



2023
Annual Meeting &
Celebration!



www.ctoralhealth.org



WELCOME

Executive Director
T.J. Clarke II, MBA

AGENDA

- Opening Remarks from Executive Director
- Introduction of COHI Board Members and Staff
- Overview of COHI's Recent Advocacy and Success
- Community Engagement Efforts
- Presentations on Recent Research
- Remarks from the President of the Board
- Awards Ceremony



Stay Connected and Win a Prize!



Thankyou



FOR BEING HERE!

We appreciate your support to strengthen and safeguard access to quality, affordable oral health services for all Connecticut residents.

DONATE TO THE CAUSE FOR
A SUCCESSFUL 2024



www.ctoralhealth.org

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST TO
STAY IN TOUCH




Oral Health Bingo



Mark the square when you hear it said during the speaking program.

Mark 5 in a row to enter to win tonight's raffle prize!

Dental Therapy	Community Health Centers	Dental Sealants	HUSKY	CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Medical-Dental Integration	Oral Hygiene	Advocacy	Barriers to Access	Dentists
Oral Health Literacy	Affordability		Periodontal	Community Engagement
Every Smile Counts	Cultural Competence	Oral Health Workforce	Health Equity	Fluoride
Preventative Care	Dr. Howard I. Mark	Quality Care	Medicaid	Dental Insurance

Thank you to our Sponsors

Platinum

CareQuest 
Institute for Oral Health®



Thank you to our Sponsors

Gold

JoAnn Price

Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Fairview Capital Partners, Inc.



**Charter Oak
Health Center**

Thank you to our Sponsors

Silver

Bronze

Dr. Jean and Dr. Steve Schensul

Phil Richmond, MS, LADC



Thank you to our Sponsors

Community Partners



brownrudnick



Dr. David Fenton

MINTZ+HOKE



Advocating for Better Oral Health for All for Over 20 Years!

Our Mission:

To strengthen and safeguard access to quality, affordable oral health services for all Connecticut residents

Our Vision:

All Connecticut residents will have equal opportunity to obtain the services needed to maintain good oral health



HOW WE ADVOCATE FOR THE COMMUNITY:



OCTOBER 2022

A MEDICAID GAP ANALYSIS OF ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR ADULTS IN CONNECTICUT



FUNDED BY

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
&
Connecticut Health Foundation

- Lead and collaborate in statewide oral health advocacy efforts
- Conduct oral health research to uncover the root causes of existing problems and recommend solutions
- Communicate the impact of structural and social factors on oral health and help reduce disparities
- Promote the necessity of good oral health for overall health and well-being throughout the state

RECENT POLICY ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- Expanding Medicaid coverage to cover periodontal treatments for adults with certain chronic health conditions. (2023)
- Securing a 25% increase in adult rates for all dental services and an additional increase for endodontic services (the first adult dental rate increase since 2008. (2022)
- Expanding coverage for second annual cleanings authorized for adults on Medicaid who have certain medical conditions. (2022)
- Expanding Medicaid (HUSKY) to children up to 12 years old, regardless of immigration status (2022), and 15 years old by 2024.
- Allowing 19 to 26-year-olds to remain on their family's dental insurance plans, helping thousands of young people in Connecticut maintain continuity of care. (2021)
- Adding Dental Coverage included in the Covered CT program. (2021)
- Adding Licensed Dentists to the list of telehealth providers. (2020)

HUSKY Health is Now Available to Children 12 and Under with Any Immigration Status



**Special Announcement!
Medicaid to Expand Coverage for
Treating Periodontal (Gum) Disease**





COHI 2024 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Empowering Community Voices to Help Eliminate Inequities and Barriers to Oral Health Access and Quality Care for All of Connecticut

Increasing Utilization of Oral Health Medicaid Services, especially for adults

Improving preventive oral health services for children

Expanding and diversifying the oral health workforce: dental therapist, community health workers, and others

Expanding care for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Complete the dental bill of rights, including Medical Loss Ratio Legislation

Expand eligibility and benefits for Medicaid oral health services



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTREACH:

Gary Turco, MS, Community Engagement Specialist



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTED RESEARCH:

- Medicaid utilization barriers
- Non-emergency medical transportation
- Medicaid provider participation
- Individuals with special needs unique access problems
- Oral health literacy
- Dental Therapy knowledge and grassroots support

COHI
Connecticut Oral Health Initiative

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

COHI IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO DISCOVER BARRIERS TO ADEQUATE ORAL HEALTH CARE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE SURVEY

English Spanish



LINK TO SURVEY:
WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/COHISURVEY
WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/COHISURVEYSPANISH

Provider and Practice Feedback Needed to Understand Medicaid Network Participation

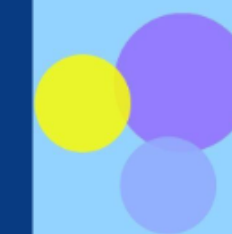


COHI needs to hear from oral health professionals on changes to help incentivize more private providers to join the Medicaid network or increase their member patient load.

