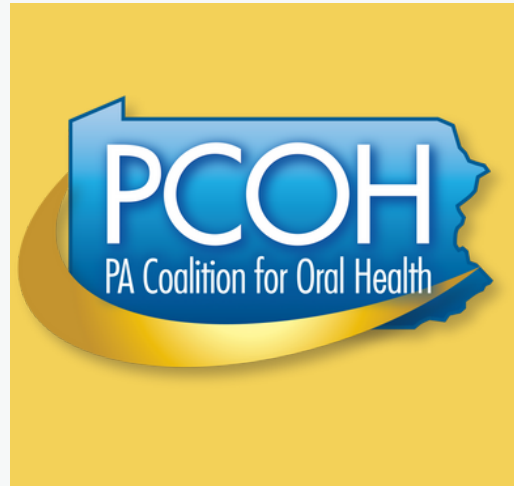




PA COALITION FOR ORAL HEALTH 2023 IMPACT REPORT



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A Message from Our Board Chair

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers.’ You will always find people who are helping.”

- Fred Rogers

This quote is one that has always stuck with me throughout my life. Thinking about 2023 and all that is happening in the dental/oral health space, I realized that I, as well as many across our commonwealth as well as our nation, have also looked for the “helpers” and found them in the team at PA Coalition for Oral Health.

This was a banner year for the organization in painting a vivid picture of Pennsylvania’s oral health status. The Workforce Report brought wonderful information into the hands of decision-makers to highlight the need for pipeline oral health professional education. The Basic Screening Survey, the first for Pennsylvania, set a baseline from which we will be able to measure, build, and study interventions. PCOH policy work has elevated the voice of oral health and aided in the development and continued movement of multiple bills. The team has also continued to provide stakeholders with easily digestible updates on where things stand allowing for continued knowledge and engagement. And I would be remiss if I didn’t comment on the incredible connections made by the PCOH helpers. This year the 2023 PA Oral Health Summit brought together an incredible group of thought leaders to focus on how to best move oral health forward in the lens of health equity. We walked away with a charge to do better and have since seen collaborative efforts continue in earnest.

It was my honor to support PCOH as Board Chair in 2023. I am looking forward to continuing to participate with this incredible organization and to see what 2024 brings us.

Jessica Rhodes
2023 PCOH Board Chair



2023 Board of Directors & Staff

Board of Directors

Jessica Rhodes, MS

Board Chair

UPMC Health Plan

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Program & Evaluation Coordinator

Alison Feise

Data & Evaluation Associate

***"Alone we can
do so little;
together we
can do so
much."
- Helen Keller***

About PCOH

Mission

To improve oral health for all Pennsylvanians by uniting stakeholders to advance advocacy, policy, education, and innovative approaches.

Vision

Essential to overall health and wellness, optimal oral health benefits all Pennsylvanians. By bringing together oral health advocates and professionals to share the best and most innovative approaches, PCOH serves as the dynamic leading voice to improve oral health across the commonwealth.

Priorities

- » Improving oral health for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations
- » Supporting Pennsylvania oral workforce development
- » Advancing and advocating for oral health policy and infrastructure across all systems
- » Advocating for community water fluoridation

77%

of funds were used for direct programming

\$990,127

2023 total revenue

1,000+

individuals and organizations support the work of PCOH as stakeholders

Financial Partners

PCOH Visionary Partners (\$50,000+)

**CareQuest Institute for Oral Health
Partnership for Better Health**

PCOH Distinguished Partners (\$10,000 - \$49,999)

Achieva
American Fluoridation Society
Delta Dental Community Care Foundation
UPMC Health Plan

PCOH Leading Partners (\$5,000- \$9,999)

Aetna Better Health Kids
Avēsis Incorporated, a Guardian Company
Highmark Wholecare
Pediatric Dental Associates and Children's Dental Management
Smiles 4 Keeps
Special Smiles, Ltd.
United Concordia Dental

PCOH Connecting Partners (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

DentaQuest
Geisinger Health Plan
United Healthcare Community Plan of PA

PCOH Partners (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association
SKYGEN
Walmart Foundation

Supporters

Alberta Landis
Amanda Kundrod
Amy Jo Pesci
Amy Requa
Angela McDougal
Anonymous (7)
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Dr. Sandra Thompson
Susan M. Miller
Suzanne Cronin
Dr. Theresa M. Devine

Thank you for your support!

