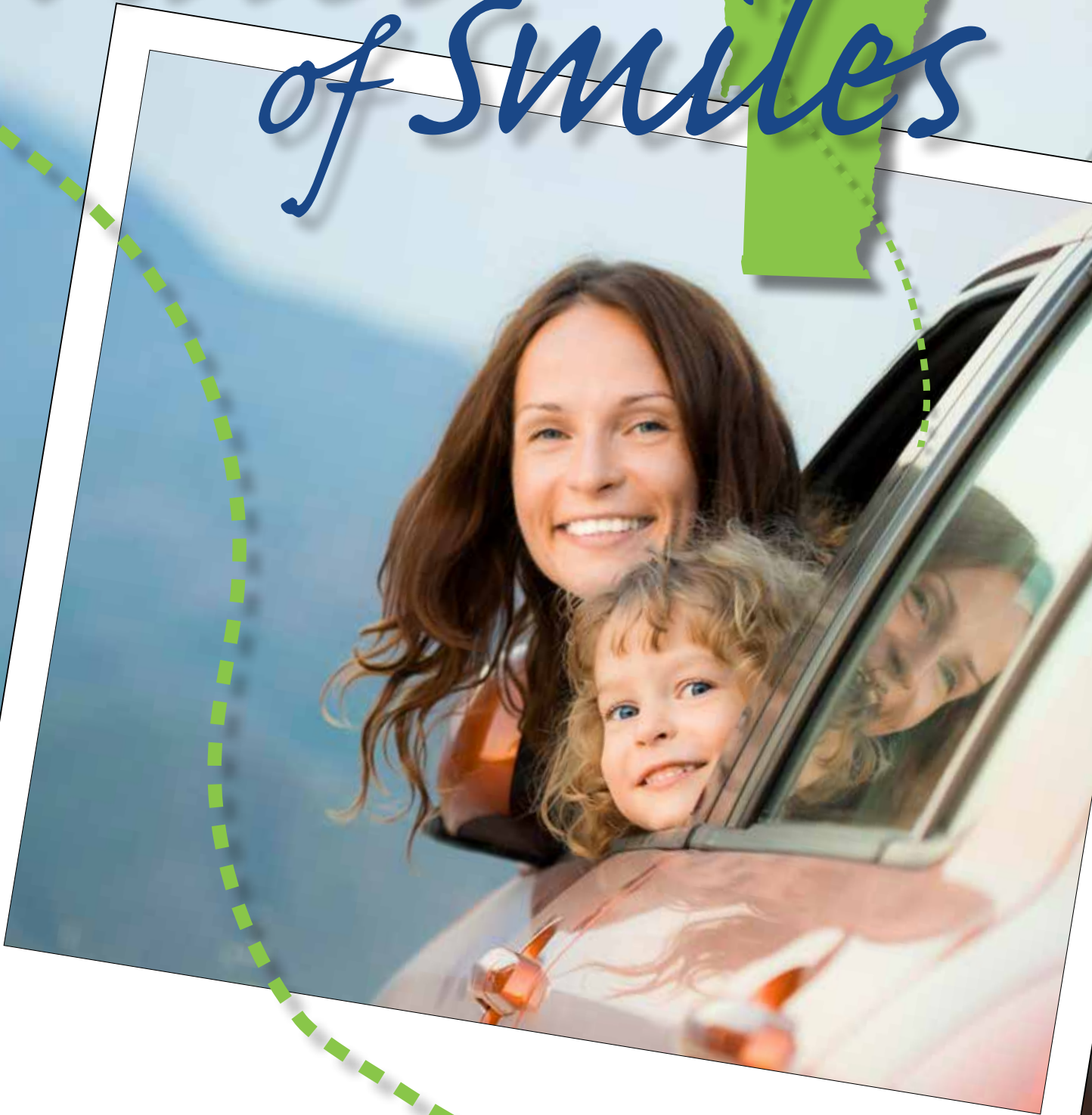


Miles of Smiles





Vermont's Miles of Smiles

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IN VERMONT
& A PRESCRIPTION
FOR MOVING
FORWARD

PRESENTED BY
THE VERMONT STATE
DENTAL SOCIETY





"Vermont's oral health programs are working."

*- Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Oral Health Survey,
Keep Smiling Vermont, 2014*



Miles of Smiles



Smiles. *Big, small, confident, content.*

There must be a million different types. But they all have one thing in common: They're highly contagious. It's even hard to say the word - *smile* - without cracking one.



The members of the Vermont State Dental Society, Vermont's community dentists, are in the business of happy, healthy smiles - **and happy, healthy patients, of course.**

As a result of their focus, dedication and collaboration with public health partners, Vermont has one of the best and most successful dental health systems in the nation - and we're making more and more progress every year! That's why a recent report from the Vermont Department of Health proclaims:

"Vermont's oral health programs are working."

Vermont has many reasons to be proud and the fact that we are a national leader in providing access to quality dental care at an affordable cost is one of them.

Now that's something to smile about!



The most important tool for protecting and improving oral health is to practice good oral hygiene every day. **Tip #1: Floss daily**

AMONG AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST STATES

Good oral health improves quality of life, prevents other medical problems and lowers costs across the entire healthcare system. That's why Vermont's healthcare providers, public health leaders and policymakers have diligently crafted a high quality system of which we can all be proud. Most importantly, we are getting better and better results.

In fact, our dental healthcare system makes a significant contribution to Vermont's consistent ranking as one of the healthiest states in the nation.

The United Health Foundation¹, for example, has cataloged the health of the nation, state-by-state, for the past 24 years. In their most recent report...

Vermont is ranked the second healthiest state in the nation.

The authors cite, among other public health factors, Vermont's low rate of uninsured residents and the high percentage of adults who have visited the dentist or a dental clinic within the past year.

¹<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/VT>



VERMONT: A NATIONAL LEADER IN DENTAL HEALTHCARE FOR CHILDREN

Additionally, according to the National Survey of Children's Health, Vermont ranks first in the nation for fewest oral health problems and has the highest percentage of children receiving dental care in the last year.



*Vermont is #1...
in the nation for fewest oral health
problems and highest percentage
of children receiving dental care.*



The same report shows that Vermont has achieved the highest percentage of third grade students in the nation with preventative sealants; as well as the highest percentage of low-income children receiving both preventive dental care and healthcare. This early intervention is key to long term improvements in oral health outcomes and healthcare cost containment.

According to the Vermont Department of Health¹, Vermont also enjoys the lowest percentage of third graders in the nation with untreated tooth decay - a rate that has been steadily declining.

Vermont: Putting Children First

#1

88% OF CHILDREN IN VERMONT RECEIVED DENTAL CARE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS. THE HIGHEST IN THE NATION.

#1

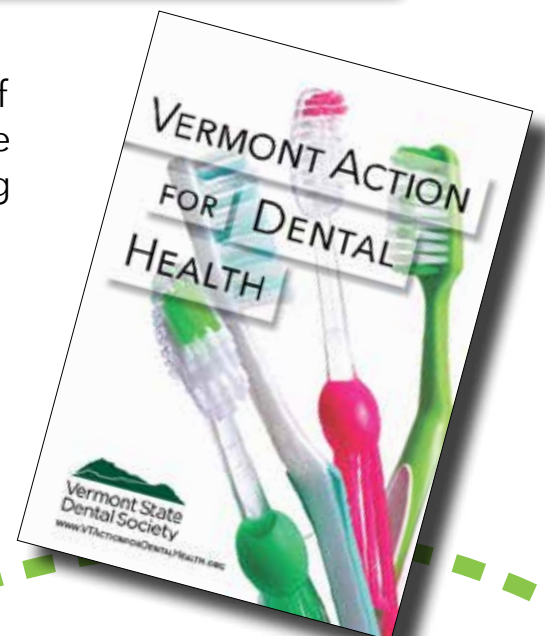
VERMONT LEADS THE NATION IN THE PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN ON MEDICAID RECEIVING DENTAL CARE.

