[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.

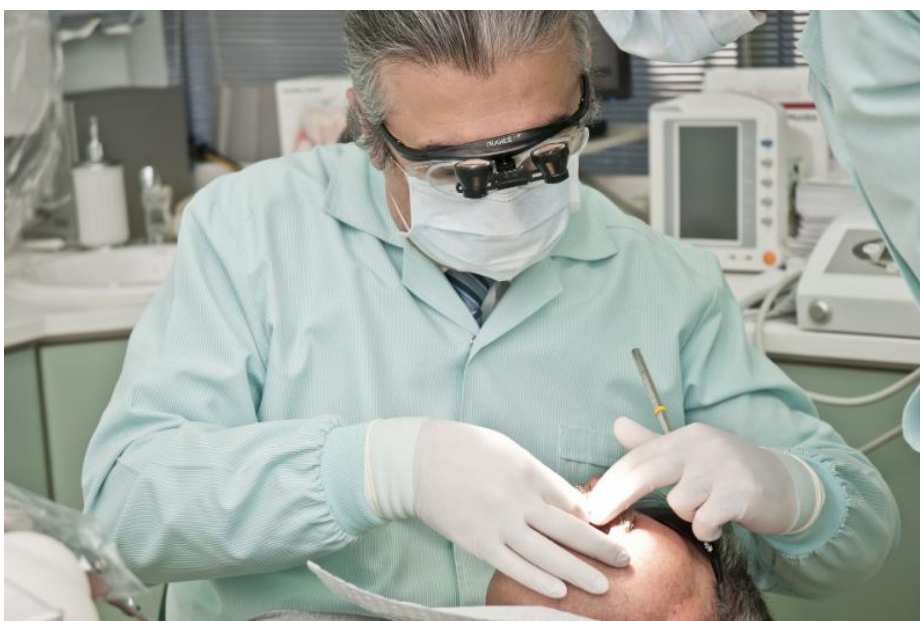
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Baltimore CONNECT Seeks Community Dentists to Provide Dental Care

Baltimore CONNECT is seeking community dentists willing to donate their time and services to provide dental care to Baltimore area job seekers.

Baltimore CONNECT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works with a network of more than 20 community-based organizations and public health researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to better link social and healthcare services across Baltimore. Many of the clients at these organizations have unmet needs for dental care.

Baltimore CONNECT has secured access to facilities, including a dental chair, instruments, and dental assistant, but needs community dentists willing to provide acute and sub-acute oral health care. To volunteer your time and services, please contact Kaylin Ford at (410) 955-1932.

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.