



MISSION

The Michigan Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging's (COHA) mission is to improve the oral health of older people through advocacy, professional education, public education, and research by focusing on prevention, health promotion, and evidence-based practices.

GOALS

- To be a resource for providers of care for the aging and special needs populations
- To promote the implementation of policies that support evidence based strategies that provide optimal oral health for the aging
- To develop collaborative partnerships that address the oral health needs of the aging and special needs populations

How can COHA assist healthcare providers to IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH of older adults?

- Increase your knowledge of providing oral health services in homebound settings and long term care facilities.
- Learn how dental offices can be more user friendly for aging populations.
- Enable you to promote your services through the Vulnerable Elderly Referral Directory and other referral sources.
- Find the latest educational resources on oral care for the older adult.
- Learn how to improve oral care through education, use of auxiliary staff, and evidence based use of fluorides.
- Gain confidence to work with legislators to increase Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement and to be an effective advocate for the aging.
- Learn how to form partnerships with other community groups, such as, dental providers, healthcare facilities and homecare agencies.
- Empower you to support networking efforts for the aging adult in your communities.



Getting Dental Professionals Involved

- Personal Fulfillment: Many resources exist to obtain expertise.
- Economics: Many aging adults have insurance or private funds to cover care. Most older adults are not necessarily dependent on Medicaid/Medicare.
- Providing Needed Service: Add quality of life and better health to vulnerable older adults.
- Growing Population for Practice Niche: Most older adults live in private homes, senior housing and assisted living facilities.
- Utilize PA161 Collaborative: Practice Dental Hygienists Dental hygienists are authorized to provide preventive oral health services prior to an examination by a dentist.

Why Do We Care About Oral Health For the Aging?

- Oral health is an essential component to overall health.
- The U.S. population on aging Americans continues to grow.
The proportion of the U.S. population 65+ in 2000: 12%.... In 2030 20%.
- More aging adults are keeping their natural teeth.
Decrease in edentulism: 1986-41% had no natural teeth...2004-21% had no natural teeth.
- Older adults have chronic health concerns, such as cardiovascular problems, diabetes, pneumonia that can adversely affect their oral health status.
The aging with periodontal disease face a 25% higher risk of death from aspiration pneumonia.
- Older adults take numerous medications adversely affecting their oral health.
Many medications cause xerostomia (dry mouth) which leads to increased root caries.
- Access to oral health care is limited for aging adults.
Only 38% of nursing home residents receive an exam by a dentist.

History of COHA

COHA was formed in 2006 by a group of persons representing the Michigan Oral Health Coalition, the Michigan Dental Association, Delta Dental, the University Of Michigan School Of Dentistry, and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

Currently, in addition to these groups, COHA is comprised of representatives from the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association, the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, the Veterans Administration Medical Centers, community public health dental providers, private practitioners, interested lay persons, and organizations that serve the aging and persons with developmental disabilities, among others.

COHA workgroups are established to accomplish projects and tasks. (Data Collection, Education, Aging Issues, Providers and Practice Models, Communications, and Research



Learn more about COHA!
www.micoha.org
Attend an upcoming meeting
by contacting Dr. Elisa Ghezzi at
734-358-0275 or
chair@micoha.org.
Meetings held quarterly 1-3pm
Delta Dental Building
Okemos, Michigan



**Advocating, Educating,
& Researching**
to improve oral health
care of the aging.



Join COHA and be a part
of a state organization dedicated
to improving the oral health of
Michigan's aging populations!