



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

 **Dental Health
Foundation
Ireland**

www.dentalhealth.ie



**OPTIMUM
ORAL HEALTH
FOR ALL.**

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Message from the Chairperson and CEO

The Dental Health Foundation believes that every person should have access to good oral health.

We have been at the forefront of efforts to prevent oral diseases for all, especially tooth decay in children. Tooth decay is one of the most chronic childhood diseases that can have a negative effect on children's growth and development.

Gum disease is also a chronic disease, and most people have no idea that having good gum health is important for overall health. Periodontitis, or severe gum disease, affects eight out of ten adults over the age of 35 in Ireland. If left untreated, it can cause tooth loss. Risk factors include smoking, poor oral hygiene, poor diet, stress, and lack of exercise. Significantly, these risk factors are shared with other diseases including heart disease, diabetes, and dementia.

The Foundation's target audiences include: the general population; parents and teachers as liaisons to reach children; adolescents; pregnant women; persons with specific needs (ageing persons, people living with physical and/or mental disabilities); oral health professionals and non-health professionals; decision and policymakers; the media.

Our mission is to help everyone achieve their best oral health and to empower them with oral health life skills. In 2022, we aimed to reduce the number of people affected by oral health diseases and we increased access to oral health-related information.

During the year, we continued to support oral health professionals by increasing the awareness of oral health and its importance to overall health and wellbeing. We provided free oral health promotion resources for the profession and for the public. We also increased the oral health knowledge and skills of health professionals, including public health nurses, midwives, and pharmacists.

In addition, we provided primary schools and preschools with resources to help them to deliver oral health modules within their curricula. We increased our reach to schools by translating some of our key resources into Irish.

We removed barriers to oral health for vulnerable groups in the community by translating some of our key resources into Romanian and Ukrainian. We reviewed our Methadone Treatment Dental Advice document, and we presented a workshop to Special Olympics athletes.

We launched new initiatives to improve the oral health of children with cleft lip and/or palate and children with diabetes. We did this through encouraging toothbrushing as part of daily self-care, and by helping parents and children to make healthy food choices.

In this annual report, we detail our activities and acknowledge those we collaborated with in support of our mission.



Dr Mary Coleman
Chair, Bord of Trustees



Ms Orlaith Kennedy
Chief Executive

About Us

The Dental Health Foundation (DHF) has been Ireland's trusted voice in promoting oral health through advocacy and education since 1977.

Oral health is the gateway to all body health and essential for overall wellbeing. It allows us to speak smile, touch, chew, laugh, taste, swallow and increases our self-esteem and confidence.

The importance of oral health as part of our overall health is not always understood and the DHF is committed to increasing awareness of this by providing reliable, quality oral health information for all life stages. We support Government policy and provide practical support to the oral health profession, education sectors, community groups and others.

Our vision is to advocate for optimum oral health for all in Ireland while our mission is to promote oral health across the life course through effective advocacy and education. We aim to empower the public to make positive choices through evidence-based advice.

We do this through:

- Designing and developing free oral health resources for all ages, including many that are accessible on our website.
- Actively collaborating with community and health organisations to promote oral health in Ireland.
- Providing bursaries and awards to assist professional development and expertise in oral health.

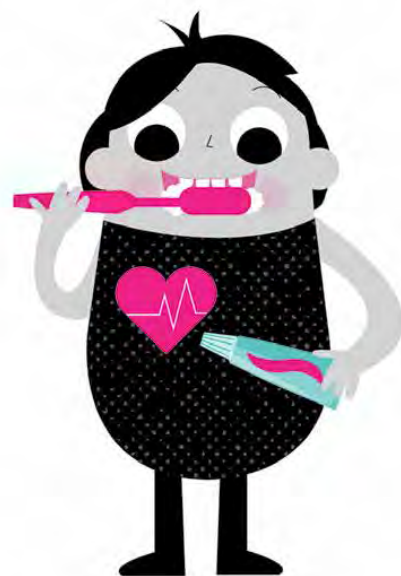
Three ways to manage your oral health

1. **Protect Your Mouth** with fluoride toothpaste and healthy foods and drinks.
2. **Prevent Decay** by reducing the number of sugary foods and drinks you consume daily. Eat a healthy diet including fruit and veg and limit sugar snacking. Water and milk are the most tooth-friendly drinks.
3. **Practice Good Oral Hygiene** and brush your teeth twice a day and floss. Visit your dentist at least once a year.

Our Values

The Dental Health Foundation's core values of care, respect, trust, quality, and innovation shape the culture and define the character of the organisation. These values guide decision-making within the organisation and the Foundation's work programme.

- **Care:** We are mindful of people's needs and concerns.
- **Respect:** We respect people's backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities.
- **Trust:** We foster trust through listening, collaborating, and working in partnership with all stakeholders.
- **Quality:** We strive for quality in all our work through research, analysis, and evaluation.
- **Innovation:** We have an innovative approach to all aspects of our work and practice efficient cost-effective management to achieve our goals.



**EMPOWERING
PEOPLE TOWARDS
HAPPY AND
HEALTHY LIVES.**



A new vision for oral care in Ireland

The development of a public health policy in Ireland entitled *Smile agus Sláinte* presents a key opportunity to improve oral health care in Ireland. The DHF will play a major part in realising the ambitions in this policy - both through its own work and through collaboration with other stakeholders.

