

## News

[More Than 1,000 People Receive Free Dental Care at UMD Clinic](#)

[Opinion: It's Incredibly Hard to Get Dental Care in Rural America](#)

[Should Kids Be Sedated for Dental Work?](#)

[Congress Facing Deadline to Renew Healthcare for Children](#)

[Are Middle Aged Americans Taking Care of Their Mouths?](#)

## Articles

[Perceptions of Dental Hygienists and Dentists about Preventing Early Childhood Caries: A Qualitative Study](#)

[Funding For Local Public Health: A Renewed Path For Critical Infrastructure](#)

[Chartbook: Trends in Rural Children's Oral Health and Access to Care](#)

[Improving Rural Health: Making an Impact in Five Years](#)

[Improving Rural Oral Health: Six States' Response to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Strategic Framework](#)

[ASTDD State-based Oral Health Surveillance System Best Practice Approach Report](#)

[Effectiveness on Early Childhood Caries of an Oral Health Promotion Program for Medical Providers](#)

[New Recommendations for Water, Fruit Juice in Early Childhood](#)

[Oral Exams Don't Just Save Teeth - Check the Mouth for Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)

[Cultural Humility: A Key Element of Trauma-Informed Care](#)

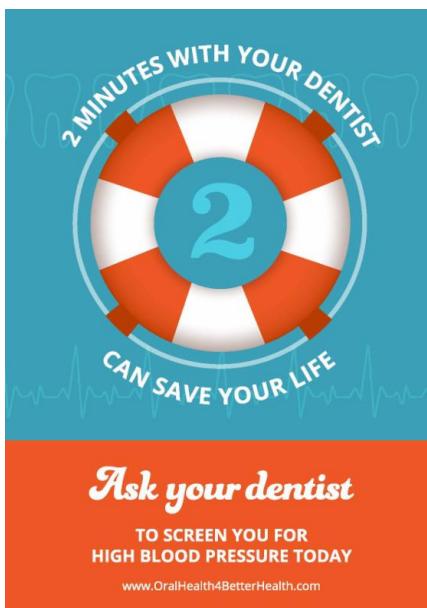
[Tobacco 21: Protecting the Mouth and the Rest of the Body](#)

[American Nurse Today: Oral Health and Diabetes \(pg. 22\)](#)

[Financing Project ECHO: Options for State Medicaid Programs](#)



## MD Office of Oral Health Launches New Initiative: Hypertension Screening in the Dental Setting



The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) launched its new initiative in June for dental practices to provide hypertension screenings for adults during routine dental visits, and if needed, refer patients to physicians for appropriate medical care. This project will aid in the effort to reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed and inadequately controlled hypertension among Maryland residents. The project is a collaboration between MDH's Office of Oral Health (OOH) and its Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control (CCDPC), funded with grants from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Hypertension is one of the most common and dangerous medical conditions as it is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke. It affects 1 out of 3 adults in Maryland. Of those 1.5 million hypertensive Marylanders, half are poorly controlled, and approximately 20% more adults are unaware that they even have high blood pressure. Every year, approximately 27 million Americans visit their dentist but do not see their physicians, making the dentist's office an opportune place to identify patients with hypertension who might otherwise remain undiagnosed.

MDH convened an Advisory Panel (of which MDAC is a member) consisting of representatives from medical and dental organizations to guide this project. The Panel approved the screening and referral protocols and will continue to review the results of the project until its completion in June 2018. The OOH and CCDPC partnered with local health departments from 12 Maryland counties to provide guidance and resources for hypertension screenings and referral processes for the 34 participating dental practices, 15 of whom began the screening process in June. During this two-month period, the dental practices have already screened 1,821 patients with 93 patients exceeding the referral criteria of 140/90 mm Hg for follow-up care with a physician. The Local Health Departments are continuing to recruit dental practices to reach the goal of 50 participating practices.

To promote this new screening program, MDH developed a social marketing campaign to encourage dentists to incorporate hypertension screening into regular visits as well as urge dental patients to talk with their dentist about their blood pressure. The campaign message "2 Minutes with Your Dentist Can Save Your Life" was created to emphasize the important role dental practitioners can play, not only for a patient's oral health, but also for general health.