You can help our advocacy in one of two ways:

Complete a short questionnaire - <https://forms.gle/mYVCCn2jDEuvYdyn9>

Schedule a conversation to provide your feedback at info@ctoralhealth.org.



Free Oral Health Educational Event for Community Organization Members



BETTER TEETH = BETTER HEALTH

COHI is available to present to your group
Contact for more info and schedule: info@ctoralhealth.org

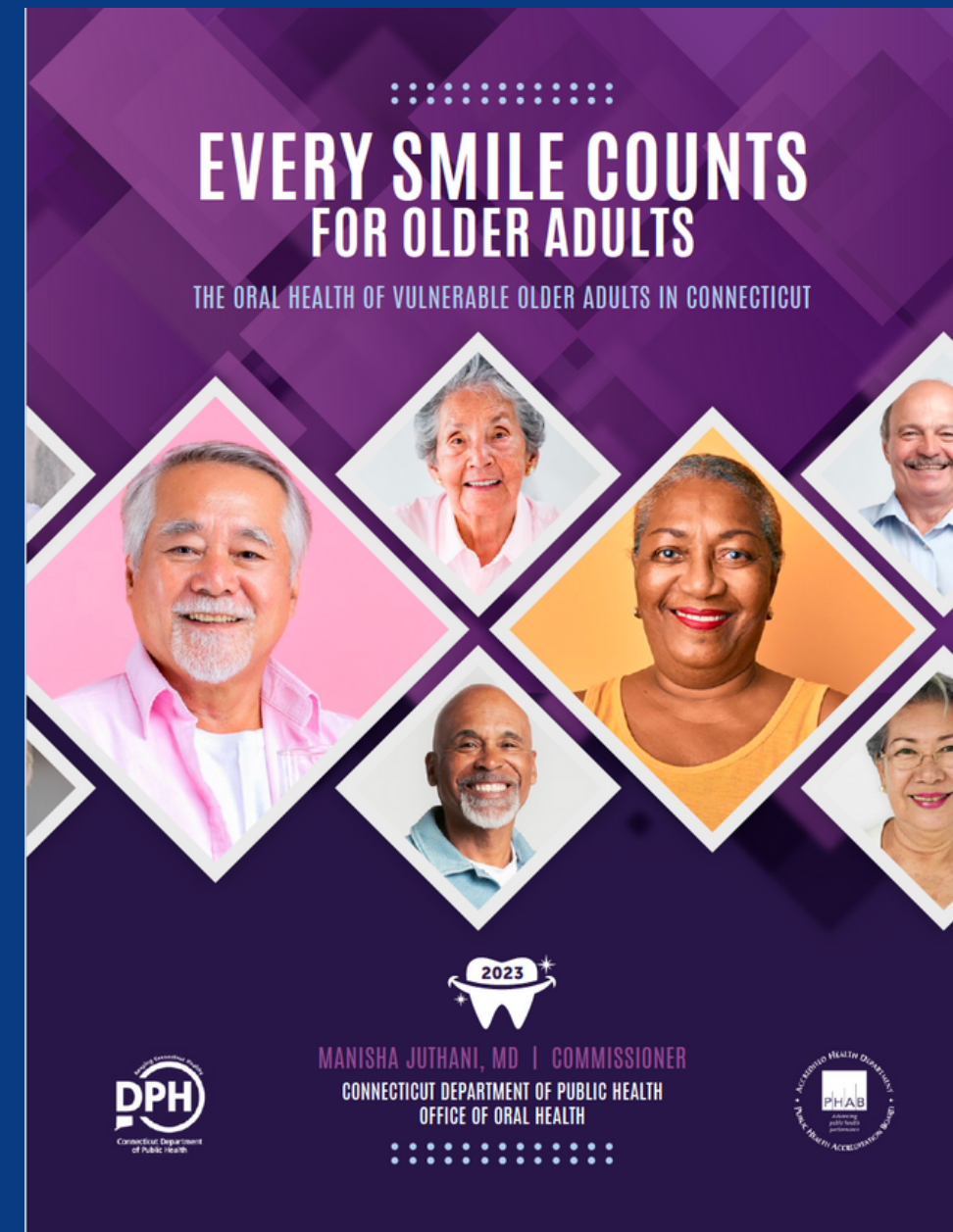
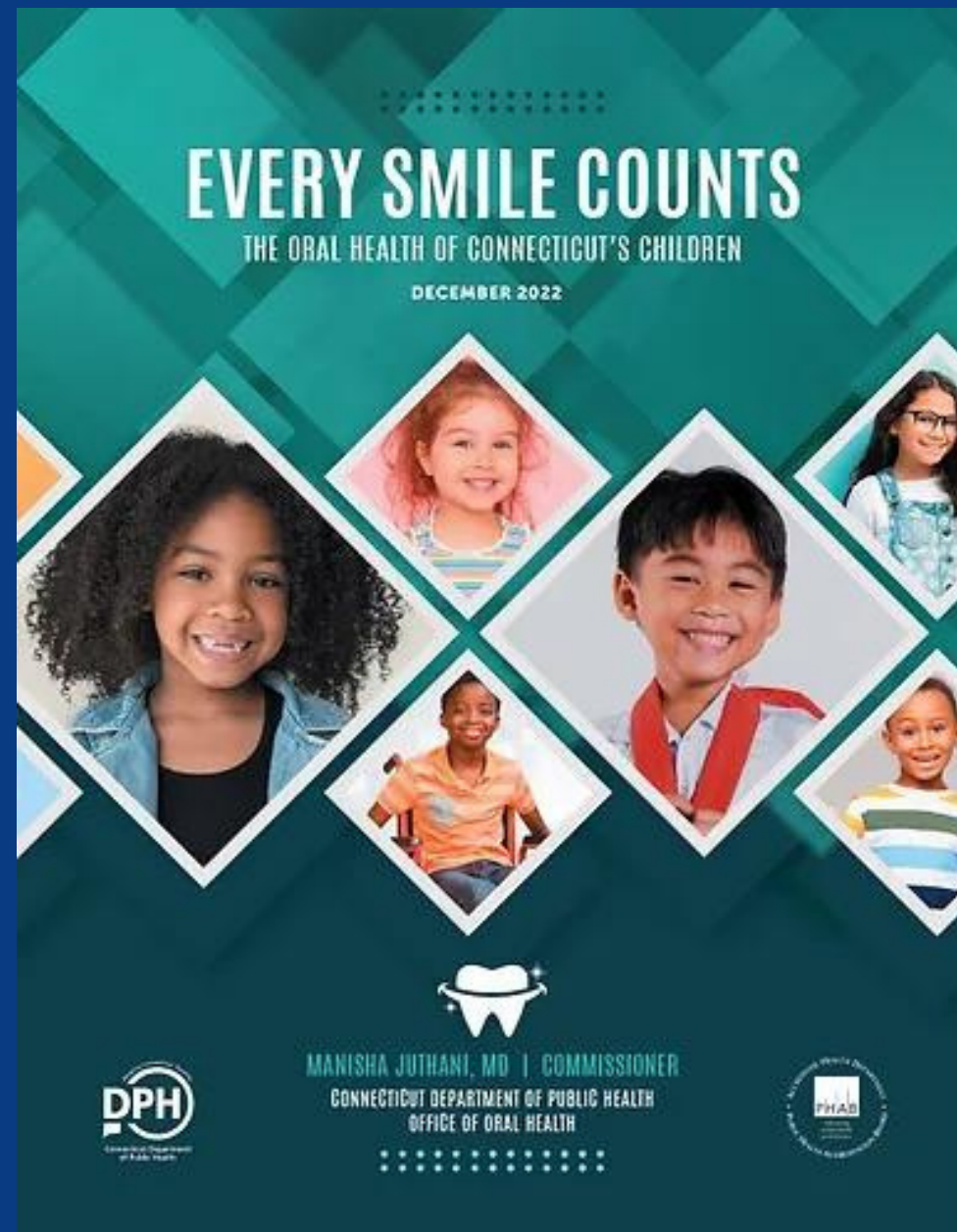
- Learn about oral health best practices
- Interact with oral health professionals
- Raffle prizes & light refreshments offered
- Free oral health products



