



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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### Register for Legislative Day

**Wednesday,  
January 30, 2013**



**Register Now  
and make your voice heard!**

Remind Virginia policy-makers that when individuals don't have access to oral health services it harms their health and Virginia's economy. Join the Coalition at the General Assembly on **Wednesday, January 30, 2013**, for Legislative Day. The Coalition will handle

## December 2012 Bulletin

### Governor's Budget Eliminates Access to Oral Health Services

Governor McDonnell's budget for the upcoming fiscal year does not restore funding for Virginia Department of Health (VDH) dental clinics, which provide dental care for over **20,000 individuals**, despite a clear directive [from a stakeholder group](#) convened by the Commissioner of Health to make recommendations about the long term operations of the dental clinics.

The stakeholder group, after much study and analysis, unanimously recommended that a 'targeted regional approach' to dental clinic operations is necessary as many VDH dental clinics are the only access point for oral health care for the underserved in their areas.

Gov. McDonnell also reiterated his view that Virginia should not expand its Medicaid eligibility, forgoing tens of billions of dollars in Federal funds and denying 420,000 individuals access to medical benefits and emergency dental extractions.

The Coalition and its partners understand that access to oral health services saves lives, improves well being and saves money. Please join us on January 30th for legislative day and make your voice heard as we advocate for restoration of funding for the dental clinics and to expand Medicaid for adults whose income (for a family of four) is \$31,800 or below. [Click here to register](#) for Legislative Day on January 30, 2013.

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### Report: Dental-Related ED Visits on the Rise



The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project has released a [statistical brief](#) that shows a 16% increase in dental-related emergency department (ED) visits, despite the fact that EDs are largely unable to adequately treat the causes of dental pain.

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### Of Interest

all the logistics and provide lunch!

[Click here to register](#)

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## Oral Health Access Spotlight

### Dental Aid Partners of the NRV's Dental Care Day



Dr. Wallace Huff and his assistant treat a patient on Dental Care Day

[Dental Aid Partners of the New River Valley](#) (NRV) held a "Dental Care Day" in September to treat adult patients who were awaiting care at the Free Clinic of the NRV. With the help of local dentists and volunteers, the Day provided 235 patients with nearly \$200,000 worth of care over 800 volunteer hours.

[Read more and view other pictures from this event](#)

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[Donate](#)

[Read about the Coalition's accomplishments.](#)

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

## Oral Health and Overall Health

[Oral health and overall health](#) are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current information on how oral health is connected to overall health well-being.



- [Obesity and cavities in homeless children](#)
- [Gum disease and pancreatic cancer risk](#)
- [Tooth loss and quality of life](#)
- [Dental health and mental illness](#)

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## Interprofessional Collaboration

The Coalition is [working with health care providers](#) throughout Virginia to ensure that oral health is an integral part of a patient's health care experience. The following links present examples of and resources for inter-professional collaboration to improve oral health.



- [Dental and nursing student collaboration - HRSA grant](#)
- [Physician assistant program incorporates Smiles for Life curriculum](#)
- [Macy Foundation releases summary report of Conference on Interprofessional Education](#)

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## Additional Resources

- [VDH launches "Health Bites" website for families](#)
- [Vitamin D linked to lower risk of tooth decay](#)
- [Coffee drinking may reduce risk of oral cancer](#)
- [Americans visiting physicians, dentists less](#)
- [Report: adults in Appalachian coal-mining towns at greater risk for tooth loss](#)



Health Bites website

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[www.vaoralhealth.org](http://www.vaoralhealth.org)

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