Your support means so much to us and we are profoundly grateful to have you by our side. Names appear as requested. Although we do our best to ensure our donor lists are error-free, we occasionally mess up. Please accept our heartfelt apology for any mistakes that might occur in our computer system. Thank you again, not only for your gift, but your understanding.

Our Accomplishments

Improving Oral Health for PA's Most Vulnerable Populations

- » Adult dental Medicaid workgroup met monthly to protect current adult dental benefits and advocate for legislation to increase coverage
- » Awarded two mini grants, totaling \$8,000, to support work across the state that advances the priorities of the 2020-2030 PA Oral Health Plan*
- » Disseminated findings from the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee's "A Study Pursuant to House Resolution 68: Rural Dental Health"
- » Worked with each of the state's managed care organizations to improve benefits for adult dental under Medicaid
- » Served on diverse teams to enhance dental care access for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including advocacy for the EMUP initiative which would increase access to funding in this space
- » Provided oral health representation on many groups and committees, including the Coalition for the CommonHealth, PA Cancer Coalition/HPV Workgroup, PA Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Pritzker/P3N Children's Initiative, State Health Assessment, and State Health Improvement Plan
- » Hosted an informative training in Perry County to educate local advocates on the oral health status of the region
- » Presented at the Pennsylvania Department of Health Special Health Care Needs Symposium to raise awareness on the oral health needs and access issues for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities*
- » Managed the School Sealant Program for the Oral Health Program, resulting in 1,218 children receiving dental sealants in 91 schools*



A dental hygienist from Kids Smiles evaluates a young patient's mouth as part of the Kids Smiles Dental Days, supported by the PA Oral Health Mini Grant Program.



By request, PCOH translated the "What Should Kids Drink" resource into Swahili to better reach parents in the community.



PCOH staff present at the "Advocacy for Oral Health Equity Training" in Perry County hosted by the Perry County Health Coalition and Family Service Partnership Board.

*Funded in part from the Pennsylvania Department of Health through Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by, CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Our Accomplishments

Supporting PA Oral Workforce Development

- » Initiated the first two semesters of a four-year dental career pipeline project utilizing *Dying from Dirty Teeth* by Angie Stone to educate students on the disparaging condition of oral health care for older adults and spark interest in dental public health careers, which was completed by 454 dental and dental hygiene students at 11 schools*
- » Reached over 450 high school students in career pathway programs through presentations and events sponsored by regional Area Health Education Centers and local schools
- » Trained nearly 400 dental staff, students, and providers using the Nicotine Dependence and Tobacco Cessation online course on the PCOH website
- » Provided continued support and participation for a wide range of county and regional oral health task forces across the state, including the Perry County Health Coalition and SUN Smiles
- » Presented and exhibited at the second annual community health worker conference to promote oral health education and share resources*
- » Exhibited at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Career Fair to educate graduating dental students on the career opportunities available in public health
- » Launched a community health worker continuing education course on the website that reached 83 community health workers in the state in 2023*
- » Staff and volunteers participated in several career days at high schools and community colleges across the state to educate students on dental career opportunities
- » Exhibited at the Northeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center's Healthcare Career Exploration Event that was attended by over 350 students from Northeast PA interested in healthcare careers
- » Sponsored the Dental Assisting award at the SkillsUSA PA Leadership and Skills conference and provided dental career pathway materials for over 1,700 high school students
- » Attended the PA School Counselors Association Annual Conference to disseminate dental career resources to school counselors across the state



Partially funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T1246099: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Our Accomplishments

