



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update July 2018

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Register Today! Collaboration and Leadership Workshop

Workshop: Collaboration and Leadership to Improve Oral Health

Tuesday, August 21 -
Wednesday, August 22, 2018
Richmond, VA

[Register Now!](#)

- * **Lead community-driven, collaborative initiatives.**
- * **Garner support for collective action and policy change.**
- * **Build the infrastructure for sustainable system change.**

Please register by August 14.

Questions? Contact [Lauren Gray](#) at 804.299.5506.

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Virginia Researchers Highlight Hours Lost From Work and School for Dental Visits

A new study from Virginia researchers Uma Kelekar, PhD, (Marymount University) and Shillpa Naavaal, BDS, MS, MPH, (VCU School of Dentistry) finds that Americans miss an average of 92.4 million work or school hours annually for unplanned dental visits. The researchers, who are Virginia Oral Health Summit contributors, also found adults with poor oral health and those who could not afford dental care lose more work hours for unplanned care than those with good oral health or affordable dental care. According to Naavaal, the finding is not surprising and affirms the need for affordable, preventive dental coverage. A comprehensive dental benefit for all adults enrolled in Medicaid would provide dental coverage to low-income Virginians, prevent dental emergencies, and help to reduce missed work hours.

Virginia Medicaid's pending work requirements make it vital for enrollees to stay on the job or risk losing coverage. Providing comprehensive Medicaid dental coverage to adults will reduce unplanned dental visits and help ensure working adults can meet state requirements to maintain their health coverage.

Read the full study [here](#) to further explore disparities in missed work hours by race, ethnicity, and dental care affordability.

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Of Interest

Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

[View our online Event Calendar](#)

August 7 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

August 9 | Fairfax
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

August 20 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

August 21-22 | Richmond
[2-Day Workshop Collaboration and Leadership to Improve Oral Health](#)

September 4 | Richmond
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

September 14 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Children's Workgroup](#)

September 17 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

September 19 | Richmond
[Early Dental Home/Project Advisory Board](#)

September 24 | Richmond
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Grassroots Advocacy Workgroup](#)

September 27 | Harrisonburg
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community](#)

October 2 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult Workgroup](#)

October 15 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg Oral Health Alliance Pregnant Women's Workgroup](#)

October 30 | Norfolk
[Impacting Oral Health in the Community Training](#)

November 8 | Richmond
2018 Virginia Oral Health Summit
Save the Date

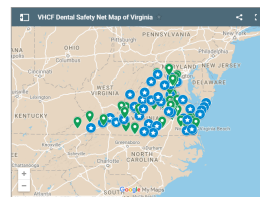
Oral Health and Overall Health

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.

- [Video: Treating dental care as an afterthought has dangerous consequences](#) (NBC News)
- [Poor oral hygiene linked to increased heart disease risk](#) (Dr. Bicuspid)
- [Water fluoridation helps reduce decay in U.S. kids and teens](#) (Campaign for Dental Health)
- [Report: An oral health benefit in Medicare Part B: it's time to include oral health in health care](#) (Families USA)

Virginia Health Care Foundation Launches Dental Safety Net Map

The Virginia Health Care Foundation launched an interactive map of dental safety net clinics across the



state. The map includes information on each clinic and the localities it serves, and will be a resource for both patients and providers to learn more about dental services provided in their area. View the interactive tool [here](#).

NNOHA Webinar on Primary Care and Oral Health Integration

Join the National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA)



on August 1 from 3:00-4:00pm ET to hear lessons learned from two health centers who integrated their patients' oral health and primary care. Register for the webinar through the [NNOHA site](#) to learn more about the integration model and its value for patients and providers.

Families USA Report Analyzes Impact of Emergency-Only Dental Services

November 19 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Oral Health Alliance Pregnant
Women's Workgroup](#)

December 4 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance Adult
Workgroup](#)

December 14 | Fairfax
[NOVA Oral Health Alliance
Children's Workgroup](#)

December 17 | Video Conference
[Greater Richmond & Petersburg
Oral Health Alliance Pregnant
Women's Workgroup](#)

Check out our [event calendar](#) to view meeting times and exact locations for all dates listed above.


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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.

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A new issue brief from Families USA takes a look at state Medicaid programs that cover emergency-only dental services. The analysis found that states that do not include a comprehensive dental benefit face higher costs from emergency visits, lower provider participation, and adverse effects on residents' overall health. Read the full issue brief [here](#).

Studies Show Continuing Education and Guidelines Could Reduce Opioid Prescriptions

In a recent summary of research, Pew Charitable Trust highlights the opportunity to address the opioid epidemic by reducing opioid prescriptions from dental visits. Although Pew [found a rise in opioid prescriptions](#), they also found a declining portion of those scripts were written by dentists and shared support of the American Dental Association's interim policy on opioid prescribing, limiting the duration of prescriptions, and offering continuing education for providers.



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