## Events

[ASTHO Policy Summit, Gala, and Annual Meeting, September 19-21, 2017](#)

[The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Conference on Improving Population Health Now, Across People's Lives, and Across Generations to Come, October 2-4, 2017](#)

[Oral Health America Fall for Smiles Advocacy Day, October 3-4, 2017](#)

[2017 Maryland Rural Health Conference, October 5-6, 2017](#)

[Fifth U.S. Conference on African Immigrant Health, October 5-8, 2017](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers 2017 Annual Federally Qualified Health Center Conference, October 11-12, 2017](#)

[The Comprehensive Healthcare Series: The Impact Oral Health is Having on Endocrine, Cardiac and Renal Systems, October 20, 2017](#)

[National Academy for State Health Policy 30th Annual Conference, October 23-25, 2017](#)

[American Public Health Association \(APHA\) 2017 Annual Meeting and Expo, November 4-8, 2017](#)

[National Network for Oral Health Access Conference, November 12-15](#)

[Building the Case for Health Literacy, November 15, 2017](#)

[Mid-Atlantic PANDA Train the Trainer 2017, November 17, 2017](#)

## Webinars

[ToothWisdom.org: A Consumer Resource to Improve Older Adult Oral Health, September 28, 2017](#)

[From Problem to Prevention: Evidence-Based Public Health, October 11, 2017](#)

[Two is Too Late: Increasing Access to Care for Young Native American Children, November 7, 2017](#)

## Continuing Education

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

Through this integrated approach, dental providers can help save lives by reducing the rates of undiagnosed and inadequately controlled hypertension of Maryland residents.

MDH will convene a conference at the end of the project in the late summer of 2018, to disseminate results and share lessons learned.



World Cavity-Free Future Day, an initiative launched by the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future, will be celebrated worldwide on October 14. The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of dental caries and best practices for the prevention and management of caries and cavities, and to encourage action towards achieving a cavity-free future.

According to the World Health Organization, 60%-90% of children worldwide and nearly 100% of adults suffer from cavities, leading to pain and discomfort, missed days from school and work, and the economic impact of treatment, which is unaffordable for many of those who suffer most. World Cavity-Free Future Day is designed to help individuals take control of their oral health, a key step in reducing the number of people who develop cavities.

For further information about World Cavity-Free Future Day and information on how you can create your own World Cavity-Free Future celebration, click [here](#).

## CHIP Deadline Looms; Congressional Action Urgently Needed

**Thanks mostly to Medicaid & CHIP, the # of kids without dental coverage fell by 58% from 1997 to 2014.**

*(Journal of American Dental Assn., Feb 2017)*



**Let's not reverse this progress. Urge your U.S. Senators to #KeepKidsCovered**

Find helpful advocacy resources at [cdhp.org/toolkit](#).



Congress is back in session, and policies that affect oral and overall health care will be key issues. Among them is the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which needs urgent attention. CHIP is vital source of medical and dental insurance for low-income children in addition to Medicaid.

In Maryland, 142,327 children were covered by the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2015. Their access to care is now threatened. Without action by September 30, it is predicted that Maryland will exhaust needed funds in April 2018.

There are some signs of bipartisanship on this issue. On September 12, Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and ranking Democrat Ron Wyden (D-OR) said CHIP could be extended for five years under an agreement that would provide additional protections

# Resources

[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](#)

[Oral Health America Medicare  
Dental Toolkit](#)

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

[Maryland Department of Health  
HPV Toolkit](#)

[HPV Fact Sheets for Parents](#)

[HPV Fact Sheets for Parents  
\(Spanish\)](#)

[Oral Health America Teen and  
Young Adult Oral Health Fact  
Sheet](#)

[Fun Family Activities to Teach  
Your Child About Oral Health](#)

[Children's Books on Teeth, Oral  
Health and Going to the Dentist](#)

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

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

[Blog: The Evolution of Shared  
Savings Payment Methodologies  
for Medicaid Accountable Care  
Organizations](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy  
Teeth, Healthy Kids](#)

[Children's Oral Health: Healthy  
Teeth, Healthy Kids \(Spanish\)](#)

[University of Maryland School of  
Public Health: Healthy Mouths for  
You and Your Baby](#)

[University of Maryland School of  
Public Health: Healthy Mouths for  
You and Your Baby \(Spanish\)](#)

[5 Reasons Why Fluoride in Water  
is Good for Communities](#)

[Scientific Review: Fluoride and  
Dental Caries](#)

[Scientific Review: Fluoride  
Toothpaste](#)

[Fluorosis Facts](#)

for children and flexibility for states. The five-year extension would provide some stability in an uncertain health care environment. The agreement also includes a gradual reduction in enhanced federal matching funds, beginning in 2020. If the proposal passes the Senate, the House would also need to vote on it prior to the September 30 deadline.

Please e-mail your [Senators](#) and [Members of Congress](#) today. Send a [letter](#) to Governor Hogan. Give them a brief description of your connection to CHIP, and tell them how a lack of funding will impact the people you serve. Most importantly, ask them to act now to extend CHIP funding.

## Silver Diamine Fluoride Focus of MDAC Members' Meeting

On September 12, more than 40 MDAC members gathered in Columbia and by phone to discuss recent MDAC activities and upcoming actions.

Later this fall, MDAC will release an updated five-year State Oral Health Plan that highlights the improvements in oral health in Maryland achieved through the launch of the first plan in 2011, and identifies the critical gaps that remain. Once completed, MDAC will meet with partners across the state to determine how best to achieve the goals set out in the plan.