Advocating for Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

- » Organized community water fluoridation advocacy efforts and addressed a fluoridation rollback in an Allegheny County community
- » Continued to collaborate with state officials and public health specialists to ensure public information about fluoridated water systems is as accurate as possible*
- » Continually updated the PCOH fluoridation status map of Pennsylvania in partnership with the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory*
- » Updated 1,898 community water systems in the CDC My Water's Fluoride public database for the first time in over a decade*
- » Led and coordinated communications for the statewide CWF Task Force*
- » Launched the Water Operator Thank You Campaign to organize public outreach efforts and show gratitude to water operators across the state providing communities with safe drinking water; 78 letters were sent in 2023*
- » Attended and exhibited at 3 statewide water conferences and educated water system employees and decision-makers about community water fluoridation*
- » Assisted the PA Department of Health in presenting fluoridation awards on behalf of the American Dental Association, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- » Participated in a market research project with the American Fluoridation Society that surveyed 1,000 Pennsylvanians on their attitudes and knowledge of community water fluoridation in the state

*Funded in part from the Pennsylvania Department of Health through Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant and Grant NU58DP006467: Using Surveillance Data and Evidence-based Interventions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes in Pennsylvania. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by, CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Thank You, Water Operators! Tap Water Appreciation

When was the last time you thanked the water operators in your community for delivering safe water to your home? Tap water is something that many take for granted; we turn on our faucets and the water flows. We don't often think of who was involved in making that happen. Water is essential for life and getting enough water every day is crucial for your health.

Tap water can be made even better with the adjustment of fluoride. Water fluoridation is simply the adjustment of the natural fluoride in water to the recommended level that prevents tooth decay. Communities with fluoridated water have 25% fewer cavities than communities without water fluoridation, even when families use other fluoride products like toothpaste.

PCOH is encouraging Pennsylvanians to thank your water systems for delivering safe drinking water to homes, schools, child care centers, restaurants, and businesses.



Step 1:

Use the PCOH map to determine if your address is receiving fluoridated water and which water system supplies your home.

Are you served by a private well? No problem! You can still thank your nearby systems for providing safe, clean tap water to your workplace, child care center, school, restaurants, or other places you and/or your family members frequent.

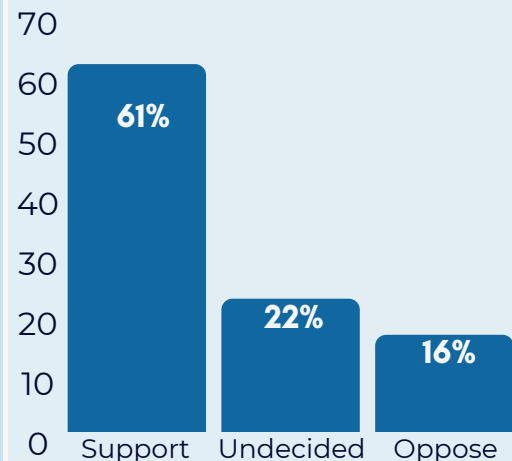
Write the name of your water system on the outside of your envelope.



Clean, safe drinking water is essential for life!



Support or oppose water fluoridation?



Our Accomplishments

Advancing and Advocating for Oral Health Policy and Infrastructure Across All Systems

- » Hosted an Oral Health Advocacy Day in April at the Capitol that included a breakfast with legislators and staff, a press conference featuring the Majority Chair of the House Health Committee, and scheduled meetings with 25 legislators/legislative staff (see photos)
- » Supported and advocated for four pieces of legislation including HB 1417, SB 955, HB 1585, and HB 1478; these bills include restoring dental coverage for adult medical assistance members, expansion of dental care through technology, and permitting school dental screenings by public health dental hygienists
- » Implemented the fifth year of statewide charitable work tracking to collect data on free dental care being provided across Pennsylvania and published a report including the past five years of data findings
- » PCOH staff advocated for increased dental access for veterans through an in-person Hill Day in Washington, D.C.
- » Continued to advocate for school districts in Pennsylvania to increase the number of Dental Hygiene Services Programs and for those districts to bill Medicaid directly for dental care
- » Participate in dozens of conversations with leadership at the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Human Services to improve dental care access and expand workforce
- » Elevated the importance of oral health in three interviews aired by WPMT Fox43 in conjunction with the April Advocacy Day at the Capitol; press conference was also featured on PA Cable Network (PCN) statewide



