



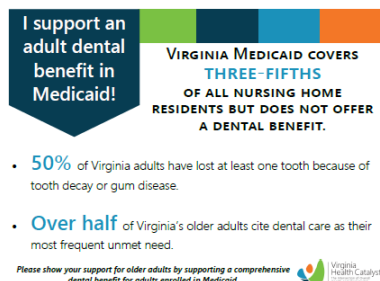
Virginia
Health Catalyst
The Intersection of Overall
Health and Oral Health

Monthly Update November 2019

The Virginia Oral Health Coalition is now Virginia Health Catalyst. Learn more about the next phase of work in a [message from our CEO](#).

Support an Adult Dental Benefit with Advocacy Postcards!

To ensure a comprehensive dental benefit is included in Medicaid in 2020, Virginia Health Catalyst and our partners need to make sure our voices are heard. To help you and your partners show your support for a dental benefit, Catalyst created an [advocacy postcard](#) in four designs.



- 50% of Virginia adults have lost at least one tooth because of tooth decay or gum disease.
- Over half of Virginia's older adults cite dental care as their most frequent unmet need.

Please show your support for older adults by supporting a comprehensive dental benefit for adults enrolled in Medicaid.

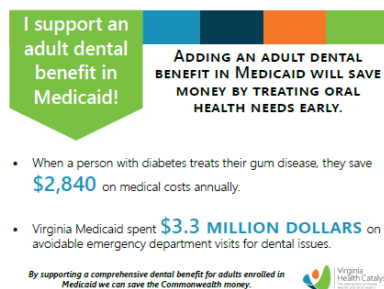


You can [download the postcards here](#) or [ask Catalyst staff](#) to mail them to you. Instructions are included in the download, but be sure to send completed

postcards back to Virginia Health Catalyst to stamp and mail them for you!

The [four postcard versions](#) highlight different reasons an adult dental benefit is crucial for the overall health of Virginians. You also have a chance to write a short sentence about why you support the benefit on the back of the card; Catalyst provides sample messages for each of the postcards as part of the download available [here](#).

These postcards are a quick, effective way to incorporate advocacy into your upcoming



- When a person with diabetes treats their gum disease, they save **\$2,840** on medical costs annually.
- Virginia Medicaid spent **\$3.3 MILLION DOLLARS** on avoidable emergency department visits for dental issues.

By supporting a comprehensive dental benefit for adults enrolled in Medicaid we can save the Commonwealth money.



Upcoming Events

Registration is open for the **FREE Special Needs Dentistry - You Can Do It** events across Virginia! Receive 11 CERP credits while learning how to provide care to individuals with special health care needs. Register and find an event near you [here](#).

Regional Oral Health Alliance Meetings

December 3 | [Greater Richmond & Petersburg Alliance Meeting](#)

December 19 | [Northern Virginia Alliance Children's Oral Health Workgroup Meeting](#)

January 8 | [Northern Virginia Alliance Adult's Oral Health Workgroup Meeting](#)

Workgroup Meetings

December 2 | [School-Based Health Workgroup Meeting](#)

December 4 | [Clinical Advisory Board Informational Webinar](#)

I support an adult dental benefit in Medicaid!

AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT CAN REDUCE OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS AND IMPROVE TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.

- Individuals receiving treatment for substance use disorders who had access to oral health care were **twice as likely** to abstain from drug use and be employed on discharge.
- 56%** of Medicaid beneficiaries who visited the emergency department for dental issues filled an opioid prescription within 30 days.

By supporting an adult dental benefit in Medicaid we can help fight the opioid epidemic in Virginia.



meetings. If there are any other materials that would be helpful in your advocacy for an adult dental benefit (such as fact sheets or social media posts) [please](#)

[contact us and let us know!](#)


In addition to passing out postcards at your upcoming meetings, Catalyst is looking for partners interested in writing op-eds in their local papers. These short articles in support of an adult dental benefit are a great way to lift up why oral health is important for your community. [Contact Catalyst](#) for support in writing your op-ed.

I support an adult dental benefit in Medicaid!

PARENTS WITH DENTAL COVERAGE ARE MORE LIKELY TO TAKE THEIR CHILDREN TO SEE A DENTIST. ADDING AN ADULT DENTAL BENEFIT TO MEDICAID CAN IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN VIRGINIA.

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among children, **5 times** more common than asthma.
- Students in Virginia miss **1 million hours** of school each year because of dental problems.

Please show your support for improving the health of families in Virginia by supporting a comprehensive dental benefit for adults enrolled in Medicaid.



Catalyst Wide Events

December 20 | [Policy Webinar: 2020 Priorities and the Governor's Budget](#)

Special Needs Dentistry Series

January 10-11 | [Middletown](#)

January 24-25 | [Rappahannock](#)

February 28-29 | [Chesapeake](#)

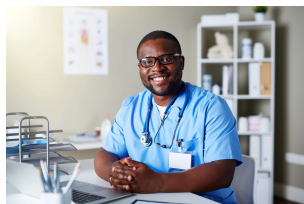
March 13-14 | [Abingdon](#)

May 1-2 | [Farmville](#)

Mark your calendars! Virginia Health Catalyst will celebrate Giving Tuesday on December 3rd, please consider [making a donation](#) next Tuesday and help us achieve our mission of ensuring all Virginians have equitable access to comprehensive health care that includes oral health. Contact Alle Witt at awitt@vahealthcatalyst.org for more details.

Oral Health News & Resources

Join the Catalyst Clinical Advisory Board



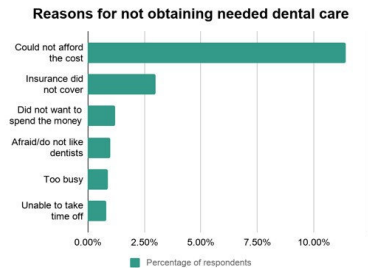
Catalyst seeks a core group of clinicians to form a **Clinical Advisory Board** that will advance equity and care coordination on the front lines of health care. Members also gain knowledge and partnership through exclusive interprofessional learning and networking opportunities. We welcome member applications from many clinical settings including but not limited to dental, medical, behavioral health, academia, social services, and pharmacy. [Apply to be a part of the Clinical Advisory Board by December 18.](#)

Justice in Aging Releases Issue Brief on Racial Disparities in Medicare

Justice in Aging released a new issue brief highlighting how a dental benefit in Medicare would address racial disparities. Given that black older adults experience complete tooth loss at over two times the rate of white older adults (31% vs 15%) adding a dental benefit could reduce disparities in access to care and overall health. In addition to the findings, the issue brief provides additional ways to address disparities, including diversifying the health care workforce and integrating care. Read the full brief [here](#).



Nearly 48 Million Adults Across United States Forego Dental Care Annually



[New data](#) from the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute finds about 1 in 5 working-age adults report needing dental care but did not obtain it in the past year. This rate was higher among older adults. As we might expect, the most commonly cited reason for not accessing dental care was cost. Support Catalyst's efforts to ensure more Virginians have access to dental services by adding a comprehensive dental

benefit to Medicaid. Learn more about Catalyst's advocacy efforts in the [December 20 policy webinar](#).

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Donate today to help ensure all Virginians have access to equitable health care that includes oral health:

Donate



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