

Charting the Path Forward for Oral Health in Texas



Please save the date for the in-person 2023 Texas Oral Health Conference on Friday, August 4, 2023. We're thrilled to be meeting in person again and are planning an agenda schedule you won't want to miss. Registration will be opening soon, so look for group rate and TxOHC member discounts for registering early.

Event: 2023 Texas Oral Health Conference

Location: TCEA Conference Center
3100 Alvin DeVane Blvd. Bldg B
Austin, TX 78741

Date: Friday, August 4, 2023

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Please visit <https://www.texasoralhealthconference.com/> for more information.

Interested in sponsoring the Texas Oral Health Conference?

As a sponsor of the Texas Oral Health Conference, you will have the opportunity to showcase your organization's commitment to improving oral health outcomes in Texas and to reach a diverse audience of professionals and stakeholders. We offer a range of sponsorship levels and benefits, including exhibit space, branding opportunities, and networking.

The conference will draw attendees from across the state, including representatives from the dental and medical professions, community coalition members, social service agencies, professional organizations, and government entities.

We encourage you to review the Sponsor Prospectus to learn more about the conference and sponsor benefits offered [here](#). Options to add value and enhance your sponsorship include hosting a speaker's topic, meal, or break, and/or you can provide an in-kind donation and contribute conference items to increase your brand exposure.

TxOHC CDE Opportunities

We are so excited about our return to an in-person conference after 3 years we want to make the the 2023 Texas Oral Health Conference the best it can be. With this in mind we have suspended TxOHC monthly webinars until after August to focus on the Conference.

However, if you do need CDE hours before August, TxOHC has a number of self-

instructional courses available that may be completed at your convenience.

Oral health providers may obtain 1.0 CDE for every one(1) hour of lecture. Online courses to choose from include:

- **Teledentistry**
 - Teledentistry in Texas: Opportunities to Increase Access to Care Selection
 - of Teledentistry Platforms and Utilization in Alternative Care Settings
Available for edification only - Taking the Mystery Out of Billing for Virtual
 - Visits
- **Prescribers**
 - Mental Health & Opioid Use Disorder: Using the PMP to improve patient-centered care & communication
 - Statewide Mandate Compliance Using the PMP to Provide Patient-Centered Care
 - Maximizing Your Limited Time: Navigating Challenging Patient Conversations
 - Single Use Disposal Systems (SUDS) Training for Dentists
- **Patients with IDD**
 - Providing Dental Care under Advanced Anesthesia: Oral Sedation, IV Sedation, TIVA, IV Mac, and General Anesthesia
 - Special Conditions and Barriers and Challenges Providing Dental Care to Patients with IDD
 - Understanding and Working with Caregivers and Group Homes, Dental Desensitization/Advanced Behavior Techniques for Patients with IDD at AbSSLC
- **Oral Pathology**
 - Oral Cancer Update
 - Oral Manifestations of Systemic Diseases and Conditions Common
 - Lesions of the Oral Cavity, from Diagnosis to Treatment
- **Health Literacy**
 - The Power of Audience Insight
 - Using Storytelling to Engage
 - Making Data Count
 - Building Your Social Media Presence
 - Speaking Up for Fluoride
- **Prenatal**
 - Maternal Depression: Signs, Facts & Resources

- Who Do You Call: Making the Referral Connection
- Do No Harm: The Ethics, Myths & Business of Caring for Pregnant People

To access any of these courses, please visit <https://txohc.org/education/self-instructional-webinars/>.

New Report on Oral Hygiene Home Care Practices in America

CareQuest recently published a report based on a nationally representative survey on oral health entitled, "Oral Hygiene Home Care Practices in America."

Key findings from the survey include:

- Those with Medicaid dental benefits were three times more likely to report consuming more than one sugary drink per day compared to those with other insurance types.
- Adults who use tobacco daily also report consuming sugary drinks and soda three to four times more than those who do not use tobacco.
- Most adults are brushing once per day or more (94%) and flossing half as often (44%).
- Older adults, aged 60+, were more likely to report brushing and flossing at least once a day compared to younger adults.

[Read the report here.](#)

2023 Texas Legislative Session

The 2023 session began Tuesday, January 10, 2023, and TxOHC is monitoring a number of bills across our priority issues.

While a handful of bills relating to the expansion of Medicaid eligibility for women following pregnancy to 12 months were filed, one bill, [HB12](#) was passed by the House Health Care Reform Select Committee and sent to Calendars on March

28th where it has remained.