The Foundation's goals are informed by both *Smile & Sláinte* and by the World Health Organization *Global Oral Health Strategy 2023-2030*.

Smile & Sláinte's two key goals are:

- To provide the necessary supports to enable every individual to achieve their personal best oral health
- To reduce oral health inequalities across the population, by enabling vulnerable groups to access oral healthcare and improve their oral health.ⁱ

World Health Organization (WHO) Global Oral Health Strategy 2023-2030

The DHF's objectives are aligned with those of the WHO.

The WHO's core global health challenge is the extent and unequal burden of preventable oral diseases. Untreated oral disease affects more than half the world's population.ⁱⁱ

The global oral health strategy aims to guide member states like Ireland to develop ambitious national responses to promote oral health; reduce oral diseases, other oral conditions and oral health inequalities; strengthen efforts to address oral diseases and conditions as part of UHC and consider the development of national and subnational targets and indicators, to prioritise efforts.



What we did in 2022

Twenty twenty-two was a very busy year for the DHF. Below, we outline our activities and achievements in continuing to provide support for our citizens' oral health.

Prevention is key for good oral health. We aim to empower patients and the public to lead healthy lifestyles and make informed decisions about their health, by giving them the right tools and information.

We focused on addressing the gaps in vulnerable groups and high-risk groups by being responsive to their oral health needs and habits, for example, through the following:

We reviewed and updated our **Methadone Treatment Dental Advice** in consultation with Dr Brendan Fanning, Dental Services, Capuchin Day Centre, and Dr Fidelma Savage GP, HSE Addiction Services. This resource

'Bite size, practical oral health tips which are informative and easy to follow'

supports those who use methadone in the positive changes they are making to their lives. Approximately 2,000 leaflets were distributed to addiction services nationwide, while 600 cards were made available to the National Drug Treatment Centre.

There are over 200,000 people living with **diabetes** in Ireland. Diabetes can significantly affect quality of life, but plenty can be done to support self-management including controlling blood glucose levels of those suffering from this condition so they can live a long and healthy life. Looking after one's oral health is especially important if you are a person with Diabetes.



Our **Diabetes and your Child's Oral Health Card** was reviewed and updated in collaboration with Diabetes Ireland to ensure that it helps to meet the requirements of good diabetes management and to guide parents/carers to help manage their child's diabetes. A new page was created on the DHF website with further information on diabetes. This is linked to a QR code on the bottom of the postcard.

The card was launched at the Annual Conference of the Oral Health Promotion Research Group in September. Approximately 1000 of these resources were made available nationwide including to Hospitals, Diabetes Ireland and HSE Public Dental Services.

We recognised the need for greater access to oral health information for pregnant women and how pregnancy can impact oral health. We collaborated with the Directors of Midwifery and provided almost 24,000 **maternity and oral health cards** to maternity hospitals around the country.

We completed a redesign of our **oral and mental health** postcard '**Keeping Oral Health in Mind**'. Research has found that those with mental health issues are less likely to have good oral health, when compared to those without mental health issues. Those who suffer with depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder and post-traumatic stress-disorder have higher rates of decayed, missing and filled teeth.

Like mental health, oral health is essential for overall health and wellbeing, no matter what your age. Our messaging explains that good oral health may boost mental health and supports feelings of well-being.

It encourages people to begin with a positive daily oral hygiene routine by brushing the teeth twice a day and highlighting a healthy diet.

Consumption of sugar and sugar sweetened drinks tends to be highest among the most disadvantaged, increasing the risk for tooth decay. We completely revamped the **Sugar Clock Poster** and updated it with a fresh design. This poster conveys an important message about how the frequency of sugar consumption damages teeth.

We also reviewed our **Baby Bottle Poster** as an important prevention message for parents and carers. It raises awareness of what they are putting into their baby's bottle and to show them how tooth decay is preventable.

Dental trauma/ injuries often occur because of an accident or sports injury. Our **Save That Tooth** poster was reviewed in collaboration with the Oral Health Services Research Centre in University College Cork and updated with a new colourful design. It contains important information on how immediate action could save a tooth if it is knocked out during sports, in accidents, falls or during playtime in schools.

In addition to the above, DHF organised two Board Away Days - one in Spring and one in November - to revise our Mission and Vision, review our governance and to work on our 2023-2025 Operational Plan.



Innovative initiatives in 2022

We rolled out new initiatives and oral health prevention advice to help people make positive changes to their oral health and emphasise the importance of a healthy smile. This is particularly crucial where access to dental services is limited.

We collaborated with the Multidisciplinary Cleft Team at the Dublin Cleft Centre at CHI at Temple Street and Crumlin to provide support and oral health information for parents of children affected by **cleft lip and/or palate**.

Approximately 100 children are born with cleft every year in Ireland. We understand that good oral hygiene and oral health are essential building blocks of successful cleft care and can help a child avoid tooth decay and gum disease through daily healthy habits.



In late December, we developed a new publication **'Caring for Your Child's Teeth 0-5 years of age'** in collaboration with the Assistant Director Public Health Nursing Waterford and Senior Administrative Dental Surgeon, North Lee Area, Cork. We recognise that public health nurses, along with the public dental services, play a vital role in helping to prevent early childhood caries and reduce the number of dental extractions in young children.

