



Since 59 of its counties have less than 10 dentists each, Arkansas ranks in the bottom five of all states for dental visits. In addition, Arkansas residents consume sugar-sweetened beverages at one of the highest rates in the country.

## Engaging the Community to Spread Oral Health Awareness

The Arkansas Oral Health Zone is a statewide initiative that works with local schools, community organizations, and health professionals to break the cycle of pediatric dental disease, especially in uninsured and under-served kids.

We work to increase the number of children who receive preventative dental services, and ensure that they are connected to a dental home.

We collaborate with other health organizations to provide oral health education in order to reduce the prevalence of pediatric dental disease. We are partnered with these coalitions and working groups:

- Department of Health, Office of Oral Health: Oral Health Coalition
- Arkansas Children's Hospital: Natural Wonders Council on Children's Oral Health
- Healthy Active Arkansas: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Working Group
- Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention: Access to Healthy Foods Working Group

Last year **269** SCHOOL DISTRICTS received curriculum recommendations and lesson plans designed to educate students about oral health

More than **43,000** CHILDREN & CAREGIVERS received oral health care and education through the support of the Arkansas Oral Health Zone last year

**We are working to increase delivery of oral health education, improve access to care and unite local community groups in the fight against pediatric dental disease.**

### ORAL HEALTH ZONE MANAGER:

**Rachel Townsend**

An Arkansas native, Rachel (pictured, far right) has worked on issue-based campaigns across the state for the last 10 years. She is committed to being a resource for communities to grow their capacity to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children. As Oral Health Zone Manager, Rachel educates the community about how overall wellness and dental health intersect.

To contact Rachel email [rtownsend@ncohf.org](mailto:rtownsend@ncohf.org)

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## Supporting Nonprofit Dental Clinics Within Arkansas

In addition to educating the community about the importance of oral health, America's ToothFairy works to increase access to care for at-risk populations by supporting clinics within the state of Arkansas. Dental Resource Program Members within this Oral Health Zone Include:

- Community Clinic, Springdale
- Children's International Dental Clinic at Wakefield Elem., Little Rock School District
- Chi St. Vincent, Conway
- WelcomeHealth, NW Arkansas
- Special Olympics Arkansas

Without the support of our donors and sponsors, more children would likely have missed the opportunity to treat their acute oral health issues, learn about proper dental care and receive preventative treatments.

Thanks to donors like you, children in Arkansas have a reason to smile again.

This program is made possible with support from:



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