Every Smile Counts for Connecticut's Children and Older Adults

New studies to determine residents' oral health status, investigate barriers to access and quality care, and identify solutions to achieving better outcomes conducted in partnership and behalf of the Connecticut Department of Public Health Department of Public Health

Presented by: Samira Abdelrehim, Megna Senthilnathan, and Victoria DAgostino



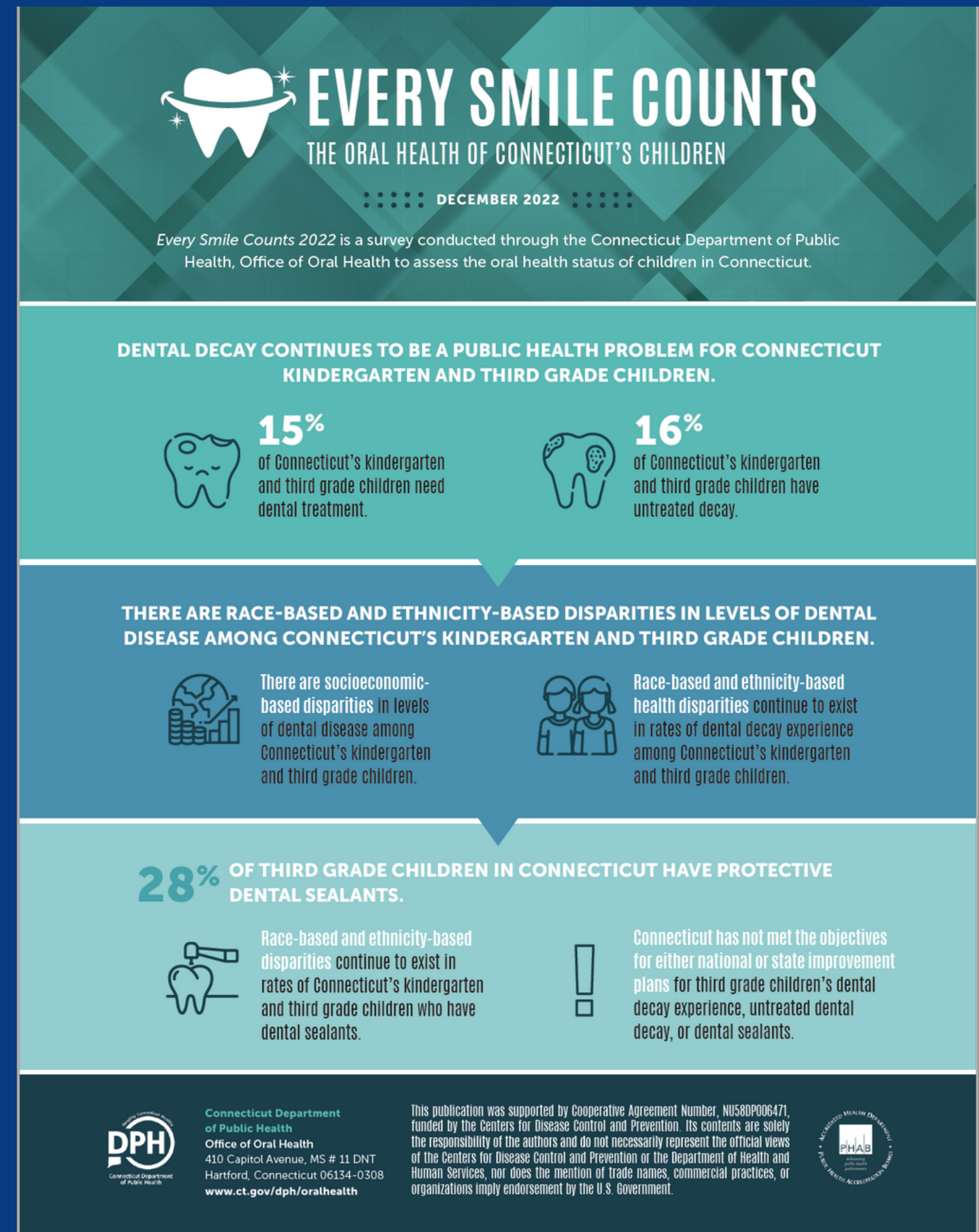
Key Findings: Children (under 21)

More than 4,600 Kindergarten and third-grade children in 46 schools and 37 school districts were screened around the state.

Report follows the 2007, 2012, and 2017 to inform the development of state policies and programs for children's optimal oral health. It identifies several serious concerns and outlines numerous policy recommendations for stakeholders to consider and pursue.

