

Charting the Path Forward for Oral Health in Texas

TEXAS ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE
A True Collaboration To Improve Oral Health In Texas

IN PERSON CONFERENCE!
SAVE THE DATE!
Join us in Austin
August 4, 2023

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 this month, so look for our new group rate category and TxOHC member discounts.

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 coming soon.

May 19th Quarterly Member Meeting

The Coalition is pleased to host quarterly member meetings on the third Friday of the designated month from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM CT.

Please join regional oral health coordinators; Dr. Yashashri Urankar for Austin, Lynn Southerland for Coastal Bend, Dr. Sowmya Renuka for North Central Texas, and Dr. Rebecca Davenport for San Antonio in their separate breakout rooms for the first 45 minutes. After which, everyone will return to the main room to hear all of the coalitions' report out and hear a legislative update.

We are currently looking for a volunteer to serve as the Houston Oral Health Coalition Coordinator, please contact [Beth Stewart](#) if you are interested in serving in this role or would like more information.

This is an excellent opportunity to participate at your local level. We encourage all members to actively engage in their regional coalitions to share resources, leverage innovative information and create viable solutions to address local challenges.

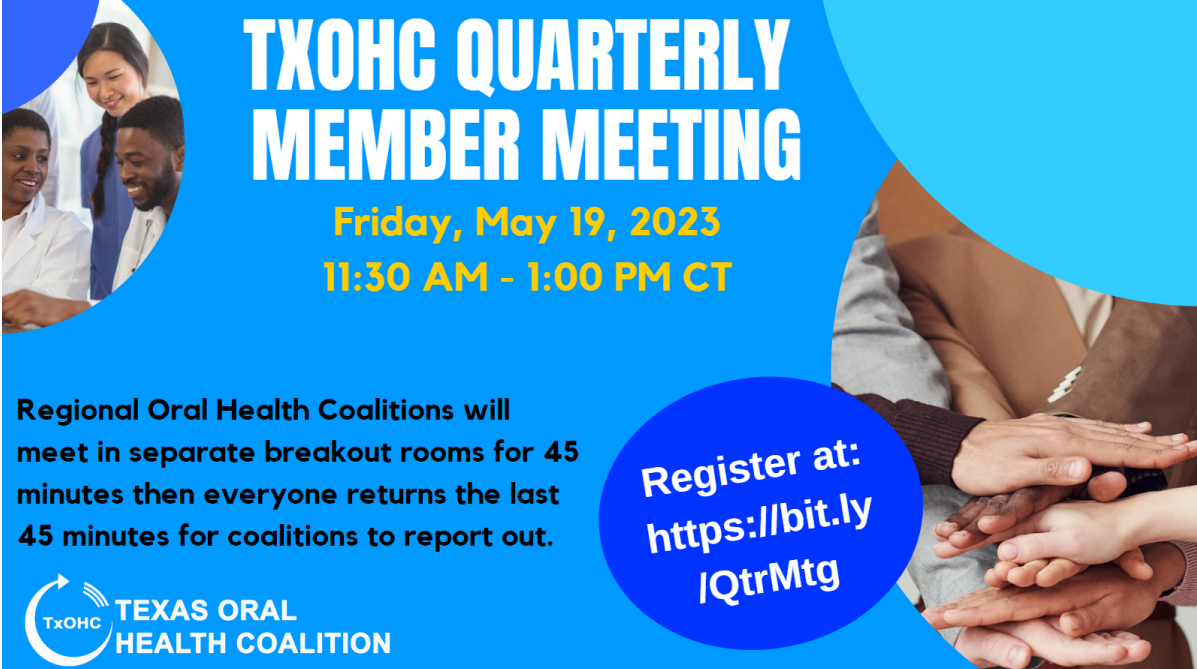
If you have not joined your regional coalition you may do so [here](#).

Upcoming meetings:

- **Friday, May 19, 2023**
- August 18, 2023

- November 17, 2023

Registration is complimentary but required at <https://bit.ly/QtrMtg> to receive your meeting link and passcode.



TXOHC QUARTERLY MEMBER MEETING

Friday, May 19, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM CT

Regional Oral Health Coalitions will meet in separate breakout rooms for 45 minutes then everyone returns the last 45 minutes for coalitions to report out.

Register at:
<https://bit.ly/QtrMtg>

TXOHC TEXAS ORAL HEALTH COALITION

Advocacy Sign-On Letter for Veterans Oral Health

TxOHC signed on in support of these bills and I hope you will too! If you don't represent an organization you can still sign on as an individual.

On the heels of their successful Veteran Oral Health Hill Day, AIDPH developed a sign-on letter for this congress urging members of the Senate VA Committee and House VA Committee to prioritize legislation that expands dental coverage for veterans. **This letter is open to both organizations and individuals.**

[Read the letter here.](#)

[Sign the letter here.](#)

In support of this advocacy, here are a few resources:

- [Inadequate Dental Care for Veterans is Painful and Costly - Research Brief released by AIDPH and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#)
- [AIDPH Veteran oral health data dashboard with insights by state](#)
- [AIDPH veteran oral health state profiles](#) (PDF)

2023 Texas Legislative Session

The 2023 session ends Monday, May 29, 2023, and bills are moving quickly through the chambers. TxOHC is monitoring a number of bills across our priority issues, to keep up to date on those bills, please visit <https://txohc.org/advocacy/texas-legislative-update/>.