Other Successes

- » Continued to support the PA Department of Health in facilitating the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030 and the Oral Health Plan Advisory Group
- » Continued support and leadership for the PA Family Oral Health Collective workgroup
- » Staff volunteered at several Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinics across the state as well as the Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh clinic
- » Hosted two webinar updates in June and December for stakeholders and individuals interested in learning more about PCOH
- » Staff attended and presented at the National Oral Health Conference in Orlando, Florida in April
- » Developed a “Finding Dental Care” resource in English and Spanish to be shared with community partners to identify social services, clinics, and other programs in the community where an individual might seek dental care
- » Hosted a statewide strategy session to address workforce challenges in collaboration with 42 key partners. This meeting yielded insights on training, retention, and recruitment strategies, along with action plans to continue these efforts.

Our support comes from federal and state grants, corporate sponsorships, individual and organizational donors, and private foundations. Our total revenue fluctuates each year due to special projects. As a public charity, the PA Coalition for Oral Health takes its obligation to operate in the public view and the public interest very seriously. Accordingly, we make available our federal tax return and our audited financial statements. Our IRS Form 990 may be viewed at www.paoralhealth.org and www.candid.org, and financial statements may be requested at info@paoralhealth.org.



Finding Dental Care in Pennsylvania

Federally Qualified Health Centers

Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) are primary care facilities in rural and urban areas. There are more than 120 FQHC sites in PA that provide dental care. All insurances are accepted. Fees are based on what the patient can pay and are often based on income level and family size. To locate an FQHC or similar clinic, visit www.my.pahc.org/Find-a-Health-Center

Dental and Dental Hygiene Program Clinics

There are four dental programs and twelve dental hygiene programs in Pennsylvania. The schools provide dental services at a low or reduced cost. To locate a dental or dental hygiene program clinic, visit www.paoralhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Dental-and-Dental-Hygiene-Program-Clinics.pdf

Free and Charitable Clinics

Free and charitable clinics can restrict patient eligibility to patients that are uninsured, underinsured, and/or have limited or no access to care. There are nearly 20 free clinics in the state that offer dental services. To locate a free or charitable clinic, visit freelincspa.org/locations

PA 211

PA 211 is a service provided through the United Way of Pennsylvania to provide information and referrals to health, human services, and other social assistance programs. To locate dental providers, visit www.pa211.org/get-help/health/

Managed Care Organizations (Medicaid Health Plans)

Managed care organizations can connect their members with dental providers in their regions. To find the member services phone numbers for each managed care organization, visit www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Statewide-Managed-Care-Map.aspx

PA Department of Human Services

The Medical Assistance Call Center can connect patients with medical assistance to dental providers that accept medical assistance. They can be reached at 1-800-537-8862. To search for providers, visit ssa.paeb.maximus.com/PASelfService/resources/portal/index.html#public/provider_search



Grants Awarded

The PA Department of Health Oral Health Program received funding from CDC (2018-2024) and HRSA (2022-2026) grants totaling \$3.62 million. PCOH is a key partner in these grants and works on numerous projects as a result of this partnership.

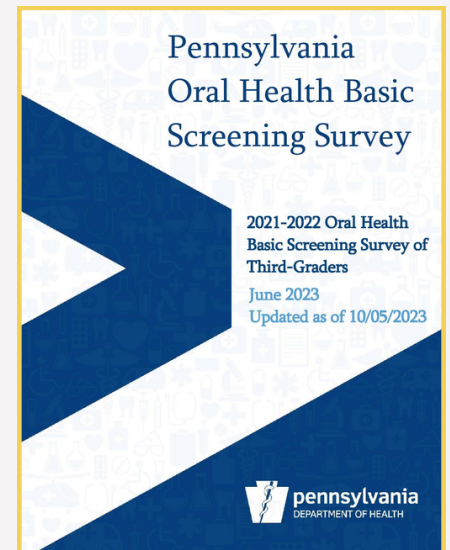
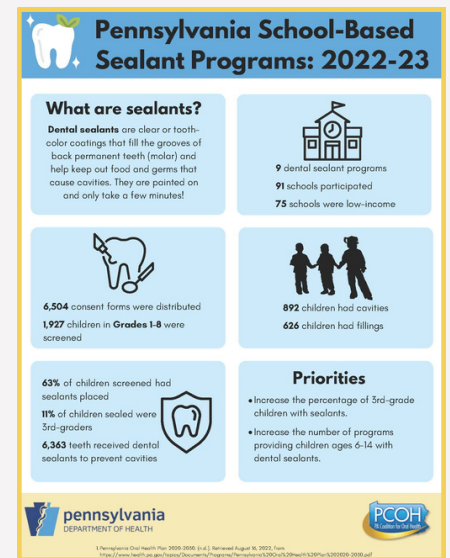
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Improving Oral Health in Pennsylvania (IOH-PA)** 2018-2024

