

Member Newsletter



Coalition News

2009-10 Coalition Annual Report

A Message from Our Outgoing Board Chair

As the 2009-10 Chair of the Michigan Oral Health Coalition Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you our [Annual Report](#). As you can see, the Coalition continues to make progress growing and developing the partnerships necessary to improve the oral health of Michigan residents.

And although these are difficult times economically, the Coalition has had many accomplishments thanks to all of our members and their dedication to public health. I invite you to review the report. I think you will be inspired. It has been my pleasure to work with the Coalition since its conception in 2003. I congratulate you, my colleagues, for all that you have accomplished. You can be proud of the work that has been done and know that the future continues to be bright as long as we are working together.

I would especially like to thank Executive Director Karlene Ketola. Her first year with the Coalition has been so very successful and her expertise, new ideas, and technologies have thrust us into the future with renewed vigor. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Chairperson this past year.

--Patti Ulrich, RDH

2010 Member Survey

Coming Soon by Mail and Email

Next month, Coalition members will receive a 2010 Member Survey by mail and email. Our goal is to identify which areas of information, personal and professional development, education and advocacy members are most interested in. The survey should only a few minutes to complete, but will be of great assistance to the board of directors and staff. Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to hearing from you. For more information, contact Karlene Ketola, executive director at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218.

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New State Oral Health Plan for Michigan

Document Released at 2010 Conference

Participants at the Coalition's annual conference were offered a first look at the new State Oral Health Plan. The revised Plan document is structured to provide the reader with the updated prevalence of oral disease in the state. It is followed by the Oral Health Plan which introduces the action steps adopted by the Michigan Department of Community Health in alliance with its various partner organizations to meet these needs. The Plan is available [on-line](#).



State News

Fluoridation Equipment Grantees Announced

Approximately \$90,000 Awarded to Seven Communities

The Michigan Department of Community Health-Oral Health Program has announced the awardees for its 2010 Fluoridation Equipment Grant program. Approximately \$90,000 in grants were awarded through a generous gift from Delta Dental of Michigan. Congratulations and thank you to these communities for their efforts to improve their residents' oral health.

- City of Escanaba
- City of Marine City
- City of Gladstone
- City of Muskegon
- Charter Township of Marquette
- City of Alpena
- City of Greenville

Legislative Update

No Movement on MDCH Budget

This spring, House and Senate passed their versions of the Michigan Department of Community Health budget which fully reinstates adult dental. The budget will now go to conference committee. Coalition staff will continue to keep you updated on the budget process. If you have any specific questions, please contact Karlene Ketola at 517.381.8000, Ext. 218.

National News

Americans with Disabilities Act

Historic Legislation Marks 20th Anniversary

First taking effect on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has made participating in everyday life less challenging for people with disabilities by reducing barriers to education and employment opportunities and by improving communication capabilities and environmental navigation.

Michigan Department of Civil Rights Director Daniel H. Krichbaum stated, "This anniversary commemorates the hard work and sacrifice that advocates made to achieve the ADA, and the continuing struggle for equality and respect. As the entity charged with enforcing Michigan's protections about discrimination, we are proud to be a part of the celebration."

For more information on the ADA, visit <http://adaanniversary.org>.

Free Clinics Play Important Role For Uninsured in United States

Approximately 1.8 million Americans make 3.5 million medical and dental visits to free clinics each year, according to a study that analyzed surveys from free clinics between October 2005 and December 2006. Patients who used these tended to fall into these categories: lack of insurance, inability to pay, limited English language skills, lack of housing, and being a member of a racial or ethnic minority.

"Formal integration of free clinics into the safety net has the potential to strengthen the overall health system," concludes researcher Julie S Darnell. The study, Free Clinics in the United States: A Nationwide Survey, is published in the June 14 issue of the Archives of Internal Medicine. **Source:** BusinessWeek, June 14, 2010

Taking Medical Jargon Out of Doctors' Visits News from the Wall Street Journal

Studies show that poor health literacy drives up costs to the health care system and worsens patient outcomes, so federal and state officials are now pushing to simplify the language used to communicate with the public in patient handouts, medical forms, and health Web sites through a new federal program called the National Action Plan to improve Health Literacy. Providers are also turning to programs that walk patients through medical issues in simple terms using video and interactive graphics. In one of the largest studies of the links between health literacy and poor health outcomes, involving 14,000 diabetes patients, researchers at the University of California San Francisco and Kaiser Permanente found that more than half the patients reported problems learning about their condition and 40% needed help reading medical materials. "This should be a wake-up call to providers to be sensitive to patients' needs for communication, to explain things very carefully, and to make sure they don't use language the patient doesn't understand," says Andrew Karter, a senior research scientist at Kaiser and principal investigator for the study. **Source:** Wall Street Journal, July 6, 2010

Californian Children 1 in 4 Have Never Visited a Dentist

A new study reveals that 1 in 4 Californian children have never visited a dentist. The study, conducted by researchers from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the California Healthcare Foundation, was published in the July issue of Health Affairs. The project focused on dental health among Californian children younger than 11 years of age and found that children with a Latino or African American heritage were least likely to visit a dentist on a regular basis. According to the authors, these findings raise concerns about Medicaid's ability to address disparities in dental care access. **Source:** Cosmetic Dentistry Guide, July 8, 2010

The Michigan Oral Health Coalition's mission is to improve oral health in Michigan by focusing on prevention, health promotion, oral health data, access and the link between oral health and overall health.

Michigan Oral Health Coalition

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