



**Texas Oral  
Health Coalition**

# ANNUAL REPORT



**2022/2023**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Texas Oral Health Coalition's board of directors, I want to thank each of you and convey how grateful we are for your continued support of the Coalition and our work activities.

Securing funding for sustainability is never ending, but we are encouraged by the development of new partnerships and proposed grant projects that will allow TxOHC to further our mission leading efforts to achieve optimal oral health across the lifespan.

TxOHC recognizes the importance of, and remains committed to, continuing to expand and diversify its partners and engaged stakeholders. This includes continually identifying and implementing ways to engage community members directly and lift up their voices. It also involves outreach and engagement with professionals and organizations outside of oral health, and even beyond health in general, to both expand the base of oral health champions and to learn from diverse and non-traditional perspectives.

TxOHC seeks to involve members in policy design to provide a framework with the right infrastructure and services in place that enable agencies to build skills, remove barriers and provide training to leverage networks to build a shared understanding through the use of dialogue.

Health equity has always been central to TxOHC in order to improve access to dental care for low-income, rural, disabled, and special needs populations and is reflected in every aspect of our work including our processes.

TxOHC strives to promote an environment of inclusion and invites strategic thinkers to join our Coalition and lead our programmatic efforts to ensure everyone has equitable access to comprehensive care that includes oral health. Please visit <https://txohc.org/get-involved/membership/> and join our efforts today.

Your support and participation allows TxOHC to advance our work in education, communications and advocacy and we are pleased to highlight a few successes of our impact in the following pages.

**In gratitude,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Beth Stewart, Executive Director  
Texas Oral Health Coalition**

# OUR STORY



The Texas Oral Health Coalition (TxOHC) was established November 17, 2004 through a CDC three-year Cooperative Agreement for the Texas Department of State Health Services, Oral Health Program (DSHS OHP) to create a statewide oral health coalition to advance oral health issues in Texas.

TxOHC became incorporated and acquired nonprofit 501 (c) (3) status in 2008 with the specific purpose to gather and disseminate information relating to oral health and the delivery of oral health care in the state of Texas at no charge to the public.

The coalition's core components are to:

- **Educate** others to increase the capacity of the health care workforce and integrate oral health into all aspects of health care. Through the development of specialized oral health trainings for health care workers in the perinatal and older adult health fields, providing access to available resources and promoting consistent and comprehensive oral health care helps to ensure medical and dental providers have the tools to meet the dental health needs of every Texan.
- **Communicate** and raise public awareness to improve public perception on the value of oral health to overall health and well-being. To help ensure oral health is included in health dialogue and public policy, people can learn from our website, e-briefs, webinar speakers, conferences, and through our collaborations with other organizations to translate the Texas Oral Health report Card into action.
- **Advocate** for Texas laws and policies to support access to oral health services for our most vulnerable populations and implement evidence-based prevention strategies to address oral health inequities. TxOHC strives to articulate and promote policies that advocate access to optimal oral health for all populations, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status. It is our belief that interprofessional understanding and collaboration will achieve better health for Texas citizens throughout their lifespan.

The Texas Oral Health Coalition is proud to have a diverse board and membership that believes in including health equity into all aspects of our work. We do so by designing and creating oral health projects or programs using evidence-based public health initiatives that includes an element of fairness or justice that seeks to address inequity, or oppression to access to care.

# 2022- 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OFFICERS



### **Matt Thompson, JD, Chair**

Matthew Thompson currently works as a consultant, he received his JD from the University of Houston.



### **Magda A. de la Torre, RDH, MPH, Chair-Elect**

Magda de la Torre is a Clinical Assistant professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry at UTHSC San Antonio. She received her BDH from UTHSC San Antonio and her MPH from Texas A&M University, School of Rural Public Health.



### **Heather Dent, DDS, Secretary**

Dr Dent is the Dental Director of El Centro del Corazon and received her DDS from University of Texas Dental Branch-San Antonio.



### **Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA, Treasurer**

Dr. Owens currently is an Adjunct Faculty member at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and she earned her DDS from Baylor College of Dentistry and her MPA from the University of Oklahoma.



### **Kila Johnson, DDS, Past Chair**

Dr. Johnson currently serves as the Director of Dental Services for Harris County Public Health, she received her BS degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and her DDS degree from Baylor College of Dentistry.