Our brochure is designed to assist parents in the critical steps of oral hygiene and of early intervention in practice, nutrition and prevention. Nearly 8,000 copies will be distributed in January 2023 to Primary Care Centres in the South East and to disadvantaged communities in Dublin.

We developed stickers with colourful designs, incorporating our suite of characters and engaging and positive oral health messages themes, to motivate children to brush their teeth. The messages are: 'Well done! Keep brushing', 'Take care of your smile', 'Well done! Keep brushing!', 'Your smile is amazing!', 'Your smile is amazing!'



We developed puzzles and word searches to teach children also about oral health. These provide a practical way to engage children about the importance of a healthy smile and a healthy mouth and are available to download for free from our website.

In another new initiative in 2022, we translated a selection of our resources as *Gaeilge* which we hope will benefit teachers in Social Personal and health education (SPHE) programmes. These resources highlight oral and dental health and the learning outcomes of empowering toothbrushing and healthy eating.

They include:

- Clog an tslúgra - A4 Poster
- Mo Chairt Scuabtha - A4 Poster
- 2-7 mbliana d'aois - Cárta Poist
- 8-12 bhliain d'aois - Cárta Poist

A letter was sent in October to the Principals of 237 *Gael scoileanna*, advising them of these Irish language resources. This resulted in over 3,000 resources being distributed nationwide.

We are aware of the importance of making oral health information accessible to more vulnerable groups. We had some of our resources professionally translated from English into Ukrainian and Romanian to help these communities access oral health information in their language.

The Romanian Community was identified as being at high risk of poor oral health. We provided important oral health information in Romanian for the parents/carers of 2-7-year-olds.

In late December, we also reached out to Ukrainian refugees, including Ukrainian families living in hotel accommodation throughout the country, with the help of the Association of Ukrainians in Ireland. We were delighted to be able to share 5,000 copies of our newly translated **2-7** postcards with them, providing important oral health information to these families.

MO CHAIRT SCUABTHA

Dental Health Foundation Ireland
www.dentalhealth.ie RCN 20010683

MO CHUID FIACLA a scuabadh

Faigh cabhair le do chuid fiacla a scuabadh.
Scuab dhá thiacail in éineacht (leithéad cheann na scuabtha)

SIÚCRA + FIACLA + PLAIC = LOBHADA NA bhFIACLA

Cabtraigh le do phlaist a scuabadh ar maidin agus san oíche sula dtéann síd a chodladh.

Coinnigh tairéad ar gach uair a scuabann sibh bhur gcuil fiacla ar maidin agus san oíche sula dtéann sibh a chodladh. Úsáid críán ar dhéirín díriúil do gach uimhe den tairéadach le tic a chur sa bheosa gach uair a scuabann sibh bhur gcuil fiacla

BÓDHI SPRAOI AGAIBH

2-3 NÓIMÉAD

BEAGNACH ANIMH

GO BOGA



2-7
mbliana
d'aois

Maireann níosanna
sidintúla ar feadh
an tsaoil.

Comhoibriú na duilleagáid apais le
meagadh na ndúileáid a thagann
níos déanaí san daigh. Tá raí
sábháidheach agus sa chaoi go
sábháidheach na ndúileáid a
chaoi cogant, labhairt agus
meagadh gaire a dhéanamh,
agus curann siad lena
tábhachtúis chomh maith.

8-12
bhliain
d'aois

[illegible]

Collaboration– working together towards common goals

We work with like-minded organisations where we can. This provides an opportunity for deeper engagement with certain demographics and to reach other networks. In 2022, we collaborated on the Sheds for Life Programme, Mouth Cancer Awareness Day and with the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme.

Mouth Cancer Awareness Day

Mouth Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland (MHNCAI) was disbanded in May 2022 as the Group had achieved a lot of what it had envisaged in 2009 when it was founded. There are also now several groups supporting the area of Mouth Cancer Awareness, including the Irish Cancer Prevention Network.



Photo courtesy of O. Kennedy

Mouth Cancer Awareness Day (MCAD) will remain in the annual health calendar as the 3rd Wednesday in September and will continue to be supported by DHF. The Irish Dental Association will promote their campaign through their network of Irish dentists.

MCAD 2022 took place Wednesday 21st September and DHF arranged for a patient story to be conducted by Eilish O'Regan, Health Correspondent of the *Irish Independent* with Mr Cathal O'Grady, former Olympian boxer on his experience with mouth cancer. This also resulted in an interview on the *Pat Kenny Show* on Newstalk. DHF also had an article published on Activelink.ie.

Irish Men's Sheds Association

DHF continued to support the Sheds for Life Programme as a member of the stakeholder group. The Sheds re-opened after being closed during the Pandemic. We were delighted to hold three in-person oral health workshops during May and June in Tinahely, Bray and Ayrfield (Dublin 13).

The main topics were the mouth/body connection, prevention, and the importance of oral health for men's health and wellbeing. Dental hygienist students from the Dublin Dental University Hospital accompanied DHF on two of the workshops and carried out a toothbrushing/plaque demonstration using disclosing tablets. DHF also provided goody bags containing resources, toothbrushes, floss, and disclosing tablets.

