



Oral Health is Overall Health



Improving Children's Oral Health in Maine



All Children Deserve Access to Care

Routine preventive care is essential to help children avoid tooth decay and address it quickly once it starts. If untreated, dental disease will affect children's overall health and follow them into adulthood.

45% of Maine children experienced dental cavities by the third grade in 2019.¹

40% of children with MaineCare received any preventive dental care in 2022.²



“More than half of Maine children are going without the essential care they need to protect their oral health. The Children's Oral Health Network of Maine (COHN) unites hundreds of partners across the state to make Maine a place where all children can grow up free from preventable dental disease.”
— Becca Matusovich
Executive Director of COHN

Solutions



MCD Global Health³ works with other partners in COHN⁴ to build a stronger dental workforce and increase access to care



Medical-Dental Integration

The practice of integrating oral health and primary care to address oral health as part of overall health.

Dental Steps for ME

Video library containing one video correlating with each well-child visit from 2 months to age 5 and more resources.

Oral Health Navigator Learning Series

Developing training to provide information on navigating the existing dental care system to help patients access care.

Expanding Services in Schools

Expanding the School Oral Health Program (SOHP) to provide preventive dental services to more of Maine's school children.



2,500+ views of the Dental Steps for ME video library since its publication.

18,400+ Maine students had dental screenings at school in the 2022-2023 school year.

“There is a shared commitment to increase access to foundational school oral health services to prevent dental disease in children. COHN and the SOHP continue to support innovation with all hands on deck to confront this oral health crisis.”
— Danielle Peterson, Ed.D.
SOHP Program Manager



Together, we can improve the health and well-being of Maine's children!

Sources:

1. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's "Maine's School Oral Health Program Handbook:" https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/odh/documents/2021SOHP_Handbook.pdf
2. Children's Oral Health Network of Maine's "2022 Data Brief:" <https://www.maineconh.org/what-we-do/data>
3. MCD Global Health's oral health initiatives: <https://mcd.org/focus-areas/oral-health>
4. Children's Oral Health Network of Maine: <https://www.maineconh.org/>