

South Hampton Roads Oral Health Alliance

<http://bit.ly/OralHealthAlliance>

Did You Know?

- 35 percent of adults in Eastern Virginia do not have dental coverage for routine preventive dental care, and 44 percent have lost at least one tooth due to decay or gum disease. This can complicate medical conditions and negatively affect employment, nutrition, and overall well-being.
- 44 percent of third grade children in Eastern Virginia have preventable tooth decay, contributing to health and behavioral problems and missed school hours. Additionally, not enough young children and parents are getting care to set them up for a lifetime of good oral health.
- The South Hampton Roads Oral Health Alliance is a group of partners from across the region who collaborate to improve oral health and overall health for the most vulnerable populations in South Hampton Roads. Please join us to create a healthier South Hampton Roads!

Goals of the South Hampton Roads Oral Health Alliance

Safety net collaboration

Increase the number of uninsured/under-insured adults with an established dental home by improving collaboration among free and low-cost dental providers.

Older adults

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.

Pregnant women and children <5

Increase pregnant women's rate of dental visits and the number of children receiving fluoride varnish through parent education and medical/dental provider outreach.

School-age children and adolescents

Increase the number of children and adolescents utilizing school-based dental care through parental outreach and school policies.

Individuals with disabilities

Increase advocacy for individuals with disabilities to achieve enhanced funding and resources for dental care.

Underlying each of these goals, the South Hampton Roads Oral Health Alliance is committed to

1. Advocacy and engagement of local and state decisionmakers to impact access to oral health coverage, care delivery, and other relevant policies
2. Adoption of systemic approaches to addressing the social determinants of oral health and overall health, including economic stability, the neighborhood and built environment, health and health care, social and community context, and education.
3. Engagement of "non-traditional" partners outside of the healthcare and human services sectors

To get involved, please contact Lauren Gray, Program and Engagement Manager at the Virginia Oral Health Coalition: lgray@vaoralhealth.org / 804-299-5506.