This past spring, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 169, which authorized the Department of Health to add adult dental benefits to Medicaid. The Senate bill instructs MDAC to conduct a study of the cost of emergency department use by adults for chronic dental conditions. The study, to be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly by December 1, is underway. MDAC hopes to be able to make the case that the addition of adult dental benefits to Medicaid would reduce emergency department utilization, and that a portion of the "saved" dollars could underwrite the cost of adding the benefit.

The highlight of the meeting, a deep-dive look at the use of silver diamine fluoride to control caries, was presented by Dr. Charles Doring and Dr. Janet Yellowitz. Dr. Doring is a partner in the North Bethesda Dental Associates practice in Rockville and a member of the medical staff at the Rockville Nursing Home and the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington. Dr. Yellowitz is the Director of Geriatric Dental and Special Care Programs and Clinic at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

Silver diamine fluoride, a colorless liquid that decreases dentin hypersensitivity, is an alternative approach to the treatment of caries. It is used off-label to control and manage caries in children, root caries in the elderly, and problematic caries in individuals unable to tolerate more involved dental treatments.



## MDAC Needs Your Opinion on Maryland Oral Health Access and Providers

Great strides have been made in Maryland to improve oral health care access for all. These gains are in no small part due to the hard work of all our MDAC members. Our work however is not done while we still have Marylanders without access to needed oral health care and oral health providers.

We at MDAC will continue to work to ensure oral health care access is available for all. Your thoughts, opinions and input are vitally needed to guide our future work. We hope you will take a few minutes to answer [this brief survey](#) on Maryland oral health access and providers.

Thanks for your time and contribution.

Donna Behrens, Alice Horowitz, and Bill Maas  
Board of Directors  
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

## [Is Fluoride Good for Your Teeth?](#)

## [Community Water Fluoridation](#)

## [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](mailto:info@mdac.us). We'll make every effort to include them, as space permits.**

## AAP Provides Oral Health Booklist to Public Library Association

The American Academy of Pediatrics Campaign for Dental Health has included the list of recommended children's books on oral health, compiled by the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Health Sciences and Human Services Library in collaboration with MDAC, in a list of resources provided to the Public Library Association in Chicago. A copy of the list can be found [here](#).

Librarians are in a unique position to promote oral health and disease prevention in their communities. They are go-to resources that help parents and caregivers find the information they need on the shelves and on-line. The recommended book list includes books on oral health care, visiting to the dentist, and general information about teeth.



## NIH/NIDCR Program in Dental Public Health Now Accepting Applications for 2018 DPH Training

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's Residency in Dental Public Health is now accepting applications from dentists for post-doctoral training to begin in July 2018.

The NIDCR Fellowship Program provides a formal training opportunity for dentists planning careers in dental public health, with an emphasis on oral and craniofacial, health-related epidemiologic research. The Program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Program graduates receive a certificate of completion and are qualified educationally to apply for examination by the American Board of Dental Public Health for specialty certification.

Applications will be considered for full-time residency at NIH (a 12-month training period) and for a part-time training period (approximately a 24-month period). The full-time training period will be from about July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Part-time training will begin about July 1, 2018. A stipend is available to support full-time trainees who meet eligibility criteria. All application materials must be submitted by October 31, 2017.

Additional details regarding the application process and information about the NIDCR Fellowship Program in Dental Public Health can be found [here](#).

## Become a MDAC Member Today!



Become part of the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC), the state's leading non-governmental oral health policy and advocacy organization. As an MDAC member, you'll:

- *Become part of a diverse member base* of clinical practitioners, non-profit organizations, associations, managed care organizations, county and state governments, foundations, academic research and educational institutions, and other stakeholders working together to improve the oral health of all Marylanders.
- *Gain knowledge, information and expertise* on the challenges and opportunities to improve the oral health of Maryland residents.
- *Have access to MDAC member meetings* to share knowledge, expertise and information on issues affecting oral health in Maryland.
- *Communicate and collaborate with other stakeholders* to share key issues, ideas, successes and collaborative opportunities.
- *Participate in networking events* with other oral health stakeholders across the state.
- *Receive updates and insights on proposed state and federal policies* and their impact on oral health care.
- *Highlight your organization or community's important work* in the monthly MDAC

newsletter in support of our collective effort to improve the oral health of all Marylanders.

- *Get periodic updates* on the progress towards the goals outlined in the Maryland Oral Health Plan.
- *Have the opportunity to join working groups and committees* focused on literacy and education, advocacy and legislation, resource development and marketing, and the Maryland Oral Health Plan to develop and implement initiatives to enhance oral health in Maryland.

Join us as we work together to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care. Although membership is free, MDAC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and contributions to support its activities are deeply appreciated. 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.