Programmes for Children

We continued to support the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme (HISS). This programme creates an awareness of oral health in early learning and care settings. It empowers Montessori teachers to educate parents on key oral health messages.

We provided 1,700 oral health promotion resources for the **HISS Birth to 3 Years** and **HISS Preschool Programmes**, including brushing charts, sugar clocks, tooth and diet tip postcards for 0-2 yrs, 2-7 yrs, tooth

tip posters and also some adult oral health and heart health postcards for the programme participants.

We began a collaboration with Dr Hadas Katz-Sagi, paediatric dentist from Israel, on the importance of **pregnancy and paediatric oral health**. This project will progress in 2023.

We also began to develop a leaflet '**Oral Health Child Guide Autism & Sensory Processing Disorder**' in collaboration with an Honorary Consultant in Special

Care Dentistry, Cardiff University, a Consultant in Paediatric Dental Surgeon at Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin and the Dublin Dental University Hospital. We commissioned an illustrator and graphic designers to ensure that the images used and design layout act as a visual support and communication tool for children. We will finalise this project in 2023.



Dental Hygiene Students from Dublin Dental University Hospital 2022 demonstrating toothbrushing at the Men's Sheds Oral Health Workshop.

Alliances

The DHF is a member of both the Children's Right's Alliance and Alcohol Health Alliance and continues to support the work of both organisations. The Alcohol Health Alliance Ireland (AHAi) was established by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and Alcohol Action Ireland and brings together a wide range of public health campaigners including medical professionals, NGO's and charities whose mission is to reduce the damage caused to health by alcohol misuse. The Alliance is guided by the World Health Organisation recommendation that 'the alcohol industry has no role in the formulation of alcohol policies, which must be protected from distortion by commercial or vested interests.'

The Children's Right's Alliance is a coalition of almost 100 non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and is working to secure the rights of children in Ireland by campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It aims to improve the lives of all children under 18 years through securing the necessary changes in Ireland's laws, policies, and services.





**SUCCESS IS
BEST WHEN
SHARED**

Communication – spreading vital information on oral healthcare

Sugar and Oral Health Animation

DHF strives to improve oral health literacy and increase good oral health behaviour of individuals and communities, through messaging shared on its social media platforms.

To encourage a reduction of sugar consumption, we developed our first oral health animation to raise awareness about sugar and oral health. We collaborated with illustrator Úna Woods, in developing characters and images to break across language barriers. This highlights sugar as the leading cause of tooth decay and advises how to avoid sugary food and drinks.

This compliments the messaging on our Sugar Clock Poster and the World Health Organization recommendation to reduce the intake of free sugars below 5% of total energy intake (less than 6 tsp a day).

The video will be launched in 2023.



DHF Website

The sitemap for our website was updated and reviewed to encourage greater visitor retention, improve navigation and optimise search engine traffic. The website allows access to our resources, publications, a regular news section, oral health information and advice for adults and children, links to our social media, and also includes a section for health professionals.



Social Media

We share evidence-based information/ social media messaging on oral health and overall health and wellbeing through our social media platforms on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, and use it to act as a gateway to information and resources on our website.

Strategic messaging on specific oral and general health issues was promoted and linked with the Health Information and Awareness Calendar, including World Health Day, Gum Health Day, World Hand Hygiene Day, Men's Health Week, World Breastfeeding Week, World Head and Neck Cancer Day, FDI Mumbai Declaration on Sugary Drinks, Mouth Cancer Awareness Day, World Mental Health Day, Inaugural Sustainable Development Goals Week Ireland, ADHD Awareness Month, European Week of Sport, World Cavity-Free Future Day, HSE Overweight and Obesity Event, World Down Syndrome Day, World Cancer Day, National No Smoking Day, World Oral Health Day. For further information follow us on social media.

Global Oral Health – The World Health Organization

The landmark global oral health strategy was adopted at World Health Assembly 75 in May by member states.

The Dental Health Foundation made a submission to the Draft Global Oral Health Action Plan 2023-2030 in September. This followed our earlier participation in the WHO Consultation on the Draft Global Oral Health Strategy in September 2021.

In our submission, we outlined our commitment to this public health framework and its ongoing support for public oral health and promoting oral health as a public good. This involves upstream/downstream approaches and a multi strategy approach to help reduce health inequalities.

'As a Special Care dentist, I find the Dental Health Foundation website to be a valuable resource for patients and parents and carers'

Articles Published

We had a strong reach to many of our target groups, including pregnant women, oral health professionals, the business community, the general public, community/voluntary organisations, preschools, disadvantaged families, through published articles and letters. These included the following:

- INTO InTouch Magazine (article)
- Journal of the Irish Dental Association (2 articles)
- Sandyford Business District Newsletter (article)
- Letters to the Editor – Irish Times (2 letters)
- Children's Health Supplement – Irish Independent (article)
- Support Magazine – Irish Kidney Association
- Parenting and Pregnancy Magazine (3 articles)
- Activelink.ie (2 articles)
- National Childhood Network (article via Mailchimp to over 3,000 services)
- Treoir (social media channels)
- Southside Partnership (hardcopies of articles for service users)
- Preparing for Life (website and social media)

Radio

We launched a radio ad on RTE Radio 1 and 2FM with a **Call to Action** for the public to look after their oral health by following the 3Ps:

1. **Protect** Your Mouth – with fluoride toothpaste.
2. **Prevent** Decay – by reducing the number of sugary foods and drinks you consume daily. Eat healthy snacks like fruit and veg. Water and milk are the most tooth-friendly drinks.
3. **Practice** Good Oral Care – brush your teeth twice a day and floss daily. Visit your dentist at least once a year.

