



Formed in April of 2003, Oral Health Awareness Colorado! (OHAC!) is a coalition of professionals representing a wide range of public, private and non-profit organizations interested in advancing oral health care in Colorado.

Its mission is to develop and promote strategies that achieve optimal oral health for all Coloradans. Goals include:

- Reduce the burden of oral disease
- Promote prevention strategies to improve oral health
- Increase Collaborations
- Change perceptions of oral health

“The Smart Mouths, Healthy Bodies: An Action Plan to Improve the Oral Health of Coloradans” provides strategic guidance and empowerment to partners at all levels to work on the improvement of oral health in their community in six domains including:

**Financing** - Pursue effective financing of both the system of oral health care and activities of the state oral health plan.

**Health Promotion** - Educate the public on the relationship between oral health and general health and the individuals’ roles and responsibilities for their own oral health.

**Policy and Advocacy** - Establish and advocate for public and private policies in order to positively impact access to or delivery of oral health services.

**Promising Practices** - Replicate and apply successful, evidence-based and research-based strategies, and decision-making practices and activities to oral health problems in Colorado.

**Systems of Care** - Coordinate systems of care for more efficient and effective application to oral health.

**Workforce** - Develop a diverse workforce to ensure both access to oral health care and a workforce that is competent and representative of the populations it serves.

“Good Health Starts with a Smart Mouth” says Oral Health Awareness Colorado! through its “Be a Smart Mouth” campaign. The education-focused campaign, targeted at all age groups ranging from babies to seniors, provides educational materials about a range of topics from tobacco use to oral self care for all ages.

- **Diabetes and Oral Health** – Diabetes and oral health providers are working on how to increase the number of diabetics who receive a dental evaluation as recommended in the Colorado Diabetes Care guidelines.
- **Prenatal** – Educating medical and dental healthcare providers and pregnant women on the importance of good oral health care during pregnancy.
- **Again Adults** – Partnering with Volunteers of America, OHAC! will be visiting VOA meal sites and living facilities during May, Aging Adult Month, and presenting education programs and offering free dental screenings.
- **“Exploring Dental Public Health in Colorado”** – Bringing promising practices in dental public health to the forefront through the sharing of initiatives and lessons learned.

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