

The **Delaware Oral Health Coalition** is open to all interested individuals and organizations who wish to participate in planning, developing, and implementing strategies to further its mission.



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Join the Movement
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DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health
Bureau of Oral Health and Dental Services

Delaware Oral Health Coalition



**We support optimal
oral health for everyone.**

Vision

The Delaware Oral Health Coalition envisions: *Delaware, the First State, to ensure optimal oral health for everyone!*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Delaware Oral Health Coalition is to provide leadership and advocacy so that the people of Delaware can access affordable, quality oral health care. Emphasis is placed on prevention and early diagnosis as they contribute to total health and well being. The mission will be achieved through:

- A committed group of individuals and organizations seeking to improve oral health in Delaware.
- Innovative action and results that can be operationally and financially sustained.
- Partnerships that influence or legislate change.
- Collaborative opportunities for service delivery, health promotion, and research.

Goals

- 1 Improve access to oral health care and disease prevention for vulnerable adults.
- 2 Improve access to oral health care and disease prevention for children.
- 3 Increase the oral health literacy of all Delaware residents.
- 4 Increase partnerships and collaborations to build and maintain a coordinated advocacy initiative to improve oral health systems in Delaware.

“You are not healthy without good oral health.”

— C. Everett Koop, MD, former U.S. Surgeon General

Oral Health Facts

Oral Health Status of Third Grade Children in Delaware*

- 53 percent of the children screened were decay-free while 47 percent had a history of dental decay (at least one tooth with untreated decay and/or a filling).
- 16 percent of the children screened had untreated decay at the time of the examination.
- 54 percent of the children had a dental sealant on one or more permanent molar.
- 16 percent of the children screened needed dental care.

Despite significantly fewer tooth decay cases over the last 15 years, unacceptable high levels of disease remain in Delaware children in lower socio-economic and minority groups.

Adults⁺

- 70 percent of adults visited the dentist or dental clinic within the past year for any reason.
- 45.2 percent of adults had at least one permanent tooth extracted.
- 16.9 percent of adults aged 65+ have had all their natural teeth extracted.

Continuous, lifelong access to dental care is essential for maintaining optimal health.

Adults with Disabilities⁺

- 58.6 percent had a dental visit within the past year.
- 41.4 percent had a dental visit >1 year ago or never.

Untreated dental disease complicates the care of disabled adults, leading to higher costs and compromised health.

*Source: Delaware Oral Health Assessment of Third Grade Children, 2013

⁺Source: 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)