## BOARD LIAISON



### **Ankit Sanghavi, BDS, MPH**

Ankit Sanghavi is Executive Director at Texas Health Institute (THI) and graduated with his MPH from Texas A&M University and his Bachelor's in Dental Surgery from MUHS University, India.



### **Deborah J. Jones, PHD, MSN, RN**

Serves as Provost ad interim and Senior Vice President and Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Medical Branch. Dr Jones received her PhD and her MSN in Nursing Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University and her BSN from Radford University.

# 2022- 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## DIRECTORS



### **Tim Cluley, COO**

Tim Cluley is the Chief Operating Officer of Midwest Dental Equipment and Supply and received his BA degree from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX.



### **Dale G. Hahn, RDH, BSDH**

Dale Hahn is a retired dental hygiene educator at Wharton County Junior College, she received her Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene at Wharton County Junior College and her BSDH from UTHSC San Antonio.



### **Sohini Dhar, DDS, MPH**

Dr. Dhar serves as an Assistant Professor at UTHSC San Antonio. She received a Master of Public Health degree from UTHSC at Houston, School of Public Health and completed her residency in Dental Public Health from the UTHSC San Antonio.



### **Tonya Fuqua, DDS**

Dr. Fuqua is a general dentist in private practice in Southlake, TX and serves as Director for Child Oral Health under the Center for Children's Health led by Cook Children's Health Care System. Dr. Fuqua received her Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio



### **Yashashri Urankar, BDS, MPH**

Dr. Urankar serves as the Chief Dental Officer for the Community Health Centers of South-Central Texas Inc. She graduated with a Master's of Public Health from Loma Linda University and a Residency in Public Health from Texas A&M Health Science Center.



# TXOHC PRIORITY AREAS

**MISSION:** Leading efforts to achieve optimal oral health across the lifespan.

**VISION:** Optimal health for all Texans

**GOAL:** Encourage collaboration to foster whole person health, eliminate oral disparities and address health inequalities for all Texans.

## Strategic Goals

- Improve financial health of the organization
- Increase visibility of the Coalition
- Drive multi-sector collaborations that promote oral health



## Priority Areas

- Increase Medical/Dental Integration in Education, Practice and Collaboration
- Support Medicare/Medicaid Payment Reform and Care Integration
- Promote Teledentistry to Help Increase Access to Care
- Promote Fluoridated Drinking Water for Healthy Teeth
- Support Innovative Workforce Strategies

# OUR 2022 IMPACT

TxOHC's goals reflect our commitment to leading efforts to achieve optimal oral health across the lifespan for all Texans as well as developing diverse funding streams to aid in sustainability and to promote the brand of TxOHC. In 2022, TxOHC expanded and enhanced strategic partnerships and continues to leverage opportunities for collaborations. We are excited to share the following metrics below that show our progress as a growing and thriving coalition.

**11.6K**

**Hours of CDE Awarded**  
(a 47% increase from 2021)

**690**

**Professionals Educated**  
(a 28% increase from 2021)

**95.7K**

**Social Media Reach**  
(a 75% increase from 2021)

**1.6K**

**Communication materials  
downloaded across TxOHC websites**  
(a 14% increase from 2021)

**609**

**TxOHC members**  
(a 320% increase from 2021)

**1.7K**

**TxOHC stakeholders**  
(a 6.25% increase from 2021)



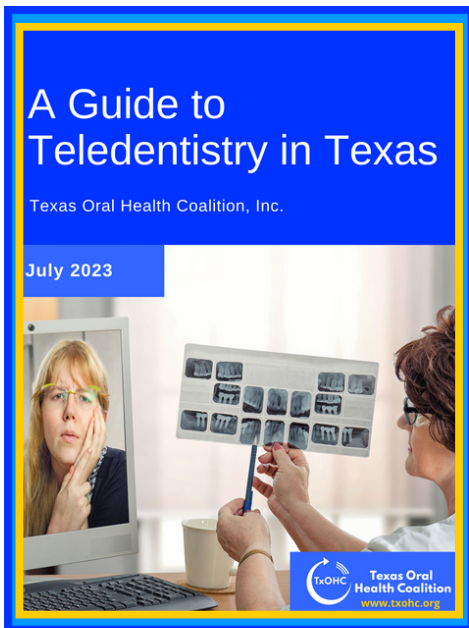
# TXOHC PROGRAMS

To address gaps in access to care, data surveillance and health literacy in Texas, TxOHC members created or partnered on several programs to address these health inequities experienced by specific populations in Texas. The Coalition maintains the following programs and strives to expand their activities and outreach to increase our impact in achieving optimal oral health for all Texans.