- Dental decay continues to be a public health problem for CT children, with at least 1/3 (34%) of children affected. (Affects children's learning in the classroom)
- There are socioeconomic, race-based, and ethnicity-based disparities in levels of dental disease. (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Multiracial all lag behind white children, as well as lower income behind higher-income families)
- Only 28% of third-grade children have protective dental sealants, also race and ethnicity-based disparities.
- Connecticut has not met the objectives for either national or state improvement plans.

View the full report here: <https://www.ctoralhealth.org/everysmilecounts-children-2022>



Key Findings: Older Adults (64+)

Targeted two high-risk adult populations: residents of long-term care (LTC) facilities and adults attending federally subsidized congregate meal sites (CM sites).

Twenty-three LTC facilities were screened throughout Connecticut, along with 26 CM sites located in the same communities as the LTC facilities. 84.5% of survey respondents were age 65 or older.

Follows 2013 report to inform the development of state policies and programs to improve the oral health of Connecticut's older adult population.

- Many vulnerable older adults in Connecticut with teeth (dentate) are not getting the dental care they need. 54% in LTC and 19% in CM sites needed dental care.
- Many vulnerable older adults in Connecticut do not have any natural teeth and many do not have dentures to facilitate eating. 45% in LTC and 17% in CM sites did not have a full set of dentures.
- Periodontal disease is a problem for 44% of residents in LTC and 13% at CM sites.
- Hispanic residents had the highest prevalence of needing urgent dental care (52%) in LTC sites and Black participants at CM sites had the highest rate of untreated decay.



ADOPTING DENTAL THERAPY IN CONNECTICUT



Presented By:

Dr. Krisha Shah, MPH Student
Dr. Hir Akhani, MPH Student

ABSTRACT

The study suggests Connecticut should implement a dental therapy program to meet the demand for dental care in community settings. The study recommends this program based on data collected through a literature review, comparison of various states model and interviews for better oral health education, community health planning, policy strategies, and promotion would be important factors in implementing the program for public insured or under-insured population.

Keywords: Dental Therapy, Policy Recommendation, States Laws, Access, Preventive Care.

WHAT IS DENTAL THERAPY?

Dental therapists are highly-trained dental providers who work as part of the dental team, similar to a physician assistant in medicine.

First introduced to the US in 2005, a dental therapist can provide routine preventative and restorative care, and education to their patients, especially in areas with shortages in dental care.

Some areas dental therapists are specifically trained to work in:

- Schools
- Nursing Homes
- Community Health Centers
- Mobile Clinics
- Tribal clinics
- Senior Centers
- Rural Community

ANALYSIS

This project involves conducting a literature review of state models and dental therapy programs, collecting data through interviews with healthcare providers, allied healthcare workers, and advocacy organizations, and analyzing and comparing different state models to determine the best fit for Connecticut.

NEED OF DENTAL THERAPY IN CONNECTICUT

- Over 800,000 Medicaid enrollees are eligible for oral health services. 2/3 of adults and 1/3 of children don't visit a dentist annually.
- Dental cavities, a preventable condition, impact 34% of Connecticut children, with higher rates among minorities and lower-income families.

CURRENT LAWS OF DENTAL THERAPY IN CT

- Compulsory need to be registered licenced dental hygienist.
- Complete a 3-year accredited dental therapy program after 0-1 year of college education.
- Obtain written certification from an accredited institution signed by a licensed dental therapist.
- Pass a recognized dental competency exam.
- Complete 1000 hours of clinical training under a licensed dentist's supervision.
- Attend 6 hours of dental therapy-related continuing education.
- Establish a collaborative agreement with a licensed dentist.

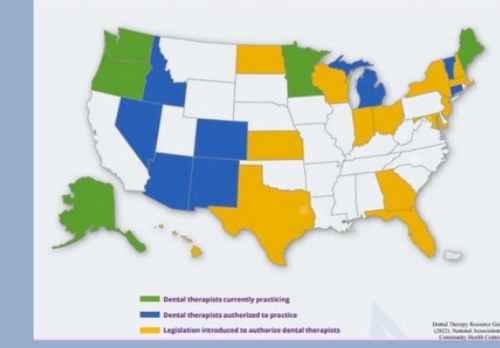
OBJECTIVE

- **BY 2025- CHANGE OF LAW FOR COST-EFFECTIVE DENTAL THERAPY EDUCATION MODEL.**
Decouple dental hygiene and dental therapy, create a licensure program, and establish training opportunities for diversification and expansion of the oral health workforce for individuals from underserved communities.
- **BY 2028- INTRODUCE THE DENTAL THERAPY PROFESSION IN CONNECTICUT.**
Enhancing cultural competence and linguistically appropriate care for the benefit of residents with public insurance/ limited access to affordable oral health, preventive care in the community, and decreased emergency dental visits.