The ad was listened to approximately 96,000 times.

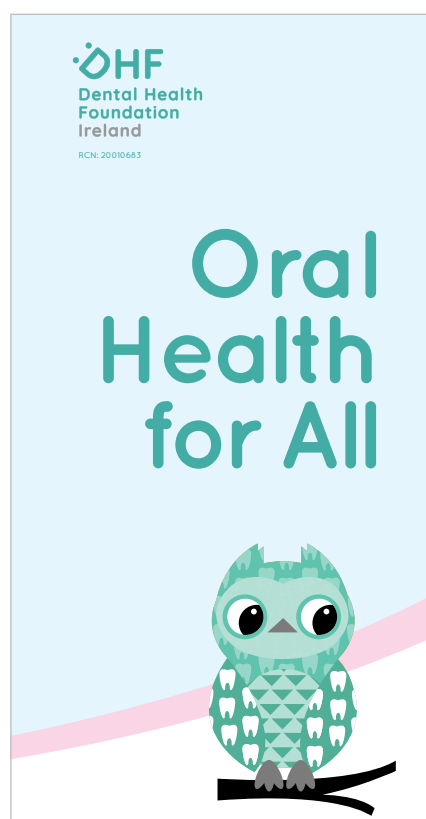
We were interviewed on **Phoenix FM** about our work and the importance of oral health and general health. A podcast of this is available on the News Section of our website.

Branding

Two new banners for display at conferences, were designed in collaboration with graphic designer and illustrator, Aga Grandowicz,. The themes are 'Oral Health for All' and 'Ireland's voice for oral health' and are in line with our Vision 'Optimal Oral Health for All in Ireland'. Once again, we used images from our suite of characters developed by Úna Woods to convey these themed messages.

DHF Leaflet

We produced an organisational leaflet to provide information about the work we do. It also includes a Call to Action to follow the 3Ps for a healthy mouth and body (Protect Your Mouth, Prevent Decay, Practice Good Oral Care).



Conferences

The Dental Health Foundation attends many conferences hosted by the oral health community. It is an opportunity to showcase our resources, share and acquire knowledge, collaborate with colleagues and to keep abreast of any new and emerging issues.

Conferences were attended in person for the first time since the Pandemic. These provided valuable opportunities to meet with national and international colleagues and share our oral health resources for supporting the oral health profession in Ireland.

The Summit Charities Conference hosted by The Wheel took place in June. This was a great occasion to meet with fellow members of the charity, community and voluntary sectors and to learn about a broad range of concerns within the community sector, particularly regarding funding and manpower issues.



(L-R) Anna Gunning, Chief Executive, Children in Hospital, Ireland and Orlaith Kennedy, Chief Executive, DHF



Etain Kett and Sandra Byrne of DHF with the President of the Korean Dental Hygienists Association, Professor Yoon Sook Hwang.

We attended the DHF Stand at a 2-day **International Symposium on Dental Hygiene** in the Convention Centre, Dublin, in August. We spoke with delegates from Ireland, UK, USA, Canada, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Malta, Belgium, France, Spain, Israel, Korea, and the Netherlands. All the delegates were extremely interested in the DHF resources and took samples to show / replicate internationally. Many commented that they didn't have a similar organisation in their own country.


Other conferences attended included the following:

- Cork Trident Conference UCC (April).
- Irish Dental Association AGM (May).
- Irish Society of Dentistry for Children (May).
- Irish Society for Disability and Oral Health (June).
- Oral Health Promotion Research Group Bursary (September).
- Irish Dental Association HSE Seminar 2022 (October).
- Irish Dental Association Midlands Seminar (October).
- Royal College of Surgeons/Fullbright Children Dental Health Awareness Event (October).
- Royal College of Surgeons AGM. The American Academy of Paediatric Dentistry partnered with the RCSI in hosting this meeting (October).
- Irish Dental Hygienists Association Conference (November).
- The Orthodontic Society of Ireland Conference (November).
- Irish Dental Association Southern Region (November).

Webinars

Attendance at the online launch of **Every Smile Matters HSE Ireland**, (26th April) an e-learning programme which aims to promote the oral health for children and adults with disabilities.

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies – Attendance at the webinar 'Access to dental care: Trends in service provision and reforming dental care coverage in Europe', 29th November. Dr Úna McAuliffe, UCC, was a speaker.

A photograph of three people standing together in what appears to be a conference or exhibition hall. On the left is an older man with white hair, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a red tie. In the center is a woman with long brown hair, wearing a green textured sweater and a blue lanyard with a badge. On the right is a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a patterned tie, also with a red lanyard and badge. They are all smiling. The background shows a wooden wall and a blue banner with the letters 'F' and 'Heal' visible. The entire image has a semi-transparent red overlay.