#1

FIRST IN THE NATION FOR PERCENT OF THIRD GRADERS WITH PREVENTATIVE SEALANTS.

All together, these extraordinary results in the area of children's dental care underscore the comprehensive and progressive approach Vermont takes to ensuring the health and security of its children, including our commitment to preventive dental healthcare and education. As we note in the **2015 VT Action for Dental Health** plan, however, there is still an opportunity to reach more children.

¹<http://healthvermont.gov/family/dental/services.aspx>



Tip #2: Brush at least twice a day.

VERMONT: A NATIONAL LEADER IN DENTAL HEALTHCARE FOR ADULTS



With one of the *highest percentages of adults who have their teeth cleaned* and checked annually, and...

4.3%

**OF VERMONT RESIDENTS
LIVE IN AN UNDERSERVED
DENTAL AREA.**

*...the lowest percentage of
its residents living in an
underserved or dental
shortage area³...*

Vermont is also a leader in dental healthcare for adults.

This is due, in large measure, to the combined benefits of access to care from Vermont's community dentists, ongoing efforts to meet the dental healthcare workforce needs of the state and access to dental clinics at eight of Vermont's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) as well as other non-profit or free clinic options.

For example, Vermonters who do not have commercial health insurance coverage can receive dental care at a price that is based on their income at the following dental clinics.



³<http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/percent-who-had-teeth-cleaning/>



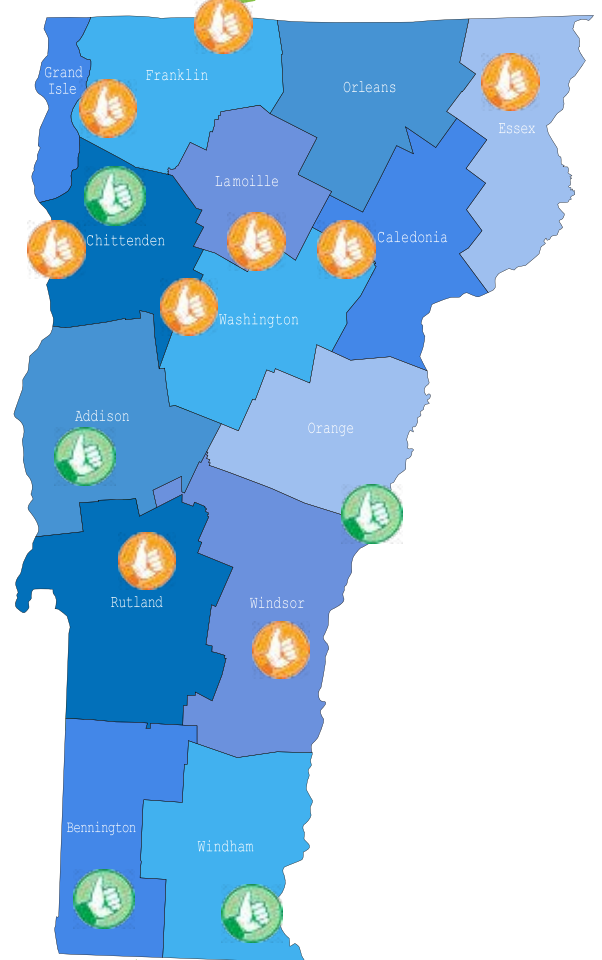
FQHC DENTAL CLINICS:

- Community Dental Clinic, Morrisville
- Community Health Center of Burlington
- Community Health Center of the Rutland Region
- Health Center, Plainfield
- Island Pond Dental Center
- Ludlow Dental Center
- Northern Counties Dental Center, Hardwick
- Richford Dental Center, Richford & Swanton



NON-PROFIT DENTAL CLINICS:

- Estey Dental Clinic, Brattleboro
- Red Clover Family Dentistry, Bristol
- Red Logan Dental Clinic, White River Junction
- Molly Stark Children's Dentistry, Bennington
- Vermont Dental Clinic, Winooski



Charitable Contributions and Free Care

In addition to an emphasis on reaching underserved areas, Vermont's community dentists contribute many hours of pro bono dental care to residents in their communities each year.