STATE-VIEW OF DENTAL THERAPY

MINNESOTA	ALASKA	WASHINGTON
Work under licenced dentist, and follow chapter rules.	Work under licenced dentist.	Work under a licenced dentist.
Serve in underserved areas.	Can work in community settings and tribal areas with limited function only.	Can work in federally qualified or tribal centers.
No dual degree required.	No dual degree required.	They need to finish CODA accredited dental hygiene program, or 400 hours of clinical preceptorship under a licenced dentist.
Agreement with dentist and must be renewed every year.	Formal education of 3 years from collage and 3 months of preceptorship under a licenced dentist.	

DENTAL THERAPISTS—STATE-BY-STATE AUTHORIZATION



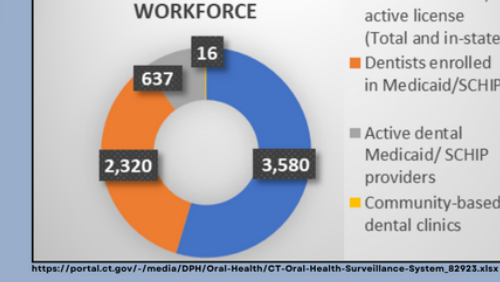
STATES CURRENTLY PRACTICING

- Alaska, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, Maine. (GREEN COLOR IN MAP)

SOME EXAMPLES OF OUTCOMES

- **MINNESOTA**
In 2021 study involving 2.6 million adults found that dental therapy in Minnesota led to a notable increase in dental visits among low-income and Medicaid-eligible adults.
- Improved access and patient satisfaction by decreasing long waiting and travel times.
- **ALASKA**
40,000 native Alaskan natives living in rural communities gained access to dental care.
Three times more children's dental check-ups and more completed treatments.

CONNECTICUT 2020 DENTAL WORKFORCE



POTENTIAL POLICY CHANGE

- **Establish a Dental Therapy License:** Create a dedicated dental therapy license.
- **Alignment with Accreditation Standards:** Update requirements to align with federal accreditation for public and private insurance to include dental therapist professionals in reimbursement standards.
- **Decoupling Hygienist Prerequisite:** Eliminate the need for a dental hygienist license for cost-effective education and workforce development.
- **Allow Foreign-Trained Dentists to Practice as Dental Therapists:** After proper licensure examinations decided by CODA.
- **Creating a Connecticut-Based Curriculum and Education Program:** Degree program.

ACTION TO ACHIEVE

A dental therapy model could help alleviate Connecticut's dental professional shortage. Including dental therapists in the workforce can emphasize the importance of oral health access, proactive care, and preventive measures that can improve oral health equity and promote inclusivity in the community.

REFERENCES





Adopting Dental Therapy in Connecticut

LIVE WEBINAR

WITH SPEAKERS:
TJ CLARKE
DR. KRISHA SHAH
DR. HIR AKHANI
MICHAEL ALLO

CTORALHEALTH.ORG

**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 13TH
4:30 - 5:30PM EST**

SIGN UP





WELCOME FROM

President of the Board

Dr. Brianna Muñoz



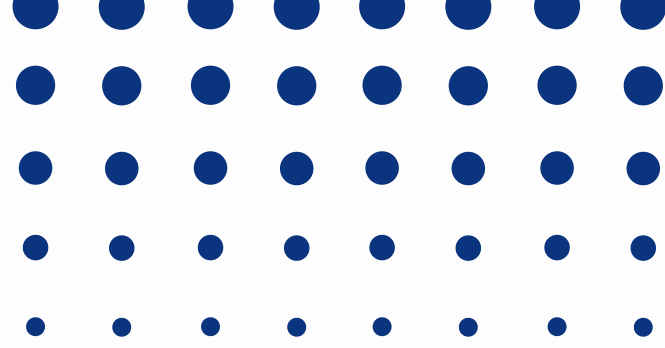


THE HOWARD I. MARK AWARD

To a leader in oral health in Connecticut, who shares with Dr. Mark, COHI co-founder and retired oral surgeon, a passion for improving access to quality oral health services no matter a person's income or wealth.