## EDUCATION

Providing continuing dental education for dental and non-dental health providers ultimately improves an individual's quality of life and TxOHC is thrilled to share **690** professionals received oral health education in 2022, and **11.6K** continuing dental education hours were awarded. TxOHC is also offering a variety of self-instructional webinar learning series that includes topics such as teledentistry, health communications, pathology, prescribers, and treating individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

## COMMUNICATIONS



TxOHC utilizes several social media platforms and focuses efforts on communicating the relevance of TxOHC and its role in promoting oral health and the impact oral health has on total health. The overall goal to our communications plan is to improve the public's oral health literacy and change perceptions regarding oral health and disease so that oral health becomes an integral component of health policies and programs in Texas. In 2021, the Coalition's social media reach was 55.4K and in 2022 climbed to **95.7K**. Over **1.6K** communication products were downloaded in 2022.

Publications in 2022 include the Teledentistry Guide for dental providers, the Annual State Oral Health Report Card, Community Resource Guides for Coastal Bend, and the Dental Prescription Resource Fact Sheet was updated to include Antibiotic Stewardship.

# TXOHC PROGRAMS

## ADVOCACY/POLICY

TxOHC advocated for several bills relating to oral health during the 88th Texas Legislature that ended May 29, 2023. The big win was the passage of **HB12** relating to the duration of health services provided under Medicaid to women following a pregnancy expanded to twelve months postnatal. Dental hygienists were also granted a win with **HB3824** passing allowing the administration of local anesthesia via infiltration under direct supervision.

The Dental Compact bill, **HB3039** passed in the House, but never made it out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Perhaps one of the greatest losses this past legislative session was the continued lack of funding for **SB1648** (87th R) that passed in 2021 to allow one preventive dental visit per year for eligible adults with a disability enrolled in the Star +Plus program. TxOHC is also watching for a status update regarding the dental study required in **HB4533** (86th R) to determine cost effectiveness and the launch of the Star +Plus Pilot Program (SP3) that passed in 2019. Services are expected to begin February 1, 2024.



The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is continuing the process of rule and policy development as required by **HB2056**, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, to include teledentistry services. HHSC is not able to share an implementation timeline at this time.

Updates to the Texas Health Steps Dental Preventive Services policy are set to implement on September 1, 2023 that include the addition of **D1354** Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) as an interim caries arresting medicament for ages birth through six years.

It also appears Texas primary care team members working in FQHCs will be able to apply SDF to treat cavities and be reimbursed for it. The CPT code approval for SDF will benefit patients by providing many new points of access for treating tooth decay. When asked if Texas was going to allow medical providers to apply SDF and submit for reimbursement HHSC's Medicaid and CHIP services response was, "this code will be payable to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Texas Health Steps - Dental providers, and Texas Health Steps Dental - Groups."

# TXOHC PROGRAMS

## WORKFORCE

In late 2021, TxOHC members identified the lack of dental workforce as a priority issue so the Coalition began researching and collecting data as preliminary steps for grant proposals and to identify needed work activities. If the grant proposal is funded, we will begin work on this project October 1, 2023.

## REGIONAL ORAL HEALTH COALITIONS (ROHCS)

The regional oral health coalitions were originally developed in response to our members' interest to participate more fully in work groups or activities that benefit disenfranchised members in their local communities and to enhance advocacy efforts at the grassroots level.



The purpose of the regional oral health coalitions is to improve the oral health of communities and promote partnerships for sustainable, equity-informed, community-driven advocacy. Each regional coalition is able to develop their own goals, objectives and activities. TxOHC provides a virtual meeting platform for quarterly meetings, resources, and backbone support.

TxOHC was pleased to add the San Antonio and Coastal Bend regional oral health coalitions in 2022 and looks forward to adding El Paso in late 2023 or early 2024.

Regional oral health coalitions (ROHC's) develop work products that incorporate social determinants of health into program activities to help address adverse experiences across the lifespan. Published community resource guides that target five different populations (perinatal – pregnant women and infants, children, working adults, older adults, and individuals with disabilities) for each regional coalition are available to view or download on the TxOHC website for Austin, Houston, Tyler, San Antonio and Coastal Bend. Resource Guides for Dallas and Fort Worth are currently under development and an October release date is expected.

