

The Southern Arizona Oral Health Coalition was formed in 2001 and is comprised of 55 local professionals including community based dental clinics, educators, healthcare providers, local school districts, dental hygienists, dentists, medical providers, health plan representatives, social service agencies, professional dental organizations, representatives from organizations that provide oral healthcare to low income individuals, and community service organizations. Coalition members are professionals who work daily with the populations that are targeted to be served.

The Coalition identifies community oral health care needs, develops strategies, actualizes activities to meet those needs and evaluates the impact of these strategies on the targeted populations.

## SAOHC Members

Child Parent Centers—Head Start  
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Marana Health Center

Pima County Health Department

U of A, Rural Health Office

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Dental Clinic

So. AZ Dental Association

So. AZ Dental Hygienists' Society

Tucson Unified School District

United Way of Tucson  
and Southern Arizona



Coalition meetings are held monthly and are open to all individuals or organizations interested in promoting oral health.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Coalition, attending meetings or for additional information.

### **Southern Arizona Oral Health Coalition**

3950 S. Country Club Rd, Suite 100

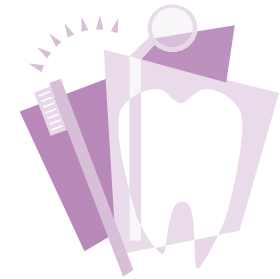
Tucson, AZ 85714

Phone: 520-243-7902

Fax: 520-791-0366

"You are not healthy  
without good oral health"

C. Everett Koop, MD



---

**Southern  
Arizona  
Oral Health  
Coalition**

## Mission Statement:

To improve the oral health of the people in Pima County by evaluating, educating, and expanding access to care.

## Goals:

- ◆ Create and maintain an oral health data collection system for community oral health needs and oral health resources.
- ◆ Educate the public and health care providers on the importance of oral health and the ways and means to access care.
- ◆ Increase access to oral health care through referral to safety net programs.

**Do you know the two most common dental diseases?**

**Did you know .....  
they are PREVENTABLE?**

### **Dental decay is a disease that can be prevented.**

Tooth decay remains one of the most common diseases of childhood, 5 times as common as asthma and 7 times as common as hay fever.

More than half of children aged 5-9 have had at least one cavity or filling; 78 percent of 17-year-olds have experienced tooth decay.

Forty four percent of children have untreated dental decay that still requires dental treatment.

Pain and suffering due to untreated tooth decay can lead to problems in eating, speaking, learning and embarrassment at discolored and damaged teeth.

Many adults also have untreated dental decay; 27 percent of those 35 to 44 years old and 30 percent of those 65 years and older.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### **Periodontal Disease the second most common dental disease is also preventable.**

Recent studies point to associations between oral infections (primarily gum infections) and diabetes; heart disease; stroke; and preterm low-weight births. To date, there is not enough evidence to conclude that oral infections cause these serious health problems.

Among adults aged 35 to 44, 48 percent have gingivitis, and 22 percent have destructive gum disease that results in bone loss. Severity of periodontal (gum) disease increases with age.

Almost 30 percent of adults 65 years and older no longer have any natural teeth. Having missing teeth can affect nutrition, since people without teeth often prefer soft, easily chewed foods.