Presented by COHI Board Vice President, Trisha Pitter, MS
& COHI Board Secretary, Roberta Friedman, MS

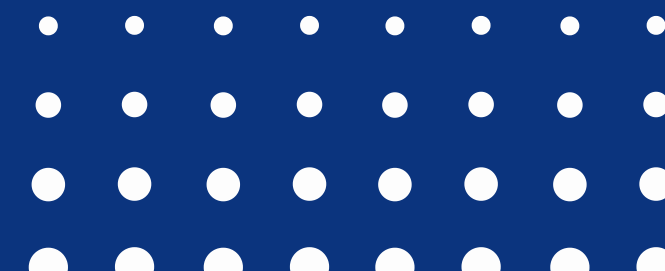




KATHY MONTAGUE, DMD

2023 HOWARD I. MARK AWARD

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.





ORAL HEALTH CHAMPION AWARDS

Presented annually to individuals who are advocating to support COHI's mission to strengthen and safeguard access to quality, affordable oral health services for all Connecticut residents.

Presented by
COHI Board Treasurer Jean Schensul, PhD





PAREESA CHARMCHI GOODWIN, MPH

**2023 ORAL HEALTH
CHAMPION AWARD**

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.





RONALD ALBERT, DMD

2023 ORAL HEALTH CHAMPION AWARD

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.





COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDS

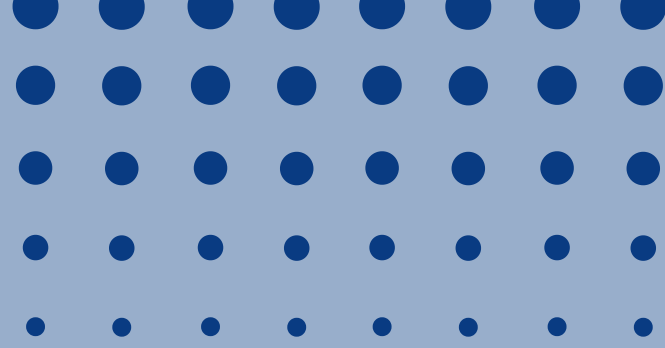
Presented annually to recognize community partners in advocacy for better access to quality and affordable oral health services for all.

Presented by:

Gary Turco, MS, Community Engagement Specialist



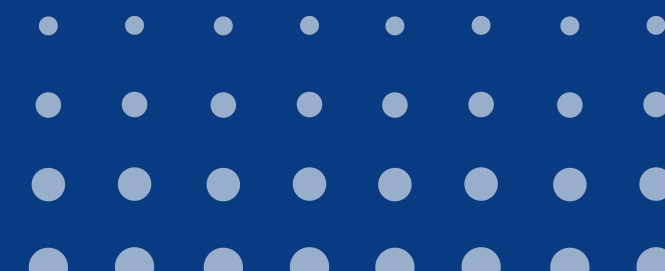
DICINE

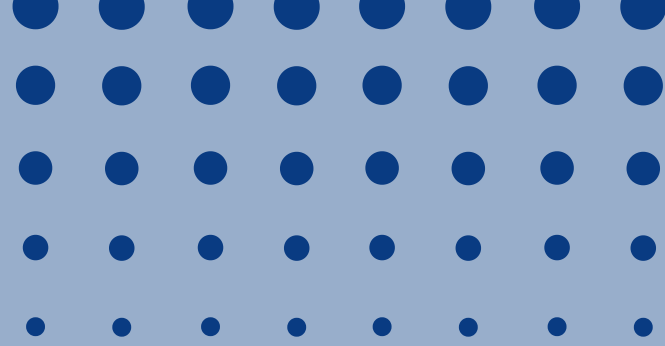


NON-PROFIT ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

2023 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.





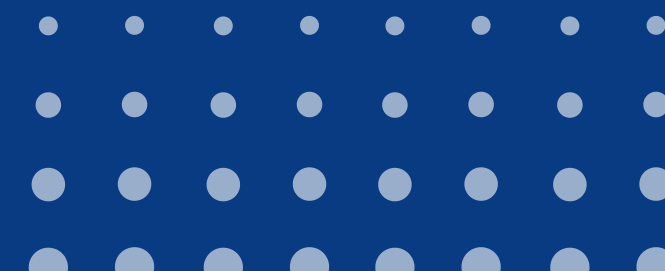
HUSKY 4 IMMIGRANTS COALITION

2023 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.