**GREAT THINGS
ARE DONE BY
A SERIES OF
SMALL THINGS
BROUGHT
TOGETHER**

Awards and Bursaries

DHF considers awards and bursaries an important support towards education and research for the oral health profession and for students. We were delighted to provide the following awards and bursaries in 2022:

Oral Health Promotion Research Group

The Winner of the Dental Health Foundation Bursary for the **Oral Health Promotion Research Group** was Ms. Emma Ryan for her project titled 'Keep Smiling; Think Before you Eat & Drink' which is an initiative addressing Free Sugar consumption.



Moloney Award Winner Dr Aisling Donnelly and Dr Paddy Crotty, Trustee DHF



(L to R) Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Chief Executive DHF, Prof. Mairead Harding, Trustee DHF, Mr Conor Barry, Dr Caroline Robins, President IDA, Mr Fintan Hourihan, Chief Executive, IDA

“Considering there were so many excellent presentations throughout the IDA conference, it is a real honour to be selected as the winner of the Moloney Award” – Dr Aisling Donnelly.

Moloney Award

Dr Aisling Donnelly was the winner of the 2022 Moloney Award. This award celebrates the Foundation's Excellence in Practice Award given annually to an outstanding Irish presenter/lecturer at the Irish Dental Association (IDA) annual scientific conference. The awardee is chosen by the attending delegates who nominate the presenter of their choice. Dr Donnelly's lecture entitled 'Endodontic mishaps: how to predict, avoid and recover from them' focused on providing a systematic approach to ensure that dentists can deliver consistent and successful treatments for their patients without stressful complications.

Dr Donnelly was awarded a specially commissioned crystal bowl by Dr Paddy Crotty, Trustee of the Dental Health Foundation.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we were unable to present the Moloney Award for 2021 in person.

The winner, Mr Conor Barry Consultant/Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Cork University Hospital/UCC, was presented with his award at the Irish Dental Association Southern Region ASM (November).

Irish Society for Disability and Oral Health

Ms. Katrina Byrne was awarded the **Biennial Dental Health Foundation Travel Bursary Award** for her project 'The Oral Health Status of Older People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland - Initial Findings'. The study confirms the poor oral health status of people with intellectual disabilities. The unique focus on function demonstrates highly prevalent inadequate dentition for aesthetic and occlusal function.

Ms. Sadhbh O'Rourke was awarded the **Student/ Newly Qualified Professional Award** for her project 'Does education in Special Care Dentistry increase people's confidence to manage the care of a more diverse population?' It was found that those who received high quality practical and theoretical education on how to manage patients with special healthcare needs reported having higher levels of confidence than those who don't.



**WINNING AN
AWARD IS A
GREAT WAY
TO ENERGISE
ORAL HEALTH
PROGRAMMES**

Education and Outreach

Eighty dental students and dental hygienist students from Dublin Dental University Hospital attended a presentation on the work of DHF and the current issues we are addressing and were each given an oral health promotion pack.

We attended the Irish Dental Student Association (IDSA) - **Trident Conference** organised by the UCC Dental Society in April and gave our oral health promotional materials to the attendees.

An oral health presentation and samples of materials were also given to the 2021/2022 students of the Specialist Certificate in Oral Health at Marino College.

We gave an online oral health workshop to Special Olympics athletes in November. The aim of this was to introduce the participants to the topic of oral health. Athletes learned about the type of food and drinks that affect the teeth (with an emphasis on sugary sports drinks), how to look after their teeth and why oral health is important. Goody packs were provided for all participants.

We provided a pre-recorded presentation to UCC Dental Society to highlight Mouth Cancer Awareness Day in September. They were also provided with information and resources for the attendees.

"A high standard of help and assistance to the most needy and vulnerable in our society"

DHF commissioned the Oral Health Services Research Centre, UCC, to review and update 'Oral Health in Ireland: **A Handbook for Health Professionals' 3rd Edition**. This publication provides updated evidence-based guidance on oral health promotion for health and oral health professionals. It is hoped that this will be available in 2023.



At a Glance: The Year in Numbers

We distributed approximately **85,675 resources**.

This was an 80% increase on the amount given out in 2021, bearing in mind that schools and health clinics were fully operational again in 2022.

It included:

