



January 2022

MDAC SEEKS SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID ADULT DENTAL BILL

Sign on now to show your support of an adult dental benefit in Maryland Medicaid

MDAC is seeking support of a bill to expand dental coverage to all adults in Maryland Medicaid. Although dually eligible adults under age 65, pregnant and postpartum people, and young adults who have aged out of foster care have some dental coverage through Maryland Medicaid, far too many adults do not, resulting in oral health issues that make it difficult to manage dental pain, control a chronic disease, obtain employment, or even eat, speak, or socialize.

Maryland is just one of three states without adult dental coverage in Medicaid. More than 30 states provide comprehensive or limited adult dental coverage in their Medicaid programs. The remaining states provide some dental coverage to most adults in emergency situations, except for the states of Maryland, Alabama, and Tennessee.

During the 2022 legislative session, oral health champions Senator Malcolm L. Augustine (D-Prince George's County), Senator Guy Guzzone (D-Howard County), Delegate Bonnie L. Cullison (D-Montgomery County), and Delegate Michael W. McKay (R-Allegany & Washington Counties) will sponsor a bill that would add a comprehensive adult dental benefit to Maryland Medicaid. MDAC needs your support to help secure passage of this important legislation.

How you can help

[Sign on now](#) to show your support for an adult dental benefit in Maryland Medicaid.

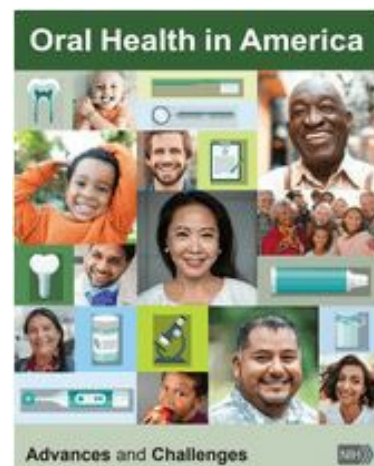
[Share your stories](#). Personal stories from individuals who have received dental coverage through Maryland Medicaid will be powerful. If you or anyone from your organization know of Marylanders who have been positively impacted by receiving dental care through Maryland Medicaid and are willing to share their story, please submit it as a Word document on your organization's letterhead to info@mdac.us. Individual stories can be submitted as written testimony, but may also be helpful and shared during hearings and legislative meetings.

NIDCR ISSUES FOLLOW-UP TO 2000 ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA REPORT

Chronic oral health issues, access to care still problematic despite advances

[Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges](#), a new report from the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), highlights the national importance of oral health and its relationship to overall health. Despite importance advances in the understanding and treatment of oral diseases and conditions since the issuance of *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General* 20 years ago, many Americans still have chronic oral health problems and lack access to care.

The new report, a roadmap to improve the nation's oral health, recognizes the oral health achievements of the past 20 years and focuses on new scientific and technological knowledge and innovations that provide promising new directions to improve equitable access to oral health care. It also features best practices from across the nation, including Maryland's Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids successful social marketing campaign.



Read the [full report](#).

Read the [executive summary](#).

ASTDD LAUNCHES NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH DATA PORTAL

Centralizes oral health data sources in one national platform

The Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) will soon launch a new [National Oral Health Data Portal](#), the nation's first comprehensive, publicly accessible compilation of consolidated oral health data. The portal centralizes more than 30 separate federal, state, and other oral health datasets that include oral health status, workforce, access, cost, and quality of life information.

State and territorial dental directors and ASTDD program staff collaborated on the project to help ensure information in the oral health database is as complete and useful as possible to give epidemiologists, statisticians, care providers, policy makers, public health officials, legislators, researchers, and the public actionable local, state, and federal data to improve the oral health care system.

CAREQUEST, AIDPH ISSUE WHITE PAPER ON VETERANS ORAL HEALTH

Outlines issues, recommendations to improve access, quality of care for veterans

A forward-thinking white paper from the CareQuest Institute and the American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH) focuses on the need to better understand the significant issues surrounding veteran oral health.

[Veteran Oral Health: Expanding Access and Equity](#) addresses the social, structural, and individual drivers of disparate oral health outcomes experienced by veterans that deserve more attention from the oral health community. Roughly 19 million veterans in the U.S., who comprise about 6% of the total population, are more likely to have higher rates of tooth decay, gum disease, and an increased need for restorative dental care compared to non-veterans.



The paper identifies several strategic recommendations to improve access to and quality of care, including: expanding eligibility criteria for veterans to receive oral health services; expanding the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers and rural health clinics; and advancing medical-dental integration in veteran health care.