Some highlights include:

[HB3039](#) passed the House Public Health Committee on April 26, 2023 with substitution, and has been placed on the General State Calendar for Saturday, May 6, 2023. This bill would enact and enter Texas into the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact.

[HB12](#) passed the Texas House on April 21, 2023 with a 132-8 vote. The bill currently awaits action in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee as of May 2, 2023, but Governor Abbott highlighted his support for the policy in his budget recommendations so it looks promising. If you are interested in supporting this bill, contact your senator. Texans Care for Children has an [Action Center](#) you can use to send a message or you can contact your senator directly on the [Texas Senate website](#).

The appropriations bill, [HB1](#), passed both the House and Senate, but the House refused to concur on April 20th so both the House and Senate have appointed conferees. HB 1 authorizes the state's expenditures for the 2024-25 fiscal biennium and is the only legislation each session that lawmakers must pass.

- **House conferees are:** Greg Bonnen, R-Friendswood, chair; Mary González, D-Clint; Jacey Jetton, R-Richmond; Gary VanDeaver, R-New Boston; and Armando Walle, D-Houston.
- **Senate conferees are:** Joan Huffman, R-Houston, chair; Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe; Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham; Robert Nichols, R-Jacksonville;

and Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown.

The status of [Rep. Klick's amendment](#) (adopted by the House 4.6.23) on the STAR+PLUS Pilot Program (SP3) in the current version of the bill is unknown. Strategy A.3.6 does not appear in the Senate Amendments Printing, the most recent version of the bill made public.

[HB 446](#) has passed both the House and Senate as of May 3, 2023. This bill relates to the terminology used in statute to refer to intellectual disability and certain references to abolished health and human services agencies.

[HB3824](#) relating to the administration of a local anesthetic agent by a dental hygienist has been scheduled for a public hearing House Public Health Committee on Monday, May 8, 2023.

This bill requires 70 hours of education for infiltration which the Texas Dental Hygienists' Association (TDHA) does not support.

The public hearing begins at 8:00 AM and HB 3824 is listed as the first bill. If you are interested in this hearing you may view or get involved in the following ways:

- For those persons who will be testifying, information for in-person witness registration, can be found here: <https://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov/HWRSPublic/About.aspx>
- Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to agenda items on this notice without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting: <https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c410>
- Instructions related to public access to the meeting location are available here: <https://house.texas.gov/committees/public-access-house-committee-meetings/>
A live video broadcast of this hearing will be available
- here: <https://house.texas.gov/video-audio/>

2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results Now Available

Recently CDC released the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data that provides the most recent information on ongoing and emerging health behaviors and

experiences among a nationally representative sample of U.S. high school students. For more information about CDC's 2021 YRBS results and additional YRBS tools and resources, visit the [YRBS website](#).

The 2021 YRBS data show dietary and physical activity behaviors among high school students did not improve during the pandemic.

[Read More](#)

The WHO Launches the Health Inequality Data Repository

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Health Inequality Data Repository (HIDR), the "most comprehensive global collection of publicly available disaggregated data and evidence on population health and its determinants." The repository is a valuable tool for assessing systemic health inequalities and gaining a better understanding of the "rich-poor gap" in health care coverage among vulnerable populations. The HIDR will improve data collection and increase capacity for analyses of health inequities, like oral health, that are essential to promoting health equity across the globe.

[Read the WHO press release](#)

[Explore the HIDR Data](#)

Special Report of the National Council on Disability

The National Council on Disability (NCD) is pleased to announce the release of a new Special Report entitled, "Incentivizing Oral Health Care Providers to Treat Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." This report provides Key Recommendations to the President, Congress, and the Department of Health and Human Services on policy changes in Medicaid and Medicare aimed at improving access, care, and oral health equity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

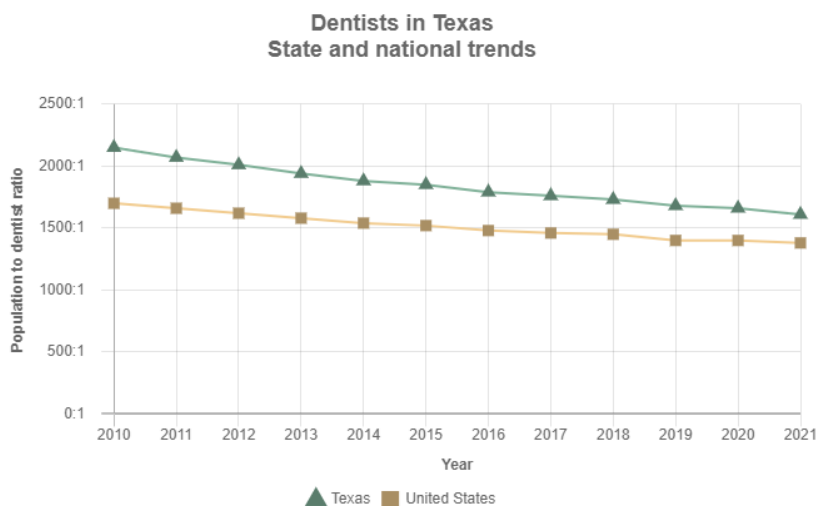
"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) experience significant issues accessing quality, appropriate, and timely oral health care (OHC) services. Despite efforts by federal, state, and local agencies, legislatures, and key advocates, adults with I/DD remain the largest minority population with unmet OHC needs. There are several systemic and environmental reasons for this; however, three major factors exist. These include (1) the insufficient number of OHC providers rendering care to people with I/DD, (2) the lack of government policies that support dental benefits for people with I/DD, and (3) the insufficient funding to support essential OHC services for people with I/DD."