63,955 Postcards

13,746 Posters

6,500 Brochures

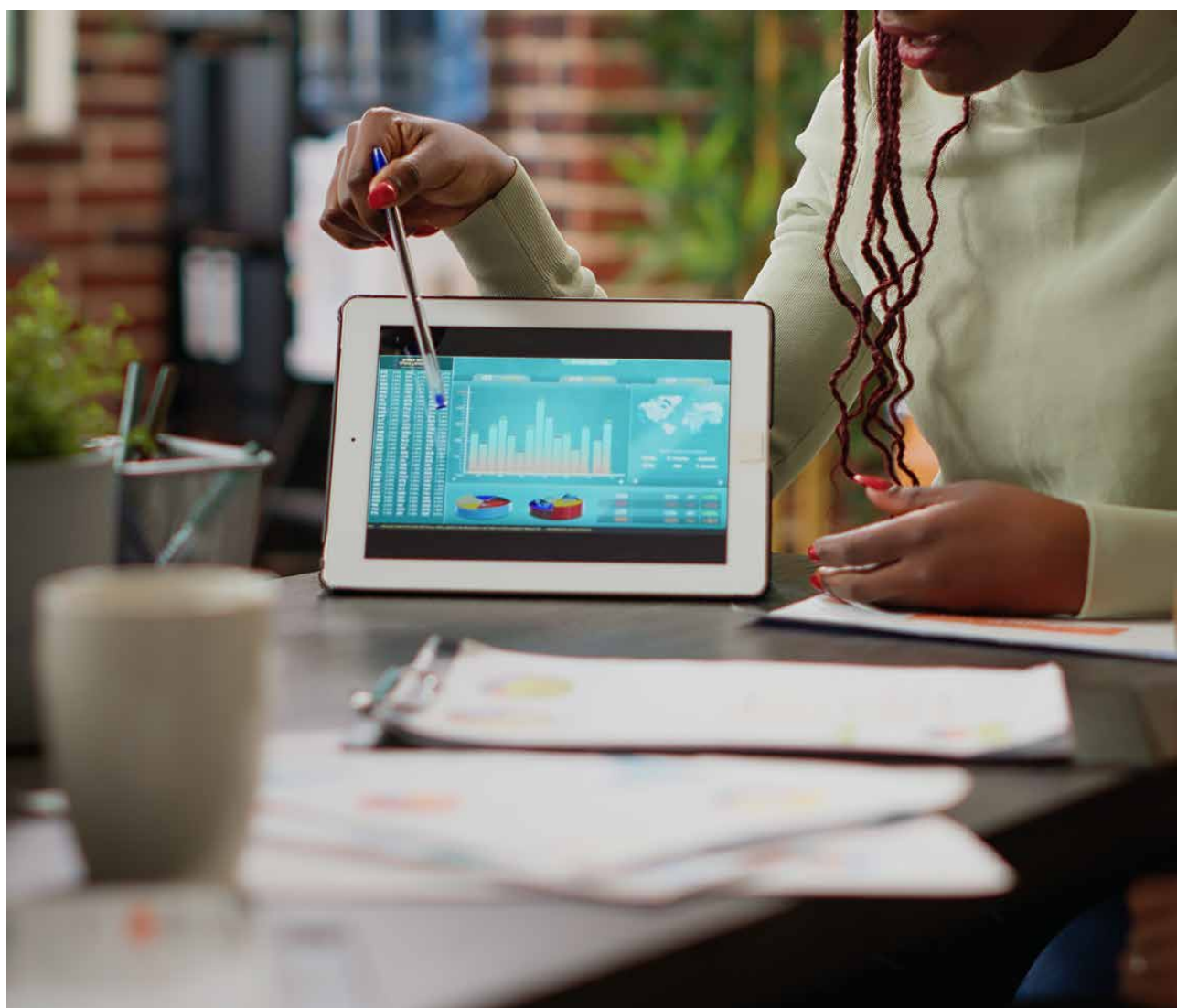
1,974 Other

Workshops to vulnerable groups in the community
Men's Shed and Special Olympics

We produced **50 News** Items for the Website

We reached over **47,000 people** through our website
and Facebook.

We sent 264 tweets which produced **103,342 impressions**.



DHF Dental Health
Foundation
Ireland

SOME OF OUR RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED IN 2022

24,000
MATERNITY
CARDS



5,000
UKRAINIAN
POSTCARDS

3,300
RESOURCES AS
GAELIGE



2,000
METHADONE
POSTCARDS

2,500
CHILD AND
ADULT DIABETES
POSTCARDS





At a Glance: The Year in Numbers

85,675

The approximate number of resources distributed in 2022



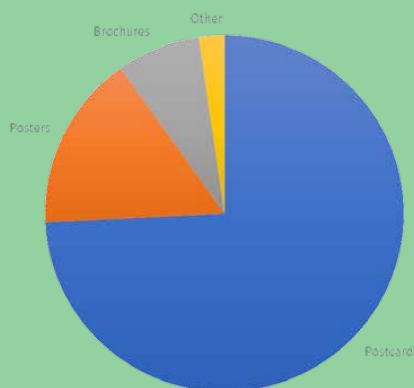
80%

Increase on the number of resources given out in 2021, bearing in mind that schools and health clinics were fully operational again in 2022.



BREAKDOWN OF RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED

63,955 Postcards
13,746 Posters
6,500 Brochures
1,974 Others



50

News items produced for our website



47,000

People reached through our website and Facebook



103,342

Impressions from 264 Tweets sent



96,600

Times our radio ad was heard



Secretariat Agency

Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health

The Dental Health Foundation has a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Health to provide secretariat services to the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health.

As the administrative arm of the Expert Body (EB), the DHF delivers both management and secretarial support on an ongoing basis, facilitating the day-to-day activities of the EB.

The Secretariat takes direction from the Chair and Plenary Body and is responsible for the delivery of key support services to the Expert Body which gives effect to the decisions and extensive work programme of the Body.

These include but are not limited to:

- Staff support to Plenary and Sub-Committee meetings
- Research dissemination
- Co-ordination of reports and plans
- Ensuring finance and administrative records are maintained
- Responding to requests for information and technical advice to the Minister for Health and officials of the Department of Health, persons in professional practice, public bodies, public representatives, and Oireachtas Committees
- Managing the Expert Body website, which hosts information relating to the ongoing working of the Body

The Expert Body advises the Minister and his/her Department and the Public on matters regarding fluoride and health. The Expert Body does not have a role in promoting water fluoridation to the public or media, which would compromise the independence of the body.



