



Virginia Oral Health Coalition Update November 2015

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2015 Virginia Oral Health Summit

Now Online!



Presentations from the 2015 Virginia Oral Health Summit are now available online! [Visit our website](#) to view slides and listen to recordings of all presentations.

View the Facebook [photo album](#) and tag yourself!

Workgroup Opportunities

Stakeholders are working collectively to advance the goals of the [Virginia Oral Health Plan](#) through workgroups convened by the Virginia Oral Health Coalition.



We invite you to join one of three active workgroups:

- **Kindergarten Policy**
- **Early Dental Home**
- **Adult Dental Access**

If you're interested in joining a workgroup, contact [Carrie Wampler](#) and indicate the group(s) of interest.

[View](#) workgroup descriptions and upcoming meeting dates.

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Opioid Addiction and Oral Health

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Legislative Engagement Opportunities

Join the Virginia Oral Health Coalition staff, board and partners as we strive to ensure policies support access to and awareness of oral health services. There are several ways to get involved.

Legislative Priorities Webinar Friday, December 18

Listen to a review of the Governor's budget and VaOHC's 2016 legislative priorities. Email [Carrie Wampler](#) to register.

2016 Legislative Day Tuesday, February 2

Register for our 2016 Legislative Day at the VA General Assembly. [Register now.](#)

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Virginia Oral Health Plan: Provide Your Feedback!

Please take a moment to review the 2015-2020 Virginia Oral Health Plan and provide feedback through the survey, below, by December 1.

[Click here to view the 2015-2020 Plan](#)

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

We appreciate your input!

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Opioid pain medications are a leading source of drug abuse. To assist clinicians with identifying and preventing abuse, the American Dental

Association (ADA) recently released [The ADA Practical Guide to Substance Use Disorders and Safe Prescribing](#). The guide includes information to help providers detect substance abuse, treat patients with substance abuse disorders and conform to federal drug regulations.

Governor McAuliffe's [Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse Task Force](#) is aware that many adults without dental insurance receive opioid prescriptions in the emergency department for dental pain. The Task Force will recommend short- and long-term measures to tackle addiction issues in Virginia.

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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.

- [Oral Health and Diabetes](#)
- [Oral Health and Fluoridation](#)
- [Oral Health and Secondhand Smoke](#)

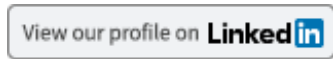
Pregnant Women and Dental Checkups

A [recent study](#) by Cigna found that 43% of pregnant women skip dental checkups during pregnancy, even though 76% report problems such as bleeding gums and toothaches. Women whose doctors have talked about oral health during pregnancy are *twice as likely* to have a dental checkup while pregnant.



Hormonal changes in pregnancy can worsen oral issues; conversely, poor oral health is associated with preterm and low birth weight babies. OBGYNs have a critical opportunity to underscore

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the importance of oral health and encourage routine dental care by providing oral health education and dental referrals to expectant patients.

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Campaign for Dental Health Funding Opportunity

The Campaign for Dental Health has limited funding available to help communities with material expenses related to initiating community water fluoridation or fighting a roll-back attempt. Please [view the November Campaign for Dental Health newsletter](#) for additional information, or contact Hollis Russinof, Program Manager, at hrussinof@aap.org or 847.434.4983

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2016 MATRC Telehealth Summit

Registration is open for the 2016 MATRC Telehealth Summit, to be held April 10-12 in Cambridge, Maryland. [Visit the event homepage.](#)

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