



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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Upcoming Advocacy Activities

The Coalition invites you to attend one or more of our [upcoming advocacy activities](#). Attendees will learn more about our legislative priorities for 2012 and how our communities can speak out on behalf of better oral health.

Upcoming events include:

Legislative Update Conference Call
December 9, 2011
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Southwest VA Oral Health Convening

November 2011 Bulletin

Healthy People 2020 Includes Oral Health as a Leading Health Indicator



For the first time in the Healthy People initiative's history, oral health is a [leading health indicator](#) (LHI) under its [Healthy People 2020](#) agenda. This recognition reinforces the link between oral health and overall health.

Healthy People 2020 challenges the U.S. to increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past 12 months by 10% by 2020.

[Read more about Healthy People 2020's oral health objectives, interventions and resources](#)

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Dental Crisis in Virginia Featured on PBS



Earlier this month, the town of Grundy, Virginia, received national attention when its Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic was featured in an episode of PBS NewsHour. The program focuses on Grundy as part of a series that examines dental shortage areas around the country. The piece includes an interview with [Virginia Dental Association](#) (VDA) executive director and Coalition board member Dr. Terry Dickinson speaking about the dental issues affecting the region.

[Watch the PBS NewsHour video](#)

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Division of Oral Health Retains its Status as a CDC Division, Avoids Demotion

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced that the [Division of Oral Health](#) (DOH) will not be downgraded as a branch of another division, as previously suggested.

December 13, 2011
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Legislative Day
January 31, 2012
Morning Appts

For more information, including registration instructions, visit the [Coalition website](#).

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VaOHC Attends U.S. National Oral Health Alliance Colloquium on Medical-Dental Collaboration



In early November, the Coalition's executive director, Sarah Holland, attended the first colloquium for the newly-formed [U.S. National Oral Health Alliance](#). The meeting brought together stakeholders from across the country to discuss strategies that will increase the frequency and profile of medical and dental collaboration.

The Coalition was recently awarded a grant from the DentaQuest Foundation to increase medical and dental collaboration in Virginia, and is [now hiring](#) for a project manager to oversee the planning phase of this grant.

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The retention of the DOH as a CDC division was strongly supported by organizations such as the ADA, ASTDD and others who expressed their opposition to the change. The move to keep the DOH in its current form further reinforces oral health as a priority within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

[Read the CDC's Oral Health Strategic Plan for 2011-2014](#)

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Motivational Interviewing Linked to Greater Short-Term Improvement in Oral Hygiene and Patient Satisfaction



A recent [study](#) has shown that the use of motivational interviewing may improve compliance with plaque control among patients with periodontitis. The randomized controlled trial measured the improvement in oral hygiene and patient satisfaction among groups with standard consultation alone and with consultation that included motivational interviewing. After 1 month, the motivational interviewing group showed slightly improved results over the control, concluding that this technique may be useful for counselling-related periodontal disorders.

[Read the accompanying article in The Dental Elf](#)

The Coalition is using motivational interviewing to provide oral health educators and dental providers a way to better communicate with patients about oral health.

[Learn more about the Coalition's motivational interviewing presentation](#) as part of its [Virginia Dental Home Initiative](#) training

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Of Interest

Oral Health and Overall Health

Oral health and overall health are fundamentally intertwined. The following links present current research on how oral health affects other health conditions in the body, including:



- [Fat loss and improved gum disease](#)
- [Dental screenings and lower heart disease](#)
- [Oral health in diabetic patients and heart disease/cancer risk](#)

Virginia Dental Association to Host Continuing Education "Vacation" in Florida



The Virginia Dental Association (VDA) and VDA Services are hosting a continuing education vacation on February 10, 2012, in Miami

Beach, Florida. The program will feature an interactive and entertaining oral pathology continuing education course for dentists, hygienists and assistants, with 7 CE lecture hours.

[Visit the event homepage to register](#)

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Please visit our website for more oral health information
www.vaoralhealth.org