Major Partner: PA Department of Health Oral Health Program

Partners: PA Coalition for Oral Health, PA Association of Community Health Centers, and Heartland Grant Solutions

- » Supported school sealant programs (SSPs) in providing 6,363 sealants to 1,218 students in 91 schools
- » Awarded nearly \$53,000 in grants to update fluoridation equipment in 2 community water systems in Berks and Allegheny counties
- » Guaranteed continued fluoridation for nearly 130,000 Pennsylvanians served by community water systems
- » Translated school sealant parent resources into Swahili and Haitian-Creole to better serve community needs
- » Aided the Department of Health is compiling and disseminating a summary report of the [2021-2022 Third Grade Basic Screening Survey](#).
- » Received nearly 1,500 views in 2023 on the PCOH website [fluoridation resource page](#)

*Funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant NU58DP006467: Using Surveillance Data and Evidence-based Interventions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes in Pennsylvania. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.



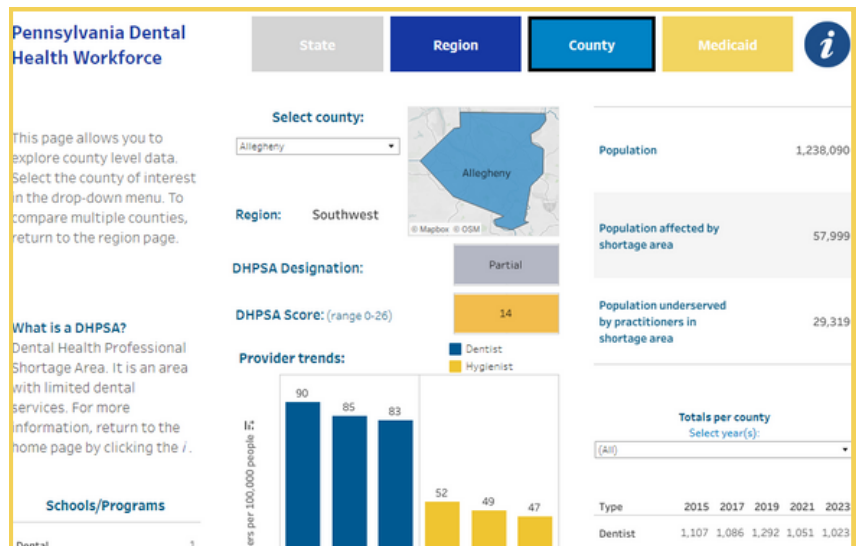
Grants Awarded

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Innovative Programs to Address Oral Health Workforce Needs 2022-2026

Major Partner: PA Department of Health Oral Health Program

Partners: PA Coalition for Oral Health, Dental Public Health Consultant, PA Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Heartland Grant Solutions, PA Office of Rural Health, PA Association of Community Health Centers, and PA Area Health Education Center

- » Advocated for tracking and analysis of dental licensure data by the PA Department of Health Oral Health Program
- » Continued our dental workforce pipeline program to reach high school students in underserved areas to encourage the consideration of dental careers
- » Aided the PA Department of Health in sharing the [2021 Pennsylvania's Dentist and Dental Hygienist Workforce Survey Report](#) that highlighted licensure survey trends
- » Launched an [oral health workforce dashboard](#) that provides interactive visuals for data presented in workforce reports, including the number and locations of dental professionals and the number of providers registered with Medicaid per county
- » Administered a survey of certified community health workers in PA to gauge oral health information being provided and gaps in oral health education
- » Published "[Access to Oral Health Workforce Report Part II](#)" detailing the results of a secret shopper survey and provider survey revealing underutilization of providers, rural challenges, limited capacity of clinics and offices, poor work-life balance, and an alarming disparity in the number of providers accepting patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities



Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T1246099: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

2023 PA Oral Health Summit: Paving the Road to Equity.

The 2023 Pennsylvania Oral Health Summit gathered oral health stakeholders from across Pennsylvania in-person for education, discussion, and networking. PCOH created an open space for open discussion and idea-sharing. The three-day event consisted of a poverty simulation, greetings from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, a keynote address, three panels, 15 roundtable presentations, and seven short presentations from PA stakeholders. Each presentation was followed by small group discussion guided by prompted questions.



Quick Summit Takeaways

- » The event was at capacity with nearly 140 attendees, staff, sponsors, and presenters.
- » Attendees hailed from seven different states and 31 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.
- » There were 77 first-time attendees at the event.
- » Three panel presentations were included and featured representatives from safety net clinics, rural and urban settings, as well as dental schools and other workforce advocates.
- » Attendees participated in roundtable sessions offered by 15+ oral health stakeholders from across PA.
- » PCOH presented the 2023 Innovative Oral Health Champion Individual Award to Kelly Braun of the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health and the 2023 Innovative Oral Health Champion Organization Award to St. Luke's Miners Campus & Hometown Center Team.

Communications Highlights

Request Materials Page

PCOH continued supporting providers, community organizations, and individuals across the state (and country) through the [Request Materials page](#). Requested materials included flyers, posters, magnets, brochures, rack cards, and reports focused on oral health and community water fluoridation, overall health, sugar-sweetened beverages, drinking water promotion, tobacco and nicotine cessation counseling, human papillomavirus and oral cancer, dental sealants, and children's health

3,275 pages of free resources sent by PCOH to stakeholders across Pennsylvania

41 individuals distributed oral health resources from the clearinghouse to patients, students, and event attendees in

28 counties across the commonwealth



PCOH Website



over **16,000** visits to the PCOH website in 2023



nearly **3,000** educational oral health resources downloaded from the PCOH website

Social Media



over **600** Twitter/X Followers



over **1,500** LinkedIn Followers



nearly **3,000** Facebook Followers



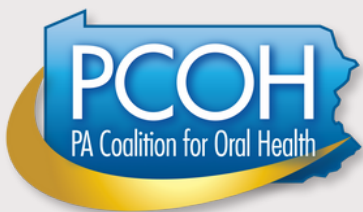
Looking
ahead to

2

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2

4



Here's what we're planning for the next year...

- » Collect data for the sixth year of our charitable work tracking for free dental services
- » Increase the percentage of Pennsylvanians who have access to optimally fluoridated drinking water by investigating new partnerships that promote drinking tap water and healthier beverage choices by all residents
- » Offer dental continuing education credits in tobacco/nicotine cessation, HPV prevention, serving people with disabilities, community water fluoridation, and more
- » Continue to implement the goals and action plans of the Pennsylvania Oral Health Plan 2020-2030
- » Award additional community water fluoridation grants to water systems to initiate or update their fluoridation practices
- » Finalize approval for the CDC Fluoridation Learning Online course for PA-specific credits for water operators
- » Add additional school sealant programs (SSPs)
- » Continue to offer free resources to oral health advocates and providers on the PCOH website, "Request Materials" page
- » Promote the development of dental assisting careers across the commonwealth by reviewing and revising current pathways
- » Host a community water fluoridation celebration and continuing education event with the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in honor of 70 years of community water fluoridation in Philadelphia
- » Host an informational webinar to educate stakeholders on dental license portability including dental licensure compact models
- » Collaborate with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to prepare a new statewide oral health surveillance plan
- » Move HB1417 and HB 1585 in the Senate after both bills passed in the House with bipartisan support

Visit paoralhealth.org to find out more or to get involved!