[Read the full report here.](#)

County Health Rankings Published

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps brings actionable data, evidence, guidance and stories to support community-led efforts to grow community power and improve health equity. This year, the focus is on the connection between civic health and thriving people and places. Civic health reflects the opportunities people have to participate in their communities.

To find county data, you can [search by your location](#) and search across 34 measures that help communities understand how healthy they are. One measure included is the ratio of population to dentists, per 2021 data there is one dentist per 1,610 people registered in Texas.



Notes:
The data in this table reflect the average population served by a single dentist.

Community Water Fluoridation Awards

American Dental Association, Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention honored 78 Years of Community Water Fluoridation in the United States at the recent National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Congratulations to the City of Austin Water & Wastewater and the City of Waco for fifty years of continuous community water fluoridation, 1972-2022.

You have joined the ranks of cities providing the most safe and effective public oral health disease prevention strategy.

**Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 American Dental Association**

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
 50 Year Award Recipients**

Marshall 1946 - 1996 Corpus Christi 1952 - 2002 Paris 1952 - 2002 Tyler 1952 - 2002 Port Arthur 1953 - 2003 JBSA - Randolph 1955 - 2005 JBSA - Lackland 1958 - 2008 Lake Jackson 1961 - 2011 Denton 1964 - 2014 Fort Worth 1965 - 2015	Dallas 1966 - 2016 Alice 1967 - 2017 Sulphur Springs 1967 - 2017 Arlington 1968 - 2018 Huntsville 1969 - 2019 City of Longview 1970 - 2020 City of Beaumont 1971 - 2021 City of Austin Water & Wastewater 1972 - 2022 City of Waco 1972 - 2022
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for contributions made on behalf of community water fluoridation



astdd
Where oral health lives



ADA
American Dental Association
www.ada.org



CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION

TxOHC Member Spotlight

2023 National Oral Health Conference



Dr. Rhonda Stokley, Texas State Public Health Dental Director showing her stuffed COVID virus at the National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, FL. No symptoms reported except happiness.



A few Texas attendees at NOHC. Magda de la Torre from UTHealth San Antonio, Dr. Peggy Timothy, Texas A&M SOD and Jane Steffenson retired and previous TX resident from UTHealth San Antonio.

The Healthy Smiles Project

TxOHC is pleased to host two upcoming webinars on the Healthy Smiles Project. The first webinar with Stacey Griner, PhD, MPH, CPH, RDH on June 9, 2023, will provide an overview of the Healthy Smiles and Project, and more information on the training webinar with Jane Cotter, RDH, MS, CTTS scheduled for July 14, 2023 will be forthcoming.

The [Healthy Smiles project](#) is an initiative funded by MD Anderson Cancer Center and has two parts – 1) providing dental hygienists with CE courses about the HPV vaccine and 2) participating in oral health events for children ages 9-17 in a free health clinic where they will be able to receive a free dental cleaning and the HPV vaccine.

If you are a dental hygiene program or a Texas ADHA component, please save the date for June 9th to learn more about how to participate in this program. Registration

for this webinar will be opening soon.

Here's a link to a summary of their first event: <https://www.unthsc.edu/school-of-public-health/healthy-smiles-event/>

Oral Health and HPV vaccine event flyers [[English](#)] [[Spanish](#)]

TxOHC Member Announcement

We are pleased to welcome Celina C. Maldonado, RDH, with Rio Grande State Supported Living Center in Harlingen, TX as our newest member.

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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>.

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

MidwestDental
EQUIPMENT • SERVICES • SUPPLIES

 **United
Healthcare®
Dental**

 **Methodist
Healthcare
Ministries**
OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.
"Serving Humanity to Honor God"

CookChildren's

**StDavid's
FOUNDATION**

ADA Wordle spinoff game 'Dentle'



Are you a fan of Wordle? Check out ADA's new dental-focused version. Called Dentle, each daily five-letter word will be related to the practice of dentistry, such as “crown,” “decay” and “brush.”

Dentle, created by the ADA Business Group, is a free variation of the Wordle game that can be played online.

To play Dentle, visit [ADA.org/dentlegame](https://ada.org/dentlegame).

TxOHC CDE Opportunities

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/>.

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.

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.