HHS ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF NEARLY \$48 MILLION IN FUNDING

Awards to increase public health workforce in rural and tribal communities

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, announced the availability of nearly \$48 million in American Rescue Plan funding for community-based organizations to expand public health capacity in rural and tribal communities through health care job development, training, and placement. Awardees will be able to use this funding to address workforce needs related to the long-term effects of COVID-19 as well as health information technology (IT) needs and other key workforce issues.

This notice of funding opportunity builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's [recent historic workforce announcement](#) of awarding the largest field strength in history for its health workforce loan repayment and scholarship programs.

The Rural Public Health Workforce Training Network Program addresses the critical need for more trained health professionals in rural communities. This investment will increase the number of well-trained health care professionals and connect them with future employers, including the hospitals and clinics who participate in this program. This approach benefits the workers who receive valuable training, as well as the participating health care providers who will be able to ensure the pool of potential employees is better prepared to provide culturally competent care that addresses specific needs at their sites. These rural communities will gain an expanded, highly trained workforce that will enhance quality of care and service delivery.

Awardees will establish community health networks, which may be composed of, but are not limited to, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Minority-Serving Institutions, community and technical colleges, critical access hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes, Rural Health Clinics, state or local workforce development boards, and substance abuse providers. HRSA anticipates more than 30 award recipients will be able to develop formal training and/or certification programs in order to increase capacity in the following workforce training tracks: community health support, health IT and/or telehealth technical support, community para-medicine, and case management staff and/or respiratory therapists.

Visit this [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for more information. Applicants can begin the application process on Grants.gov and apply by Friday, March 18, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET.

NNOHA SEEKS DENTAL LEADERSHIP, DENTAL ASSISTANTS FOR

SURVEY

Assessment to better understand dental assistant workforce

The National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) is conducting a needs assessment to better understand the current state and needs of community health centers' dental assistant workforce. The results of this needs assessment will inform the development of national resources to assist with the recruitment, retention, and training of dental assistants.



Dental leadership and dental assistants working in community health centers who complete the needs assessment by January 31, 2022 will be eligible to enter a drawing for a \$50 Amazon gift card. The assessment, which will take approximately five minutes, can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NR6RF72>

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH OOH joining with ADA to promote "Sealants Make Sense" theme



The article below was submitted by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Oral Health:

February is National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM). Every February, dental organizations and providers throughout the nation take time to inform and educate the public about the importance of children's oral health. This February, the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Oral Health will join with the American Dental Association to promote the 2022 National Children's Dental Health Month theme, "Sealants Make Sense."

"Sealants Make Sense" planning guide, posters, activity sheets are available free of charge via the American Dental Association's [website](#). Additional free resources are available via the Office of Oral Health: [Mighty Tooth](#), Maryland's statewide dental sealant program, and [Dental Sealant](#) brochures.

"Although there are challenges ahead, the [Oral Health In America] report...imagines a future, as I do, in which systemic inequities that affect oral health and access to care are more fully addressed, and one in which dental and medical professionals work together to provide integrated care for all."

-Rena D'Souza D.D.S., Ph.D., Director - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

NEWS & RESOURCES

Access to Care

[Oral and Dental Health is Crucial. But Access to Coverage is Spotty](#)

Cancer

[Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan](#)

COVID-19

[Pandemic Checkup: What's Happening With Oral Health?](#)

MD ADULT DENTAL WAIVER PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



[Pandemics Past, Present, and Future: Their Impact on Oral Health Care](#)

[Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#)

Diabetes

[Maryland Diabetes Action Plan](#)

Disease Prevention

[Missed and Delayed Preventive Health Care Visits Among US Children Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Dental Fear Is Real. Providers Can Help.](#)

[Affluent Children Are More Prone to Tooth Decay, First Meta-Study of Its Kind Reveals](#)

[Why Your Oral Health Declines as You Age, and What You Can Do About It](#)

[Disarming a Blood-Clotting Protein Prevents Gum Disease in Mice](#)

[Parents' Praise Encourages Children To Brush Their Teeth](#)

[Preventing Oral Injuries](#)

[9 Habits That Are Killing Your Teeth](#)

Health Equity

[Health Equity Needs Teeth](#)

[State of Oral Health Equity in America 2021](#)

[Report Details 20 Years of Advances and Challenges of Americans' Oral Health](#)

[The Association Between Income Inequality and Oral Health](#)

[Multiple Opportunities to Advance Racial Justice in the Build Back Better Act](#)

[Expert Panel: Dental Therapy Can Help Undo Racism in Oral Health Care](#)

Medical/Dental Integration

Thousands of Maryland adults are accessing dental care through the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program.

