



Virginia
Health Catalyst
The Intersection of Overall
Health and Oral Health

Monthly Update October 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](#).

Federal Policy Updates That Impact the Health of Virginians

This month has seen a number of policy updates at the federal level that could impact the health of Virginians. As we continue to advocate for comprehensive health care that includes oral health here in Virginia, we encourage our partners to keep an eye on the following federal policies:

- Medicare Dental Act Passes Out of Committee:** In the House of Representatives, the [Medicare Dental Act of 2019](#) (Kelly, D-IL) was passed out of committee. This bill amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under Part B of the Medicare program; it was introduced this month as part of a package of policies that would be paid for by the savings from the Lower Drug Costs Now Act which was recently released as a Democratic-supported proposal to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. While this package of bills will likely be passed in the House, it faces significant obstacles in the Senate.
- Changes to Public Charge Regulations Blocked:** A federal judge placed a temporary freeze on the Trump Administration's proposed changes to public charge regulations. The proposed changes to the public charge system would have expanded the list of programs considered when a person is applying for a green card. Under the proposed public charge changes, immigrants enrolled in programs like Medicaid, food stamps, or housing assistance could be denied a green card.

Upcoming Events

[Registration for the 2019 Virginia Oral Health Summit closes this Friday!](#)

Regional Oral Health Alliance Meetings

November 14 | [Northern Virginia Alliance Children's Oral Health Workgroup](#)

November 15 | [Northern Virginia Alliance Adult's Oral Health Workgroup Meeting](#)

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

Workgroup Meetings

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

Coalition Wide Events

November 7 | [2019 Oral Health Summit](#)

Oral Health News & Resources

Latest Profile of Virginia's Uninsured Highlights Gap in Dental Care Between Insured and Uninsured



In its newly-released 2019 Profile of Virginia's Uninsured, the Virginia Health Care Foundation found a dramatic difference between uninsured adults seeing a dentist in a year (42.9%) compared to insured adults (73.6%). Additionally, uninsured adults were nearly 10% more likely to lose a permanent tooth (45.8% vs. 34.5%). These results came from a broader study of Virginia's uninsured population. View the entire report and its findings [here](#).

Researchers Share Concerns Over Fluoride Study

Earlier this year a study was published regarding the safety of fluoride, claiming it had an impact on IQ scores. When the study was released, [Virginia Health Catalyst](#) and its partners shared concerns on the validity of the study and its findings. Now, dozens of researchers and public health experts have sent a letter to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to raise concerns about the study, its transparency, and its conclusions. Read the full letter [here](#).



Study Finds Consensus Across Health Care Providers for Increased Care Integration



A [new survey](#) from DentaQuest finds agreement across medical and dental providers that increased provider collaboration can improve patient care. Over half of the dentists who took part in the survey felt school-based dentistry, collaborative care teams, and offering additional services like transportation or childcare could remove patients' barriers to care. Virginia Health

Catalyst works with providers across the Commonwealth to integrate care to better improve patient outcomes, learn how [here](#).

Support Healthy Habits with Rev Your Bev Day

There's still time to register and join partners across Virginia on November 13 for Rev Your Bev Day! This annual event is an opportunity to promote healthy choices like drinking fluoridated water instead of sugary drinks. Register to host an event in your community and take part in sharing the importance of a healthy lifestyle fueled by water! <https://revyourbev.com/registration/>



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

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