# TXOHC PROGRAMS

## TEXAS TOOTH STEPS (TTS)

The Texas Oral Health Coalition's perinatal oral health program called Texas Tooth Steps is an innovative train-the-trainer program that provides a specially designed toolkit that includes resources and materials in English and Spanish for Texas home visiting staff trainers to use to educate women around the importance of self-care and the care of infants. Texas Tooth Steps (TTS) addresses three specific oral health behaviors: a healthy diet for infants, oral hygiene and dental attendance. It also expands knowledge and awareness among perinatal women about oral and systemic health.



The oral health education materials highlight the importance of oral health during pregnancy and encourages pregnant women to seek prenatal dental checkups and dental care. The TTS target audience is under-resourced perinatal women in both urban and rural areas of Texas. TxOHC was pleased to partner with the Dallas Community Health Care Workers Association in 2022 on developing a presentation using TTS materials they could use to educate CHWs and looks forward to partnering with other organizations where TTS materials may be shared with their clients.

## COMMUNITY HOMEBOUND OUTREACH COLLABORATIVE (CHOC)

The Community Homebound Outreach Collaborative provides an opportunity for the Coalition to partner with insurance companies and local non-dental organizations such as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Meals on Wheels (MOW) programs to provide oral health materials and resources addressing the social determinants of health for this targeted population.

In efforts to increase oral health knowledge for individuals that are homebound and their caregivers, members of the Coalition's older adult committee developed If Your Mouth Could Talk rack cards in English and Spanish with helpful oral health tips for older adults related to aging, dry mouth, and dementia. The overall goal of this program is to foster whole person health among older homebound adults. Including resource guides for dissemination will help to address the knowledge gap regarding access to social services for older adults and promote health equity for this underserved population.



# TXOHC PROGRAMS

## TEXAS FLUORIDATION CAMPAIGN

The Fluoride for Smiles (formerly known as Fluoride for Texas) campaign project applied a data-driven, evidence-based strategy for understanding existing anti-fluoridation beliefs in Texas and developed a social media campaign to garner support for community water fluoridation (CWF). Our objective was to provide the public and policymakers with evidence-based information and tools they needed to promote and protect this important public health strategy.

Social media messages in English and Spanish were developed that focused on oral health and oral health equity and a series of toolkits were also created. Toolkits included information to help health care providers discuss CWF with their patients, CWF advocates to use when talking to local or state policy makers and a curriculum resource guide for healthcare faculty to use. TxOHC also created and maintains a specially designed website (<https://FluorideForSmiles.org>) where toolkits, self-instructional webinars, and social media messages are made available to the public free of charge.

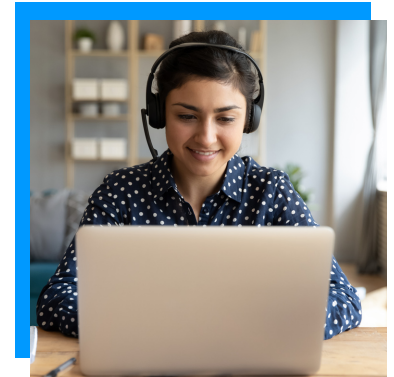
In 2022, TxOHC performed a mix-method observational CWF study to strengthen and expand this program. The purpose of the project was to revise social media messages and toolkits so they are not state specific and to expand the reach of seven social media messages in both English and Spanish developed as part of the original Texas Community Water Fluoridation Campaign utilizing social media influencers for a national marketing campaign. The results of this study resulted in a name change from Fluoride for Texas to Fluoride for Smiles and over 30 new oral health CWF messages were created to address identified gaps per the feedback from social media influencers. TxOHC can market these messages and toolkits to other states and organizations to use now as well. We're pleased Sacramento, CA County Public Health used our original messaging as part of their CWF 2022 campaign.



# TXOHC PROGRAMS

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

The Professional Education Collaborative program allows TxOHC to collaborate and partner with other organizations, schools, or agencies to provide continuing dental education credit for live in-person or virtual events as well as self-instructional webinars. TxOHC was pleased to partner with Cook Children’s and the Texas Department of State Health Services Oral Health Improvement Program on their “Ask the Doc” webinar series. TxOHC also partners with different Universities and other departments in the DSHS to provide educational opportunities or co-host educational events.



