

ORAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

October 27, 2022



Georgia Department of Public Health

Don't let flu season catch you by surprise! Protect yourself and your family with a flu vaccine. Book your appointment now at <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/>



New From the Oral Health Resource Center

To highlight activities conducted by states addressing the Title V national performance measure on oral health (NPM 13) in fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021), the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center produced [Title V National Performance Measure 13 \(Oral Health\): Fiscal Year 2021 Snapshot](#). It also presents challenges, lessons learned, and accomplishments in promoting preventive dental visits for pregnant women and children and adolescents, ages 1 through 17. Learn more about NPM 13 on our [web-site](#). Find infographics and other resources about strategies, data sources, measures, practices, and states that have selected NPM 13 now and over time. We appreciate the state oral health program staff who responded to questions to enhance the state descriptions in the publication. Thank you for your participation and insight!

New CPT Code Empowers Medical Professionals to Apply Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) to Treat Cavities

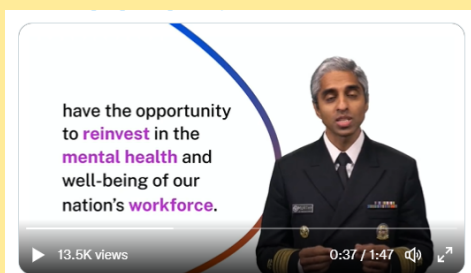
Last month, the American Medical Association (AMA) approved a new category III CPT code for the application of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) by medical teams to arrest dental decay without a dental filling. The addition of this code is a milestone in improving access to dental care and, ultimately, helping more people achieve better oral health. The newly approved CPT code is expected to be in-putted into code sets by Electronic Health Records (EHR) vendors in July 2023. CareQuest Institute will partner with Smiles for Life Oral Health to develop training and educational materials on dental cavities identification and SDF application for medical professionals. The article does not mention a critical point – a code can exist, but an insurer, including Medicaid, may not pay it. [Read more.](#)

Updated ASTDD School-Based Dental Sealant Programs Best Practice Approach Report

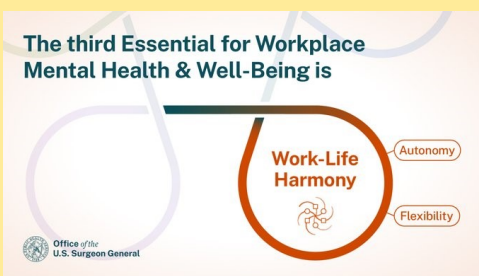
The ASTDD [Best Practices Committee](#) is pleased to announce the posting of the updated ASTDD Best Practice Approach Report, [School-Based Dental Sealant Programs](#) and its associated Descriptive Reports.

Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General

Today, I released a new Surgeon General's Framework for Workplace [#MentalHealth](#) & Well-Being. This Framework lays out Five Essentials needed to make our nation's workplaces engines of well-being for all workers. <http://surgeongeneral.gov/workplace>



Workers have many responsibilities outside of work. Protecting non-work time and providing greater flexibility and autonomy in the workplace can help workers fulfill these responsibilities and better harmonize work and home. <http://surgeongeneral.gov/workplace>



29.5 Million Americans Visited a Dentist but Not a Medical provider in 2019

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released [Statistical Brief #544, Number and Percentage of the Population with Any Dental or Medical Visits by Insurance Coverage and Geographic Area, 2019](#). This brief is a follow-up to [Statistical Brief #537, Trends in the Number and Percentage of the Population with Any Dental or Medical Visits, 2003-2018](#), which was released in October 2021. Key findings of this report include:

- In 2019, about 37 percent of Americans (120.6 million in 2019) had at least one medical and one dental visit, and 9 percent (29.5 million in 2019) had least one dental visit and no medical visit.
- The percentage of Americans visiting both a medical and dental provider in 2019 was higher among those who had private insurance with dental coverage (47.2 percent) compared to those who had private insurance without dental coverage (22.8 percent) or were publicly covered (29.8 percent).
- Overall, the proportion of publicly insured individuals who had contact with a medical provider (46.1 percent) was the same as for privately insured individuals without dental insurance (46.2 percent). However, their likelihood of having both dental and medical visits (29.8 percent) was higher than for privately insured individuals without dental insurance (22.8 percent).
- Among persons with public coverage, the percentage with medical and dental visits in 2019 was higher among non-Hispanic White individuals (35.1 percent) compared with those who are Hispanic (24.8 percent) and non-Hispanic Black (23.1 percent).
- Overall, regardless of insurance status, the percentage of individuals with both medical and dental visits in 2019 was higher among persons who are non-Hispanic White (43.3 percent) compared with those who are Hispanic (25.3 percent) and non-Hispanic Black (26.4 percent).

The case for bi-directional integration is bolstered by the findings that 9 percent (29.5 million people) visited a dentist in 2019 but not a medical provider, and 33.4 percent had visited a medical provider but not a dentist. Bi-directional integration of oral health and overall health includes not only where medical professionals screen their patients for dental disease and provide education and preventive procedures like fluoride varnish applications, but also where oral health professionals provide primary care screenings such as hypertension, diabetes, depression, immunizations, and more. These screenings are even more important given the known relationships between oral disease and systemic diseases.



Healthy People 2030

October is “[National Dental Hygiene Month](#).” Healthy People 2030 has multiple oral health objectives targeting prevention of dental caries in these age groups. Here are some of them:

- OH-08: Increase use of the oral health care system
- OH-01: Reduce the proportion of children (and adolescents) with lifetime tooth decay.

