

all smiles shine

Help us ensure everyone has equal access to dental care **#AllSmilesShine**



FACT SHEET

All Smiles Shine is the first national campaign from Project Accessible Oral Health (PAOH) to bring attention to the number one healthcare need for children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities: the inability to access and receive competent oral health care.



Penn
Dental Medicine
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Penn Dental Medicine is the administrative home of PAOH

OUR AUDIENCES

- The general public
- People with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities and their families and caregivers
- Oral healthcare professionals and dental schools
- Organizations representing the disabilities community

ALL SMILES SHINE AIMS TO COMMUNICATE

- Inequities in oral health care for people with disabilities are unfair, unjust and 100% avoidable.
- PAOH, together with its partners and sponsors are dedicated to helping all members of society, including our most vulnerable populations, have their oral care needs met by oral healthcare professionals, so they can live their best lives, which includes the self-confidence of a healthy smile.
- In addition to the deep connection between oral health and overall health, the ability to smile is intricately linked to self-esteem and self-confidence. All Smiles Shine reminds people that everyone deserves a healthy smile.

GET INVOLVED AS A DENTAL STUDENT

- Create a PAOH interest group/club at your school
- Check out the free, online educational programs at: www.dental.upenn.edu/disabilities
- Explore research opportunities with faculty working in this domain
- Invite speakers to your campus to discuss dentistry for persons with disabilities
- Network with organizations working to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities
- Volunteer with local Special Olympics organizers to bring oral health programming to events
- Share your personal stories and opinions through blogs and social media posts
- Consider postgraduate work in this area
- Send us examples, PAOH-Info@dental.upenn.edu, of how your school is working creatively to expand access to oral care for persons with disabilities

FACT SHEET

WHY ALL SMILES SHINE IS AN IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN

The numbers tell the story.

- 61 million adults in the US have an intellectual or physical disability.
- 6.5 million people with disabilities are not able to access the oral care they need.
- Adults with disabilities are 4x more likely to report their health to be only fair or poor than people without disabilities. Adults with developmental disabilities are at risk for multiple health problems including poor oral health.
- Compared with the general population, people with disabilities have higher rates and increased severity of periodontal disease, much higher rates of untreated cavities, more missing and decaying teeth, more gum disease and systemic diseases including heart disease and diabetes.

Through All Smiles Shine, PAOH aims to build awareness and drive support for their education and policy initiatives.

ABOUT PAOH

Project Accessible Oral Health is a global public-private partnership with its administrative home based at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. It is the first entity to nationally assemble and connect a consortium of dental and medical professionals, corporations, organizations, policymakers, educators, people with disabilities, caregivers, and other stakeholders in pursuit of equal access to culturally competent oral healthcare. The Project's mission is to act as a collective catalyst for change that will not only improve access to oral healthcare, but also ultimately improve the overall health of the disability community.

For more information, contact

PAOH-Info@dental.upenn.edu or visit www.paoh.org.

61M

61 million adults in the US have an intellectual or physical disability

6.5M

6.5 million people with disabilities are not able to access the oral care they need.

PHILLY PHACES AT PENN DENTAL MEDICINE



Members of the 2018 founding Philly Phaces at Penn Dental group.

SUPPORTING THOSE WITH FACIAL DIFFERENCES

Philly Phaces at Penn Dental Medicine, launched by a group of dental students in 2018, supports the local nonprofit Philly Phaces, which provides peer support, advocacy, and resources for those with facial anomalies.

The group is committed to increasing their social awareness and learning about individuals with craniofacial abnormalities and their families. Activities have included developing a student elective course on facial abnormalities, working with Philly Phaces members and their families as Penn Pals, and contributing to a Philly Phaces Blog on a range of related topics

A key event of the school's Philly Phaces group has been an annual Philly Phaces Photo Gallery featuring portraits and personal stories of individuals with facial differences, their families, and medical professionals. It is designed to educate the community to the unique challenges faced by children born with craniofacial differences. Each child's journey is unique, and not only requires medical treatment, but very often, social components. During the gallery show, guest medical specialists and patients with facial differences and their families discuss their personal journeys. It is a great gathering for everyone involved.