HUSKY 
4 IMMIGRANTS
HEALTH CARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT!



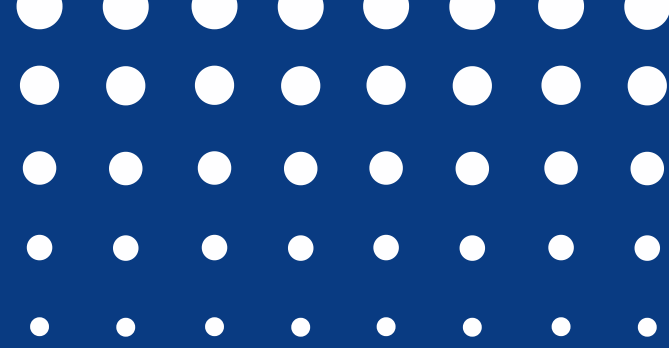


LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION AWARDS

Presented annually to Connecticut Legislators who advocate for changes in policy and increased funding to provide better oral health for all Connecticut residents, especially those who are currently underserved and receiving inequitable care.

Presented by:
COHI Executive Director, T.J. Clarke II, MBA

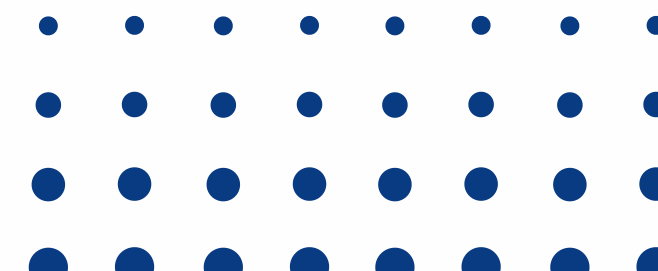


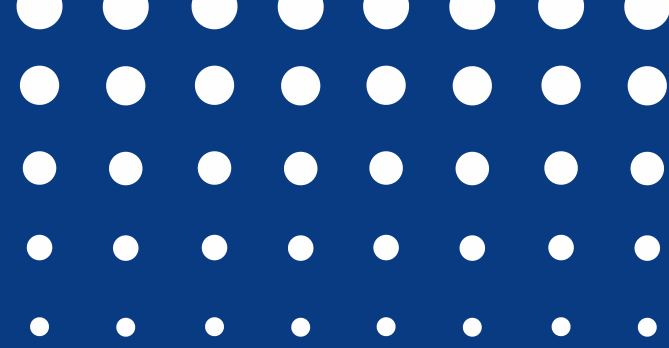


**REPRESENTATIVE MARY MUSHINSKY
REPRESENTATIVE TONI WALKER
REPRESENTATIVE JILLIAN GILCHREST**

**2023 LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION
AWARDS**

In recognition of your extraordinary commitment to delivering high-quality care to Connecticut's most underserved residents.

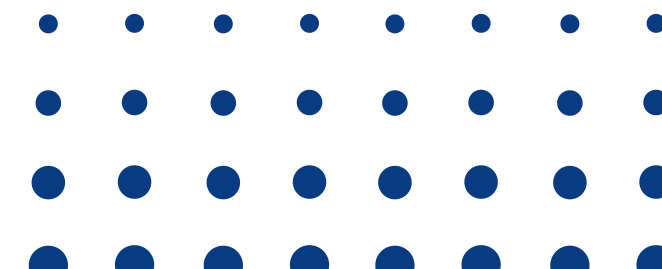


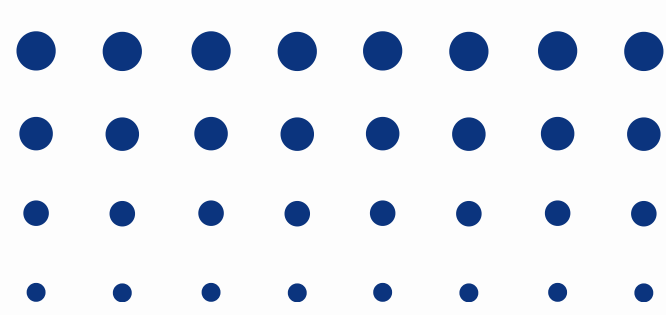


REPRESENTATIVE QUENTIN "Q" WILLIAMS

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION AWARD

To honor the memory and contributions of Representative Williams's unwavering efforts and enduring commitment to championing oral health equity for all.





THANKS

FOR COMING

DONATE NOW TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

