

WORKING TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH FOR ALL RESIDENTS STATEWIDE



PROSPECTIVE MEMBER GUIDE



Leadership letter

Thank you for taking the opportunity to learn how you can play a pivotal role in improving the oral health of all Wisconsin residents. In these pages, you will discover what makes the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition (WOHC) a special organization to engage and mobilize policies and initiatives proven to improve oral health.

Our mission is to develop diverse public and private partnerships, to create meaningful change in oral health and access to care in Wisconsin. The WOHC is recognized statewide for our expertise in convening organizations - including hospital systems, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and professional organizations - to facilitate oral health program and policy development.

Of course, this snapshot is just the beginning. We are poised to accomplish even greater things with your membership support. As you start exploring, let us encourage you to align your expertise and voice by becoming the newest WOHC member.

Linda Bohacek, MA, CDHC, RDH
WOHC Chair

Alyssa Ricketts, JD
WOHC Project Manager

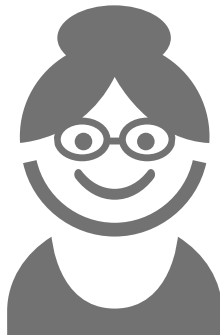
WISCONSIN
THIRD-GRADERS



53%

HAVE HAD
TOOTH DECAY¹

WISCONSIN
NURSING HOME
RESIDENTS



42%

HAD UNTREATED
TOOTH DECAY²

TOOTH DECAY IS A SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH
PROBLEM THROUGHOUT LIFE

Our members

As a statewide membership organization, anyone interested in improving the oral health status of all Wisconsin residents is welcome to join. With more than 170 members, the WOHC is comprised of health care providers, oral health clinicians, educators, advocacy and provider organizations, state and local government officials, and community members.



Become a member



INDIVIDUAL

AND/
OR



ORGANIZATION

NO MEMBERSHIP DUES
(FOR EITHER CATEGORY)

Member responsibilities

Even small showings of support go a great distance in affecting policies and implementing programs that improve oral health integration and access to care. There are several engagement opportunities at a variety of levels of involvement. In today's fast-paced world, we understand the challenge of finding time for coalition participation. This should not prevent you from joining the coalition.

Ways to get involved

Attend the annual statewide meeting

Participate in surveys and evaluations requested by coalition staff

Inform the coalition of pertinent oral health-related activity in your community

Support and distribute key coalition publications and resources

Serve on a workgroup or the governing body of the coalition

Provide your local/state leaders with pertinent updates regarding coalition activity

5 reasons to become a member

1

Advocacy representation on statewide and national oral health policy

2

Programmatic and technical support to local and statewide oral health initiatives

3

Network with other health professionals with similar goals

4

Invitations to special WOHC convenings, conferences, continuing education, workgroups and other learning opportunities

5

Subscription to eBytes, the monthly oral health electronic newsletter, that includes information on state and national oral health initiatives, and legislative updates

BECOME A MEMBER BY COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION:

surveymonkey.com/r/wohc15

Coalition highlights

ESTABLISHED
**REGIONAL
COMMUNITY
WATER
FLUORIDATION
SPECIALISTS**



This project utilized specialists to provide assistance and education to 17 communities looking to remove community water fluoridation. Since September 2014, more than 80 percent of these communities have continued fluoridating their water.

DEVELOPED
STATE PLAN



Wisconsin's Roadmap to Improving Oral Health 2013-2018
This document acts as a guide for partners and organizations to use to promote the vision of access to quality oral health care in Wisconsin across the lifespan.

CREATED
**SEAL-A-SMILE
VIDEO**



This video educates and explains the benefits of the Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile Program to schools and families not currently enrolled. Since the development of this video, an additional 120 schools have joined SAS and more than 10,000 additional children have been seen by our programs.

IMPLEMENTED
**MIDWEST
COLLABORATIVE
INITIATIVE**



This initiative has helped to build and develop nine local oral health coalitions throughout Wisconsin, working to create and implement oral health programs at the community level.

DEVELOPED
**NEW
CAMPAIGN**



TapIntoHealthyTeeth.org
This website and toolkit raises public awareness on the safety and benefits of community water fluoridation among the general public, health professionals and water operators.

How does WOHC plan to advance Wisconsin's Roadmap for Improving Oral Health (Roadmap) by 2018?

WOHC staff will build/grow two or more local coalitions in each of the five Wisconsin public health regions to develop community strategies to educate, prevent and treat dental disease.

Addresses Goal 1.2 in Roadmap

WOHC, in partnership with key stakeholders, will maintain the approximately 90 percent of Wisconsin residents on public water supplies who receive the benefit of optimally fluoridated water.

Addresses Goal 2.1 in Roadmap

WOHC will develop a statewide plan to help provide oral health services for individuals with special needs who require dental treatment.

Addresses Goal 3.2 in Roadmap

WOHC will host five regional meetings identifying best practices and gaps in the oral health workforce and develop a strategy for moving forward.

Addresses Goal 4.1 in Roadmap

Testimonials

"As a clinical provider for patients with high rates of disease, the collaboration with government, academics, public health, primary care and private practice is vital to my practice, as well as professionally rewarding. Our health center cannot fulfill its vision ("healthy, prosperous, engaged communities where everyone thrives") without partnerships that are willing to work past their differences toward a larger goal of community health. The WOHC is definitely one of these partnerships."

Tina Sopiwnik, DMD
Dental Director
Northlakes Community Clinic Northern Region

"Being an organizational member of the WOHC has enhanced our efforts to raise awareness on the oral health needs for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) has been able to network at WOHC meetings, giving us the opportunity to educate oral health professionals from around the state on our Special Smiles program. WOHC has helped SOWI recruit oral health professional volunteers for Special Smiles events. The coalition also has helped SOWI develop an educational mirror cling on tooth brushing for individuals with intellectual disabilities."

Melissa Schoenbrodt
Director of Health Programs
Special Olympics Wisconsin, Inc.



CHAWISCONSIN.ORG/WOHC/

Last updated, August 2016

¹ Olson, MA, Chaffin JG, Chudy N, Yang A. *Healthy Smiles / Healthy Body: Wisconsin's Third Grade Children*, 2013. Wisconsin Oral Health Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services. P-00589

² Olson M, Kuester R, Moss M. *Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey – The Oral Health of Wisconsin's Older Adults*: 2012. Wisconsin Oral Health Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services. P-01121