The Expert Body workplan is underpinned by its Terms of Reference and recognises that the National Oral Health Policy, *Smile agus Sláinte*, is the Government policy on oral health in the Republic of Ireland. The 2022 workplan endeavoured to support the priority actions contained in the Policy that are of most relevance to the work of the Expert Body.

To date, there is no change to the advice from the Expert Body to the Minister regarding water fluoridation policy in Ireland. Nevertheless, given the pace of research growth in this area, it requires constant vigilance by an independent body in the future.

The term of office of the Expert Body finished on 31st December 2022.

At its final Plenary meeting, the Expert Body noted the exceptional role of the Dental Health Foundation as Secretariat since 2004. The Chair also thanked the members for their collegiality, dedication and considered approach to the Terms of Reference and for the many achievements of the Expert Body.

Governance and Staff

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of the Dental Health Foundation, which is regulated by the Charities Act 2009. The Act ensures accountability and transparency and ensures that the DHF's charitable status is not abused. The Act also aims to enhance public trust and confidence in charities and create transparency across the charities sector.

The Board of Trustees exercise control over and are legally responsible for the management of DHF and ensures that the appropriate standards of the Charities Governance Code are met. The Board meets on a regular basis to verify that systems and processes are in place to ensure that that DHF achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an effective, efficient, accountable and transparent way.

The DHF Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees supports the work of the Dental Health Foundation and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance. The Trustees would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution from outgoing member, Mr. Stephen Grissing, who leaves the Board in December 2022.

- **Dr Mary Coleman (Chair)**, B.D.S., M.D.P.H.
- **Dr Patrick Crotty, B.Dent.Sc.**, F.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin)
- **Professor Máiréad Harding**, B.D.S., M.D.P.H., Ph.D. M.F.G.D.P. (U.K.), F.D.S. R.C.P.S.(Glasg.), P.G.Dip.T.L.H.E.
- **Mr. Stephen Grissing**, C.F.A.
- **Dr Pádraig Creedon**, BDS, MPH (NUI).

Our Staff

Ms Orlaith Kennedy, Chief Executive.

Ms Etain Kett, Public Affairs & Communications Manager.

Ms Sandra Byrne, Administration Officer.

Mr Dylan Masterson, Marketing Manager.

Acknowledgements

The DHF recognises that the work we accomplished in 2022 simply would not have been possible without the support and commitment from our funders, the National Oral Health Office, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Department of Health, as well as our auditors Farrelly Dave White Limited and legal advisors, Barry O'Donnell Solicitors.

We understand that achieving our oral health goals requires the effort of more than one organisation or individual.

We would like to give special thanks to our Board of Trustees who work so tirelessly and whose leadership ensures strategic guidance and oversight of DHF as a charitable trust.

We would also like to thank Mr Stephen Grissing, Trustee, for his valuable contributions as financial/business development expertise, who stepped down from the Board at the end of 2022.

Thank are also extended to the following for their work in the development/review of our oral health resources in 2022:

Ms. Fiona McKeown, Assistant Director, Public Health Nursing.

Dr Evelyn Crowley, Senior Administrative Dental Surgeon.

Dr Brendan Fanning, Dental Section, Capuchin Day Centre.

Dr Fidelma Savage, HSE Addiction Services.

Ms Jane Gunn, Cleft Lip & Palate Nurse Specialist Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street.

Dr Eleanor McGovern, Consultant Paediatric Dental Surgeon CHI at Temple Street.

Ms Kirsten Fitzgerald, Consultant Paediatric Dental Surgeon of the Cleft Team (CHI) Crumlin.

Ms Grace Kelly, Senior Lecturer/Honorary Consultant in Special Care Dentistry, Cardiff University.

¹ Smile agus Sláinte National Oral Health Policy, p.24

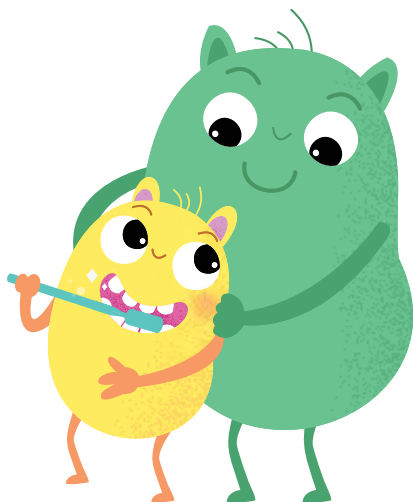
² Global oral health status report, towards universal health coverage for oral health by 2030, WHO.

Looking Ahead to 2023

We look forward to continuing to work with our stakeholders, collaborators and partners in 2023. We will officially launch our new Caring for you Child's teeth 0-5 years of age, and our Sugar Risk animation. We plan to continue translating resources into other languages.

We will continue to focus on addressing the gaps in oral health inequality and to help people achieve optimal oral health in 2023 and beyond.

We also intend to expand our Board of Trustees and to develop an Advisory Group to further increase the skills set required for growth and good governance.



'The DHF website and postcards help us partner with and empower our patients so we can all continuously work towards shared goal of improved dental health'



www.dentalhealth.ie