The appropriations bill, HB1, looks to include funding for the [STAR+PLUS Pilot Program \(SP3\)](#) as discussed in an amendment from Representative Klick. [This amendment](#) Strategy A.3.6 to Article II, stating SP3 will "appropriate from the General Revenue Fund \$16,571,357 for each fiscal year of the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2025, and appropriate the increased associated federal funds by the appropriate amount for each of those state fiscal years." This bill was passed as amended by the House, passed the Senate finance committee with substitutions, and currently has been placed on the Senate intent calendar.

To keep up to date with the full list of bills TxOHC is following, please visit <https://txohc.org/advocacy/texas-legislative-update/>.

Medicaid Dental Benefit Act Sign-on Letter

TxOHC was pleased to sign on letters in support of a Medicaid Dental Benefit. The letters linked below have been delivered to the House and Senate, urging Leaders in Congress to prioritize this policy change that will impact the overall health, employability, and financial security of Medicaid beneficiaries.

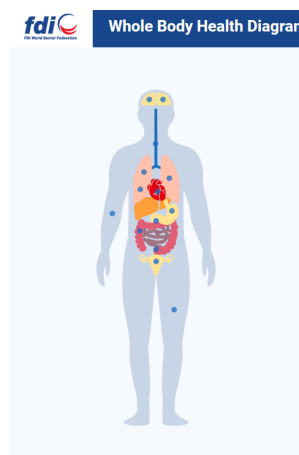
Final copies of the letters are below:

- [US House of Representatives](#)
- [US Senate](#)

New FDI Whole Body Health Platform

The FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) has recently launched its new Whole Body Health platform, the new quick-reference guide on oral-systemic health. This platform is designed to share with you the latest research linking oral health with overall health and support your exploration of these relationships.

To learn more about oral-systemic health, please visit the new platform at <https://whole-body-health.fdiworlddental.org/>.



New Report Reinforces Confidence in the Safety of Fluoride

A report drafted recently (March 24) by "the National Toxicology Program (NTP) has removed the hazard classification of fluoride. This strengthens the broad consensus that fluoride in toothpaste and water safely reduces dental cavities. The NTP report was revised from previous versions that had failed to pass the peer review process."

Read the full article [here](#).

TxOHC Member Spotlight

TAMUCC Health Fair

TxOHC Board Member Dr. Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA recently participated at the TAMUCC Health Fair and set up an oral health table to discuss Oral Cancer. Healthcare Administration students Mya Vo and Grecia Paulin assisted Dr. Owens

with this presentation.



TxOHC Member Announcement

We are pleased to welcome Carrie Gray, with Cielo Strategy Group in San Antonio, TX as our newest member.

Local Continuing Education Opportunities with Midwest Dental



TxOHC partner Midwest Dental Equipment and Supply has partnered with AIDA Education to provide top-level CE courses with nationally-recognized speakers. During 2023, they will feature 5 live local events in various cities throughout Texas. These full-day events are for the entire dental team and include full breakfast and lunch, and 5 CE credits.

Information on these webinars may be found on the individual Regional Oral Health Coalition pages linked [here](#) or at <https://midwestdental.com/event>.

Many thanks to our Organizational Members for your support and collaboration!



Join [here](#) if your organization is interested in joining our efforts to improve the oral healthcare system in Texas.

TxOHC Wants You!



If you are a TxOHC member and interested in taking a more active role within the Coalition, we are looking to build a pool of potential board members. Please complete [this interest application](#) to let us know of your interest.

To learn more about the Coalition and our activities, please visit our website at <https://txohc.org> or contact us at info@txohc.org for more information.

TxOHC Members-Only Listserv

A friendly reminder to all of our members that the Coalition has a private members-only listserv. This is where you can share information, resources, and discuss current topics.

Please complete this short online form linked below and **reply to the email confirmation to complete the process.** <https://txohc.org/get-involved/membership/m-o-mail-list/>

Thank you and we look forward to your participation.

**With much appreciation and sincerest gratitude,
we wish to thank our 2023 Coalition Partners!**



Your Contribution Matters

Your contribution is essential to our continued efforts and will make a positive impact on the lives of millions of your neighbors. No matter how small your contribution may seem, it is an integral piece of the larger puzzle leading meaningful change. **Please join in the advancement of our vision to make optimal health a reality for all Texans.** Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your participation in our community to continue this forward momentum.

TxOHC is also raising funds with Planet Green Recycle through our ink cartridges recycling fundraiser. [Click here](#) to request your FREE USPS shipping label to recycle your inks. Be sure to type in our **Program ID Code: 32140** when completing the shipping form.