**Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update**

**June 2016**

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**Notable National Reports**

Two recent national reports take a deep dive into the status of oral health in the United States and the role of the dental hygienist, respectively.

The ADA’s Health Policy Institute has issued a summary report on [Oral Health and Well-Being in the United States](#) that summarizes 2015 data on self-reported oral health status, attitudes and dental care utilization among adults, with state-specific data tables. The findings show that cost is a major barrier to dental health, and the report suggests policymakers explore alternative designs for adult dental benefits in Medicaid and private plans, among other directives.

Additionally, the [Annual Report on Dental Hygiene](#) from the *Journal of Evidence Based Dental Practice* expounds upon the ways dental hygienists can contribute to integrated care, disease prevention and health promotion, and outlines how hygienists can leverage their scope of practice to lead health improvement initiatives. Annual Report chapters are available to non-journal members by purchase.

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**Webinar Archive: Oral Health Integration in Statewide Delivery System and Payment Reform**

The Center for Health Care Strategies hosted a webinar on June 22 to explore a range of approaches to oral health integration that states are considering. Our own executive director Sarah Holland presented on Virginia’s SIM initiative as well as the [Oral Health Integration Toolkit](#). [Listen to the webinar archive.](#)

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**Integrating Oral Health**

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Upcoming VaOHC Meetings

VA Oral Health Report Card Workgroup
Friday, July 8
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Early Dental Home Workgroup
Wednesday, September 7
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

To RSVP, contact Regina Potis.
Learn about our workgroups.

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Save the Date!

2016 Virginia Oral Health Summit
Thursday, November 10
The Westin Richmond

Sponsorship and exhibit opportunities are available. Contact Samantha Dorr for details.

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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 is connected to overall health and well-being.

- Children Acquire Strep Mutans from Intra and Extra-familial Sources
- Tips for Treating Alzheimer’s Patients
- Tooth Loss and Stroke
- Periodontal Disease and Pancreatic Cancer Risk
- Diabetes Detected by a Dentist
- Oral Health Care During Pregnancy

CDC and OSHA Changes May Affect Safety Net Clinics

CDC and OSHA have changed their recommendations for dental handpieces to state that handpieces and low-speed motors should always be heat sterilized between patients and should be wrapped, packaged or placed in a container system. Read updated recommendations from CDC (see pages 14-15) and the Board of Dentistry's standards for professional conduct.

Donate

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

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Online Continuing Education for Dental Professionals

- Medical Complexity in Older Adults (Colgate)
- Diabetes Mellitus and the Dental Professional (ADA)
- Module: Interim Therapeutic Restoration (DentaQuest Disease Management Series)

Oral Health Youth Engagement Plan

America's ToothFairy recently rolled out the #MySmithMatters National Youth Engagement Plan with the theme "Cavities are NOT Supposed to Happen," to encourage youth to become dental health advocates. Visit MySmileMatters.org for more information.