



Good oral health is essential to overall health

Many Missourians struggle to have good oral health. Many Missourians have dental conditions and disease that reduce overall health and make working, learning and being connected with their community difficult.

- Poor oral health is linked to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, depression, low birth weight and premature birth.^{1, 2}
- Oral diseases affect individuals, families and communities. Poor oral health can negatively affect employment and the economic strength of the state. Untreated dental diseases can result in loss of productivity in the workplace due to absenteeism, under-employment and unemployment.³
- Children with untreated tooth decay suffer pain and infection. They have trouble eating, talking, socializing, sleeping, and learning, all of which reduce school performance.⁴
- Lack of access to oral health care leads to increased use of Emergency Rooms⁵ and increased use of inpatient hospitalizations to address complications from untreated dental conditions.⁶
- Missouri teledentistry is improving access to dental care by linking dental health providers to those in underserved and rural areas.⁷

Mission & Vision

The Missouri Coalition for Oral Health is a non-profit dedicated to increasing health equity and improving oral health with all Missourians.

We are a statewide network of oral health advocates.

We raise awareness, engage with community members, advocate for policy change and health care system improvements, and work together to increase health equity.

Our mission is to improve oral health with all Missourians by advocating for sound public policy.

Our vision is oral health for all Missourians.

Join the membership of MCOH to make a positive difference for the future of Missouri!

- www.oralhealthmissouri.org
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

Who We Are - MCOH is a non-profit advocacy agency funded through memberships & donations, & by Health Forward Foundation, Missouri Foundation for Health, MO Developmental Disabilities Council, CareQuest Institute & MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services. **Some of our partners -**



¹ Department of Health and Human Services. *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Retrieved 2/13/19: www.nidcr.nih.gov/DataStatistics/SurgeonGeneral/Documents/hck1ocv_@www.surgeon.fullrpt.pdf

² Adrienne O'Neil, Michael Berk, Kamallesh Venugopal, Sung-Wan Kim, Lana J. Williams, Felice N. Jacka. *The association between poor dental health and depression: findings from a large-scale, population-based study*. *General Hospital Psychiatry* - May 2014 Vol. 36, Issue 3, Pages 266-270. Retrieved on 2/12/19: <https://www.hcwbenefits.com/new-research-shows-link-poor-dental-health-depression/>

³ Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP Services Dental Association. Broken Smiles: Oral Health and Employment. Retrieved 2/13/19: http://www.aaiohi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/DQF_PolicyBrief_OralHealth_Employment_012616.pdf

⁴ Katrina Holt and Ruth Barzel, "Oral Health and Learning: When Children's Health Suffers, So Does Their Ability to Learn," Retrieved 2/8/19:

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/learningfactsheet.pdf> ⁵ MO Department of Health and Senior Services. *Dental Health Fact Sheet: Emergency Department Utilization for Dental Complaints, Missouri 1994-2014*. Retrieved 2/11/19: <http://health.mo.gov/living/families/oralhealth/pdf/EmergencyDepartmentUtilizationforDentalComplaints.pdf>

⁶ Rob Goszkowski, U.S. sees alarming rise in dental infection hospitalizations. Retrieved 2/11/19: <http://www.drbcuspipd.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=edo&pag=dis&ItemID=314176>

⁷ Michelle Irving, Rosemary Stewart, Heiko Spallek, Anthony Blinkhorn. *Using teledentistry in clinical practice, an enabler to improve access to oral health care: a qualitative systematic review*. *J Telemedicine and Telecare*. Retrieved 2/11/19: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1357633X16686776>