This includes providing resources and expertise to public dental health awareness campaigns, free dental care days, visits to schools and other volunteer contributions to the health and wellness of their neighbors. Dentists also provide uncompensated care for patients enrolled in government-run programs like Medicaid. All together, Vermont's dentists are providing about \$20 million in uncompensated care to Medicaid patients. Medicaid only covers about half of the cost of dental care.

Tip #3: Replace your toothbrush every three to four months or if bristles are frayed.



MOVING VERMONT'S DENTAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM FORWARD

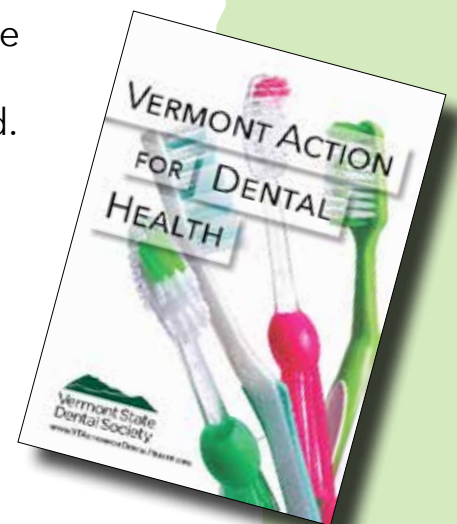
Dentistry is serious medical science. Innovations in the delivery of care should be matched by innovations in the public policy that supports it.



Vermont dentists are committed to expanding the system of care to ensure all Vermonters receive the dental care they need.

Now, more than ever, Vermont's community dentists are committed to expanding our system of care to ensure Vermonters are receiving the oral health services they need, when they need them and at a cost they can afford.

That's why dentists all across the state are the leading advocates for the **VERMONT ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH** plan - a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy to achieve Vermont's dental healthcare goals and provide the peace of mind that comes with receiving care from a fully licensed doctor of dental medicine.



Tip #4: Eat a healthy diet and limit snacks.

The **VERMONT ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH** plan identifies the right path for ensuring every Vermonter has access to the dental healthcare they need and deserve, and that a fully licensed doctor of dentistry directs this care.

This is the top priority of the Vermont State Dental Society.

Vermont's dentists are working to expand access to dental care in schools, nursing homes, and community and federally qualified health centers. As they work to expand access to quality care, they hope the Legislature will look at what's working and support the expansion of programs and services that are getting the real and measurable results.

VERMONTERS DESERVE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE BEST ORAL HEALTH CARE IN THE NATION.

With the right focus, we can ensure every Vermonter has access to preventive, restorative and continuous dental healthcare from a doctor of dentistry when they need it, and at a price they can afford.

*That's another
reason to smile.*



Miles of Smiles: THE STATE OF DENTAL HEALTHCARE
IN VERMONT & A PRESCRIPTION FOR MOVING FORWARD

PRESENTED BY
THE VERMONT STATE
DENTAL SOCIETY



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American Health Report, 2014 - www.americashealthrankings.org

Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2014 - www.aecf.org

Centers for Disease Control, National Oral Health Surveillance System - www.cdc.gov/nohss/

Pew Charitable Trusts - www.pewtrusts.org

Pew Center on the States - www.pewtrusts.org

Pew Research Center - www.pewresearch.org

Mouth Health Campaign - www.mouthhealthy.org

Vermont Department of Health, Oral Health Plan - www.healthvermont.gov

University of Vermont Medical Center, Dental and Oral Health - www.uvm.edu/medicine/familymedicine

WWW.VTACTIONFORDENTALHEALTH.ORG