



Maine Pediatrics

July 2023 - Newsletter: Highlights

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President's Message

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

I hope that summertime is allowing you a quick moment to turn off the phones, do your favorite hike or get out on the water. In this month's newsletter, make sure you scroll down to read about our legislative successes, upcoming programs and ways to get involved! Maine AAP continues to position itself as a leader both in Maine and nationally on many topics. Whether it be [Dr. Hagler talking about the dangers of social media](#) on NPR or getting the wonderful news about [Maine's school vaccination rates](#)— Maine's pediatricians are on the forefront both in and out of the exam room. As always, we at Maine AAP appreciate you and all you do to keep kids safe and healthy in Maine.



SPOTLIGHT: Pediatricians Supporting Oral Health Integration

Pediatric leaders throughout Maine, along with the Maine AAP, have been strong supporters of the Children's Oral Health Network of Maine (COHN) and the collective efforts to integrate physical and oral health, to utilize national best practices, and help address the lack of oral health care services in many areas of Maine. This past week, COHN held their annual network gathering to showcase successes through projects such as the Virtual Dental Home, success by the School Action Team, the work of From the First Tooth, and more!

Pictured here, Dr. Amy Belisle, Maine's Lead Child Health Officer, Dr. Jeff Stone, Maine AAP Board Member and Oral Health Champion, Dr. Chris Pezzullo, leader of the Health Integration Action Team, Dr. Barbara Crowley, COHN Board Member, and Dee Kerry, Maine AAP Executive Director and member of the COHN Steering Committee.

Advocacy/Legislation

Gun Safety Advocacy Event in DC - Thursday, October 19th

Planning to attend NCE in DC this October? March Fourth, a non-partisan organization aiming to federally ban assault weapons, is planning a lobbying event in D.C. where physicians meet with Senators and Representatives to discuss gun safety legislation that can save lives. This would be an excellent advocacy opportunity for anyone already coming to NCE! [Learn More](#) OR [RSVP Here](#)

New Digital AAP Advocacy Guide

The Academy's new digital advocacy guide provides AAP members with information, tools, and resources to be effective child health advocates. The guide offers an in-depth look at different advocacy skills, from choosing an issue and crafting an effective advocacy message to communicating with lawmakers and using the media to amplify efforts. This resource is designed for advocates at all levels, with interactive tools and practical guidance. Visit the full guide at aap.org/AdvocacyGuide (AAP login required).

LD 231, “An Act to Support the Maine Pediatric and Behavioral Health Partnership Program” has been signed into law!!! Congratulations and thank you to all who worked on this initiative!

Wondering how a particular bill did in the Maine Legislature this session? Check out the Maine AAP bill tracker:

Current Bill
Tracker

The Maine AAP is grateful to our community of volunteers and supporters.

Donations to the chapter are tax deductible and help fund the important work we do on behalf of children and families.

Your gift will help us ensure that Maine kids receive the best quality of care and their doctors have access to up-to-date resources and guidelines.

Please consider making a gift today - [click here](#).

In the News

Updated AAP Oral Health Risk Assessment

- The AAP Oral Health Risk Assessment tool has been updated to streamline and support this essential component of the well-child visit. [Find all the new tools here.](#)

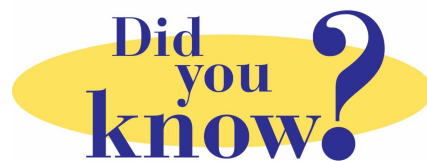
AAP Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention

- The AAP [Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention](#) outlines clinical pathways, community partnerships, and policy strategies to better identify and support youth at risk for suicide.

HPV Rates Skyrocket Despite Safe, Effective Vaccine

Fewer youth are getting the vaccine as the US manages an epidemic of sexually transmitted HPV with serious cases leading to oropharyngeal cancer, which can affect the back of the throat, tonsils, and tongue.

HPV is the leading cause (70%) of this oropharyngeal cancer, [according](#) to the CDC. It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the nation, and around 3.6% of women and 10% of men report oral HPV specifically. But over the past decade, oropharyngeal cases have been steadily falling a little under 4% and 2%,



Upcoming Maine AAP Programs

TREAT ME Learning Collaborative - Block Eight Asynchronous material is now available. **Fred Muench, Ph.D.**, addresses "Online Resources for Treatment and Recovery for Youth SUD." Fred is a clinical psychologist and the President of the Partnership to End Addiction (www.drugfree.org). He leads the comprehensive direct to parent and caregiver, digital services offered by the Partnership including its national helpline services and mobile support applications. Fred has been the PI on multiple digital intervention grants from NIAAA, NIDA, FDA, RWJF Pioneer, Upswing, Twilio, and many other foundations and is an author on numerous articles to improve health outcomes using technology. [Click here to visit the collaborative website.](#)

The next session is our **Live Webinar Session, July 13 from 12PM-1PM.** [Click here for more information.](#)

July 11 or August 16, 2023 - 12:10PM - 12:55PM - Two sessions to choose from. **OUT Maine: Overview of Best Practices for Building Welcoming & Affirming Medical Practices for LGBTQ+ Youth.** [Learn more here.](#)

July 11 or August 16, 2023 - 7PM - 8PM - Two sessions to choose from. **OUT Maine: Cancer Screenings & LGBTQ+ Youth: What Providers Need to Know.** [Learn more here.](#)

Upcoming Partner Programs

July 18, 2023 - 3PM - Maine Resilience Building Network partnership presents the Webinar: "Forging Innovative Partnerships to Address Mental Health." [Learn more here.](#)

July 20, 2023 - 8AM - 5PM - Governor Janet Mills will host her 5th Annual Opioid Response Summit at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. [Learn more here.](#)

August 1, 2023 - 10AM - 11:30AM - Save the date for the next 2023 Child Abuse Prevention Webinar Series

September 6th, 13th, and 20th - 12PM - 1PM. Pediatric Psychiatry in the Primary Care Setting ECHO: Suicide Prevention in Healthcare 3-Session Series in September. [Learn more here.](#)

September 21-22, 2023 - Let's Go! National Obesity Conference. Virtual Event. [Learn more here.](#)

October 25-26, 2023 - MPCA Annual Conference - Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME

November 3-7, 2023 - Seattle, WA - The 2023 AAMC Learn, Serve and Lead Conference. [Learn more here.](#)

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