According to Maryland Medicaid, from January 1, 2021 through December 28, 2021:

- 8,666 claims were submitted
- 4,357 unique members filed valid claims
- 343 members met annual \$800 cap
- 586 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,346,718.80 paid

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020:

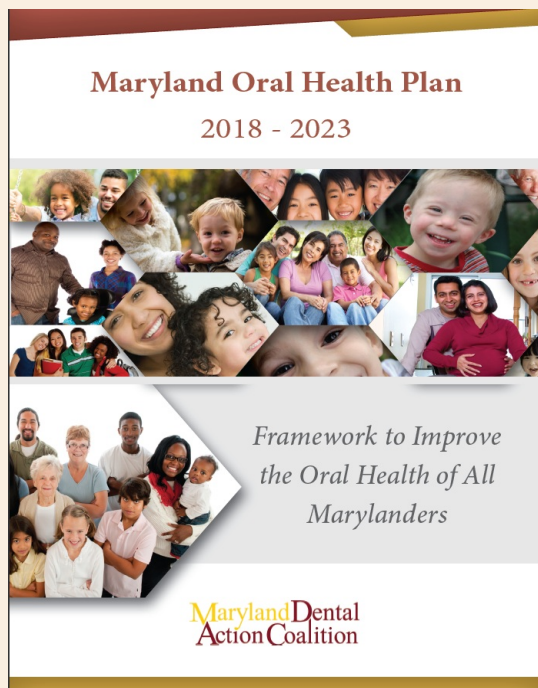
- 7,942 claims were submitted
- 4,151 unique members filed valid claims
- 313 members met annual \$800 cap
- 576 unique providers submitted claims
- \$1,286,280.60 paid

Since the June 1, 2019 launch of the Medicaid Adult Dental Waiver Program, Medicaid has paid \$3,991,713.93 in dental services for thousands of Maryland adults.

MDAC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT FOR A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT IN MARYLAND MEDICAID

SIGN ON NOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

2018-2023 MARYLAND ORAL HEALTH PLAN GOALS



The 2018-2023 Maryland Oral Health Plan outlines 11 oral health goals in three key areas: access to

[Promotion of Oral Health and Prevention of Dental Caries Among Children in Primary Care](#)

[Fluoride Varnish Application in the Medical Office: Family Physicians' Role in Preventing Dental Caries in Children](#)

[What Primary Care Innovation Teaches Us About Oral Health Integration](#)

[Promoting Whole Health in the Dental Setting: Steps Toward an Integrated Interprofessional Clinical Learning Environment Involving Pharmacy, Social Work, and Nursing](#)

[Physicians' Perceptions of the Role of the Dental Hygienist in Interprofessional Collaboration: A Pilot Study](#)

Medicaid

[Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Dental Services Use Declined After Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Expansions](#)

[Oral Health Knowledge, Barriers to Dental Care, and Awareness of a Medicaid Pregnancy Dental Coverage Among Reproductive-Age Women.](#)

Oral Health Policy

[Communities Must Be At the Center of Oral Health Policy Solutions](#)

Oral and Overall Health

[Poor Oral Health Linked to Wide Variety of Diseases and Mental Illness](#)

Teledentistry

[Best Practice Approach: Teledentistry: Opportunities for Expanding the Capacity and Reach of the Healthcare System](#)

Workforce

[Lessons for Advancing and Sustaining State Community Health Worker Partnerships](#)

[The Global Oral Health Workforce](#)

oral health care, oral disease and injury prevention, and oral health literacy and education.

[DOWNLOAD THE PLAN](#)

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

WEBINARS

[Lessons from a Study on Oral Health Care Spending over the Life Span, January 19, 2022](#)

[The Ins, Outs and In-Between: How Dental Medicaid Works and How It Can Work for You, January 20, 2022](#)

[Maximizing Medicaid's Potential to Close the Disparities Gap and Improve Health Equity \(recorded\)](#)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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

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

[Maryland State Legislators](#)

SUPPORT MDAC



Give a little to make a big impact! Your gifts, both large and small, will be used to promote good oral health behaviors, prevent oral disease and injury, and improve access to oral health care for all Marylanders, no matter where they live or what their special circumstances might be. Please help us continue this important work.

[DONATE NOW!](#)

MDAC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and contributions to support its activities are most appreciated. Thank you.



MDAC is pleased to welcome the following new member:

- Barbara Allen - James' Place Inc.
- Joan Emberland, DDS

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

CONTACT

Do you have events or announcements you'd like to share? Contact MDAC, and we'll make every effort to include them in our next newsletter, as space permits.

[Contact MDAC](#)

JOIN

MDAC is statewide coalition of clinical care providers, governments, non-profits, academic institutions, managed care organizations, foundations and associations working collaboratively to improve the health of all Marylanders through increased oral health promotion, disease prevention, education, advocacy and access to oral health care.

[Join MDAC](#)

www.mdac.us

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