

# Good oral hygiene.

## It's more than just your smile!

The impacts of oral health and overall health are connected. The North Dakota Oral Health Program is working to increase coordination between oral health and medical health providers! **Let's talk about it.**

## Prioritizing our community's oral health prioritizes overall health.

There are many initiatives in place to raise awareness of the impact oral health has on our overall well-being. Examples include:

The **R-COOL-Health Scrub Camp**, overseen by the Center for Rural Health, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, educates students on the dental profession. The program promotes interest and understanding of available health careers in North Dakota.

The **SEAL!ND School-Based Fluoride Varnish & Sealant Program** allows dental hygienists to visit North Dakota schools and provide direct preventive services. These include oral health education, dental screenings, and dental sealant and fluoride varnish application.

Participating dental offices provide **blood pressure screenings** for adult patients and conduct bidirectional referrals, in which a dental provider refers a patient with high blood pressure and receives feedback from the medical provider on that referral.

The **North Dakota Oral Health Coalition** aims to foster the collaboration of health programs to increase access to oral health, improve oral health literacy, and develop integration between all professions impacted by oral health.

**Smiles for Life Training** is a free online oral health training course that health providers may take to learn about a variety of oral health topics. It's designed to enhance the role of primary care clinicians in the education of oral health for all age groups.

