In This Issue
May 3 - Last Day to Register!
Upcoming Meetings
A State of Decay
Policy Update
Of Interest

Join us May 3!

Join us this Thursday, May 3, for the Spring Appalachian Oral Health Forum!

Register Today!
Spring Appalachian Oral Health Forum
Thursday, May 3, 2018
Abingdon, VA

A State of Decay Offers Key Findings for Virginia Seniors

Oral Health America’s national report A State of Decay, Vol. IV examines key indicators that impact the oral health of older adults in all states. Virginia narrowly earned a “Good” rating with a 70% score, putting us 11th in the nation for our efforts to improve oral health in seniors. With 1.35 million seniors living in Virginia (16% of our total population), this report illustrates Virginia’s progress and identifies a need for continued action to ensure America’s rapidly growing older population ages healthily and independently.

Read more about key findings for Virginia.

Will Virginia Expand Medicaid?

The Virginia General Assembly convened this year without a budget because the House and Senate were unable to come to an agreement on Medicaid expansion (the House supports expansion, the Senate does not).

To address the budget impasse, Governor Northam called a special session on April 11 to address the budget, and the Virginia House of Delegates again approved a state budget that will expand Medicaid eligibility, and coverage for emergency dental extractions, to about 400,000 low-income Virginia adults.
Now all eyes are on the Senate, which will convene to take up budget discussions on May 14. There appears to be momentum toward expansion, as two Republican senators recently went on record expressing support for Medicaid expansion; however, Senate Finance Committee chair Tommy Norment remains staunchly opposed.

While we wait for the Senate to convene, take a moment to let your senator know how you feel about Medicaid expansion.

**Of Interest**

**Oral Health and Overall Health**

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health and other social factors impact overall health and well-being.

- **Tooth Health May Indicate Diabetes Risk** (The Endocrine Society)
- **Pediatrician’s Role in Early Dental Care** (Contemporary Pediatrics)
- **Oral Health Varies by Immigration Status** (JADA)

**Oral Health Professionals' Guide for Working with State Legislators**

The National Conference of State Legislatures released *State Legislators: Who They Are and How to Work with Them: A Guide for Oral Health Professionals* to help oral health professionals and directors better understand state legislatures and oral health policy-making and how to identify community partners who can amplify their message to legislators.

**CDHP Announces Multi-Generational Oral Health Initiative**
Check out our [event calendar](#) to view meeting times and exact locations for all dates listed above.

**Back to top**

Please take a moment and support the Coalition’s work.

[Donate]

Please check with your HR department to find out if your gift can be matched.

Virginia Oral Health Coalition
4200 Innslake Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060
sholland@vaoralhealth.org
804.269.8720

**Nurse Practitioner & Dentist Model for Primary Care**

Harvard School of Dental Medicine and Northeastern University School of Nursing partnered to develop [The Nurse Practitioner & Dentist Model for Primary Care: A Guide for Implementing Collaborative Care in U.S. Dental Schools](#) - a person-centered care model to address patients’ chronic conditions along with their oral health needs. The American Dental Education Association will hold a free webinar on May 1 at 12:00 p.m. ET to discuss this new resources and implementation steps.

[View the Guide] or [register for the informational webinar].

**Back to top**