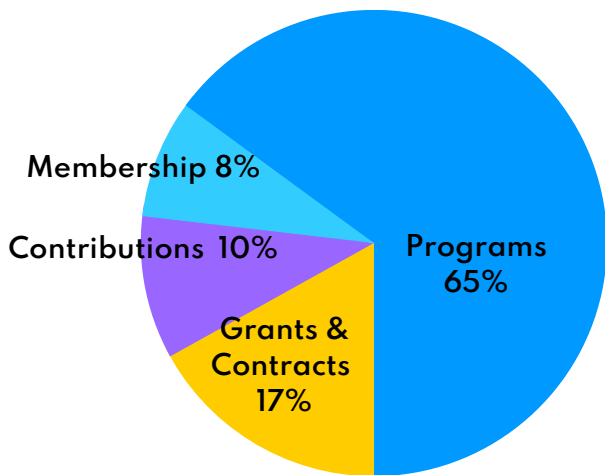
In 2022, there were **347** individuals that viewed at least one course in our self-instructional (SI) learning series. There were also **209** total individuals that attended the monthly live webinars and the annual Texas Oral Health Conference showed **134** attendees participated in the virtual conference. The annual conference was held virtually from 2019 through 2022 during the COVID pandemic, but members and conference attendees expressed their desire to meet in-person again starting in 2023.

While CDE credit is offered to dental professionals for completing the evaluation, these are excellent educational webinars for dental and dental hygiene students to view as well. We strongly recommend the pathology series for students before national testing and if you plan to treat individuals with IDD, then you won’t want to miss the IDD learning series. If you are interested in teledentistry, then this learning series provides the information on how to implement teledentistry in your practice.

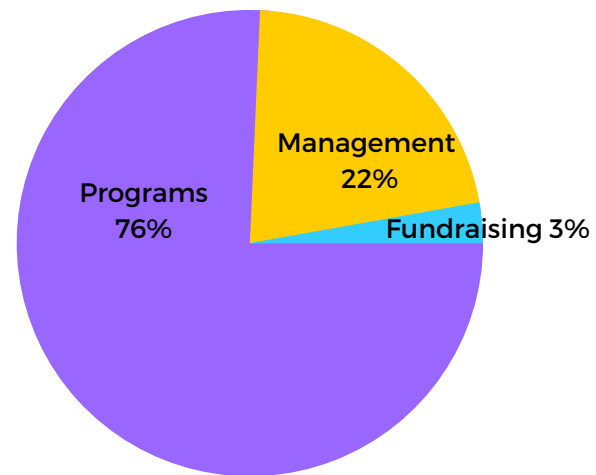
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Number of individuals attending CDE events</b>	104	102	106	93	87	202	139	4988	512	690
<b>Number of CEU's received</b>	687	774	462.5	570	585	1,591	2,079	110,926.75	6,930	11,673.75

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

## Revenue



## Expenses



## JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

**REVENUE**  
**\$80,870**

**EXPENSES**  
**\$138,781**

# GET INVOLVED



## Join TxOHC Today

- **Share your strategies** with peers and learn innovative approaches from early adopters.
- **Lead your community** toward equitable oral health with advocacy efforts.
- **Contribute your knowledge** to publications and scientific resources.
- **Connect with other advocates** through events and member only opportunities.
- **Access support** through professional development, advocacy training, and peer networking.
- **Stay connected** to funding opportunity notices, webinars, workshop, and employment leads.

Your annual contribution of \$50 for membership supports the Coalition's grassroots efforts in connecting and supporting professionals like you.

**Get involved and lead with us.**

Join now at <https://txohc.org/get-involved/membership/>.

The Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit leading efforts to achieve optimal oral health across the lifespan. Our members create a nonpartisan network of diverse stakeholders focused on creating viable solutions, sharing evidence-based information, and leveraging resources for the health of all Texans.



Join us in advancing our mission and vision in 2023. Make your voice heard. Mobilize your community.



# MANY THANKS TO OUR 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER,  
EL PASO

Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine



# PARTICIPATE IN THE COALITION



**Follow TxOHC  
on social media**



**Join as a  
member**



**Become a  
Coalition Partner**



**Support the  
Coalition**



**Attend our  
events**



**Share our  
communications**

**WITH MUCH APPRECIATION  
AND SINCEREST GRATITUDE,  
WE WISH TO THANK  
OUR 2022-2023  
COALITION PARTNERS!**





**Texas Oral  
Health Coalition**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN  
REACHING OUR GOALS IN 2022, AND  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR  
PARTICIPATION IN 2023 TO ACHIEVE  
COLLECTIVE IMPACT.**

