

South Hampton Roads Oral Health Forum – Executive Summary

Friday, October 13, 2017 | 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Tidewater Community College Chesapeake Student Center, 1428 Cedar Rd., Chesapeake, VA

The South Hampton Roads Oral Health Forum convened over 50 community stakeholders from Chesapeake, Franklin, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Southampton, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. Together participants analyzed regional data and identified collaborative strategies to improve oral health and overall health in the region. **A comprehensive summary, attendee list, and other meeting materials are available on the Virginia Oral Health Coalition's website:** www.vaoralhealth.org.

Highlights

- Participants performed a “data walk,” where they examined regional data on oral health outcomes, care utilization, and provider distribution, and identified patterns, disparities, and gaps. Many noted that although the data walk provided a snapshot of the region’s oral health challenges, more representative locality-level data is needed to further examine racial/ethnic inequities and barriers to care.
- After the data walk, participants had small group discussions by population group of interest: adults (19-64), adults (≥65), children (≤5) and pregnant women, children (6-18), and individuals with special health care needs. Each group used the data and their personal experiences to craft shared goals and strategies to improve oral health in South Hampton Roads.
- Each group’s goals and strategies aim to enhance coordination among systems of care within the next five years, for example:
 - Increase the number of uninsured/under-insured adults with an established dental home by improving collaboration among safety net providers;
 - Increase older adults’ rate of annual dental visits by gathering data on the sites where they congregate, coordinating existing services, and exploring options for group transportation;
 - Increase pregnant women’s rate of dental visits and the number of children receiving fluoride varnish through parent education and medical/dental provider outreach;
 - Increase the number of children and adolescents utilizing preventive school-based dental care through parental outreach to increase consent and exploring dental exams as a requirement for enrollment; and
 - Increase advocacy for individuals with disabilities to achieve enhanced funding and resources for dental care.

Next Steps

Together we will refine these goals and strategies and create an implementation plan. Join us for a meeting of the South Hampton Roads Oral Health Alliance to be a part of this process:

Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Chrysler Museum of Art

1 Memorial Place, Norfolk, VA 23510

All are welcome!

Please contact Lauren Gray at lgray@vaoralhealth.org or 804-299-5506 with questions or to get involved.