Conferences:

National Network for Oral Health Access Annual Conference, Nashville, TN
November 6-9, 2022

APHA's 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo, Boston, MA
November 06-09, 2022

Greater New York Dental Meeting, New York, NY.
November 25-30, 2022

2023 Dental Infection Control Boot Camp, Atlanta, GA
January 23 - 25, 2023

4th Annual National Mobile & Teledentistry Conference, Dallas, TX
March 2-4, 2023

Hinman Dental Meeting, Atlanta, GA
March 16-18, 2023

Brush, Floss, Smile! is theme for 2023 National Children's Dental Health Month

The National Children's Dental Health Month theme for February 2023 will be Brush, Floss, Smile!, according to the ADA Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention. During this month health care providers and educators promote the importance of good oral health to children, caregivers, teachers and others, ADA News reported. "Oral health is so important for our youngest, and I feel it is my duty and privilege as a dentist to emphasize brushing, flossing and other healthy habits so that the children grow up to become healthy adults," said James Mancini, D.M.D, chair of the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention as well as a Give Kids A Smile ambassador. The ADA is offering free bilingual posters, and new this year, English- and Spanish-language postcards can be purchased. To learn more about National Children's Dental Health Month, along with other resources, go to [ADA.org/ncdhm](https://ada.org/ncdhm). Full Story: [ADA News](#) (10/19)

A Case Study on Value-Based Payment in Oral Health

Lesson 1: Infrastructure affects quality. What two other takeaways did CareQuest Institute researchers gather from a case study on alternative payment models in Texas? A new Dental Economics article looks at [oral health outcomes in fee-for-service and alternative payment models](#).

Monkeypox and the Unique Role of Oral Health Providers

Oral health providers can often be the first health care professionals to detect signs and symptoms of monkeypox in their patients and can [play a key role in continuing to reduce the spread of the virus](#), according to a new CareQuest Institute visual report. The report details how screening for the oral lesions associated with the virus is similar to other oral examinations in a dental office.



Congratulations on your Birthday!

This month, we celebrate the life of extraordinary people in the Oral Health Program. I'm so blessed to work with all of you.

- Crystal Stanley on October 01 from District 9-1
- Jorge Bernal, DDS on October 28 from State office



CDC: Oral Health Month

October is Energy Awareness Month

The impacts of power outages and power shutoffs are felt by everyone. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) says, on average, U.S. electricity customers experienced just over 8 hours of electric power interruptions in 2020. That was the most since EIA began collecting electricity reliability data in 2013. Here are some ways you can prepare your health for a power outage

Webinars:



What Does it Mean to Support the Whole Child and Family?

Friday October 28th, 1:00 p.m. (ET)

[Register Here](#)

Diabetes Screening and Oral Health Care

November 03, 2022 1:00pm EST

[Register Here](#)

Infection Control: Expectations and Challenges in Today's Dental Practice

November 9, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET.

[Register Here](#)

Communication Strategies for Productive Patient Conversations

November 15 from 1–2 p.m. ET.

[Register Here](#)

Fourth Annual Rural Oral Health Conference

November 18, 2022 9:00am - 4:00pm EST

[Register Here](#)

New Issue of In Focus Explores Oral Health

The latest issue of Women's Health in Focus at NIH explores oral health. The feature story discusses sex and gender differences in oral health and NIH efforts to support diversity in the dental, oral, and craniofacial workforce. A guest editorial by Jennifer Webster-Cyriaque, D.D.S., Ph.D., Deputy Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, discusses oral health disparities. [Read In Focus](#). For more information on women's health research, women in biomedical careers, recent and upcoming ORWH activities, and related funding opportunities, [subscribe](#) to Women's Health in Focus at NIH free.

American Dental Association Health Equity Webpage

The American Dental Association is pleased to announce the release of their Health Equity webpage. Here is a recent ADA News Article that highlights its launch (<https://www.ada.org/publications/ada-news/2022/october/ada-announces-new-health-equity-action-team>), which will direct you to the landing page (<https://www.ada.org/resources/community-initiatives/health-equity>). Dr. Elizabeth Lense is the ADA Health Equity lead. She can be contacted at lensee@ada.org.

Georgia Overall COVID-19 Status

Below you will find information reported to DPH on the total number of COVID-19 tests, confirmed COVID-19 cases (PCR positive), antigen positive cases, ICU admissions, hospitalizations, and deaths attributed to COVID-19. These data are based on available information at the time of the report and may not reflect all cases or tests performed in Georgia. Reported today reflects cases reported since the last website update. As of April 20, 2022, the website is updated weekly.

Confirmed Cases ⓘ	Confirmed Deaths ⓘ	Hospitalizations ⓘ	ICU Admissions ⓘ
2,249,087	33,740	128,266	17,052
Antigen Positive Cases ⓘ	Probable Deaths ⓘ		
671,576	6,886		

GEORGIA
VACCINES ADMINISTERED
ADMINISTERED
16,371,066
ADMINISTERED PER 100K
157,355

RESIDENTS VACCINATED
At Least One Dose
6,847,038
% At Least One Dose
66%
Fully Vaccinated
6,030,372
% Fully Vaccinated
58%
Additional Dose
2,738,548
% Fully Vac with Additional Dose
45%
% Additional Dose
26%

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily->

