



Excellent Oral Health for ALL Virginians

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2014 Virginia Oral Health Summit *Now Online!*



Presentations from the 2014 Virginia Oral Health Summit are now available online! [Click here](#) to view PDF slideshows and listen to recordings of each speaker.

View the Facebook photo album and tag yourself!

Help shape 2015!
[Click here](#) to complete this simple, two-question survey to help shape the 2015 Virginia Oral Health Summit.

November 2014 Newsletter

What We're Fighting For in 2015

Continuation of Federal SCHIP Funding

In Virginia, the Smiles for Children dental program provides comprehensive dental benefits for children (and pregnant women after March 1, 2015) who are enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS. Smiles for Children operates the two programs so seamlessly it can be easy to forget that Medicaid and FAMIS are funded through separate federal programs. The State Children's Health Insurance Partnership (or "SCHIP") is the federal program that enables FAMIS -- the program that provides affordable **medical and dental coverage** to nearly 200,00 children and pregnant women in Virginia living in families earning too much to qualify for Medicaid (over \$26,321/year for a family of three or 134% FPL and less than \$39,581 for a family of three or 200% FPL). **Federal funding for FAMIS expires September 2015. If funding does not continue, the majority of those insured through FAMIS will lose their medical and dental benefits.** [Learn more.](#)

Coalition staff were joined by a Virginia consumer and representatives from Voices for Virginia's Children, Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare, Virginia Organizing and CHIP of Virginia to tell our Virginia representatives in Congress that funding SCHIP is vital to the health and well-being of vulnerable Virginians.



If you'd like to support these efforts, please add your organization's name to a letter in favor of a funding extension. For more information email your organization's information to [Carrie Wampler](#).

Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women

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CDHP Addresses ACA Sign-up Counts



In a recent blog post, the Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) addresses breaking [news](#) that ACA enrollment counts "erroneously" included dental subscribers. The blog post points to a bigger issue that dental coverage is often overlooked as an important component of health care.

[Read the CDHP blog post "What Really Matters"](#)

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Please take a moment to support the Coalition's work.



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

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

VaOHC will continue to advocate to ensure that [dental benefits for pregnant women](#) enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS, included as part of Governor McAuliffe's A Healthy Virginia initiative, remain in the Commonwealth's budget moving forward. There are several ways for you to get involved.



LEARN more about the Medicaid dental benefit for pregnant women - email [Katherine Libby](#) to request a webinar, in-service or educational materials for medical and dental providers.

LISTEN to a webinar on **Friday, December 19 at 10:30 a.m.** to hear more about our 2015 legislative priorities for Virginia. Email [Carrie Wampler](#) to register.

REGISTER for our 2015 Legislative Day at the Virginia General Assembly on **Tuesday, February 3**. Appointments with legislators will be made on your behalf and talking points will be provided. [Register now](#).

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Oral Health 2020-Virginia - Be Part of the Solution!



VaOHC was just awarded funding from the DentaQuest Foundation to implement **Oral Health 2020-Virginia (OH2020)**. The ultimate goal of OH2020 is to improve overall health by integrating oral health into all aspects of health care. We will strive toward this goal by broadening the network of oral health partners in Virginia, cultivating regional activities, ensuring policies and laws support access and integration, and supporting integration efforts in practice. This is a bold, necessary and achievable initiative -- but, to realize our goal, **we need a diverse set of doers and leaders to outline the strategies and implement the program.**

If you are interested in participating in the development and execution of this program, please email [Sarah Bedard Holland](#).

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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.



- [Physician-Dentist Collaboration in Diabetes Care](#)

- [Study: Cardiologists and Periodontal Disease Knowledge](#)
- [Summary: Pregnancy and Oral Health Tweet Chat](#)

Resource: Virginia-Specific Fluoride Webpage

VaOHC has partnered with the Campaign for Dental Health to host a Virginia-specific webpage outlining the benefits of fluoride, with links to resources, news and event postings.



[View the webpage](#)

Survey: Dental Problems Among Safety Net Patients

The Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) is requesting that dental safety net providers give their dental patients, especially those without dental insurance, a short and simple dental survey to assess how the patients' dental problems affect their quality of life, ability to work, need for emergency care, and more. The survey results will be used to inform the Joint Commission on Health Care about the dental problems that affect the lives of dental safety net patients. Surveys can be collected at dental safety net sites through February 28, 2015, then sent to [Tracey van Marcke](#) at the VHCF at 707 East Main Street, Suite 1350, Richmond, VA 23219.



[Download the survey in English](#) (Word document) or [Spanish](#) (PDF)
Note: both versions updated in November 2014

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www.vaoralhealth.org

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