

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

THE DENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

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OVERVIEW

The Dental Health Foundation is a dynamic and vital organisation at the forefront of improving oral health in Ireland through advocacy, education and oral health promotion.

Founded more than 40 years ago from within the dentistry profession, the Foundation adopts proactive engagement across all platforms in working alongside Government, health and dental professionals, national and local organisations and the public.

Our core values of respect, trust and innovation underpin our aim to promote excellence as we strive to provide unbiased information on oral health to those who need it.

The services we provide are far-reaching including:

- producing advice and information to reduce oral health inequalities and empower the public to make healthier lifestyle choices.
- promoting partnerships with similar organisations to effect positive change through robust collaborations.
- actively advocating for oral health by participating in relevant policy and advisory bodies.
- working alongside the education community sectors to keep oral health awareness messages to the fore, relevant and topical to the broader public.

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS

In spite of the challenges presented by the Covid19 pandemic nationally, the Foundation adapted to the unprecedented work climate regarding oral health promotion and prevention to support dental, health and educational professions and to the general public.

Conferences, seminars, events and educational presentations were cancelled, thus reducing the network and face to face opportunities to distribute information and materials.

The Foundation therefore adopted a proactive strategy to communicate vital oral health messaging, by developing and designing issue-based resources a new website and a new logo. We engaged Irish illustrator, Una Woods to design a new suite of character images for the DHF oral health promotional cards and posters.

We further progressed our relationships with other organisations to mutually champion oral and general health information. This has been done both digitally and in print.

All materials, and issue-based information can be accessed through our new website -www.dentalhealth.ie. Additionally, for the first time, the Foundation commissioned a radio advert, which was broadcast nationally on RTE channels, July and August 2020, to promote oral health.



NEW ORAL HEALTH PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES

NEW DHF LOGO

The DHF brand conducted a review of the old and new logo by reaching out to selected members of the public for their opinion. The feedback highlighted that the original logo didn't fully represent the scope of 'dental health'. We engaged a creative designer to work with us on achieving what we hoped would be an accessible logo, that would be iconic with a hint of humour. Feed back to date has been all positive.



(New)



Dental Health Foundation
Ireland

(Old)

POSTCARDS & POSTERS

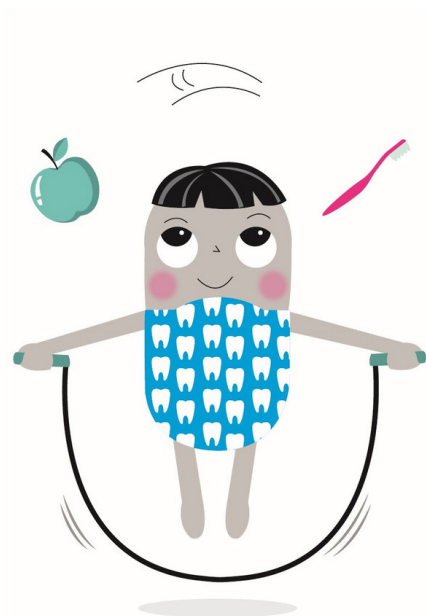
NEW CHARACTER DESIGN CARDS

The DHF oral health promotion postcards are sought after and target audiences like the postcard aspect. The cards are being updated with new information and images.

A children's book Irish illustrator and author was commissioned to work with us on designing several suites of cards -to include, children, adults, issues based, and specialised.

The postcards, are full of helpful tooth and diet tips and offer great support to schools, Montessori and early childhood groups. They are also used by oral (including the public dental service) and health professionals as an oral health promotion resource for patients.

New age cards include : 0-2/2-7/8-12 and 13-17 years.



POSTERS

The 0-2 and 2-7 aged posters have been re-designed and embrace a strong oral health message, with an engaging and playful approach to accessing information through colourful and humorous characters. Our proactive messaging initiative includes the posters being mailed out through the Irish Dental Association Journal nationwide in the Feb-Mar 2021 edition. This will reach over 1,800 public and private practitioners, and posters can be used in practice, waiting and examination rooms. The aim is increase parents/carers knowledge regarding correct toothbrushing practices for children.

**Tooth tips for
2-7
years old**

Help your child
with brushing –
in the morning
and at bedtime.

Use a pea-size amount
of fluoride toothpaste.

Do not swallow
toothpaste, spit
out after brushing.

Visit your dental team at
least once a year for a
check-up and advice.

.....

www.dentalhealth.ie | info@dentalhealth.ie

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Charity No. 620 0

SAMPLE AGE-RELATED INFORMATION

0-2 years old

Strong teeth are a great start to your baby's overall health, helping them to eat well, speak well and have a bright smile.

From birth, taking care of your baby's gums and teeth will set them up with a healthy mouth for life.

As soon as a child's first tooth appears, they are at risk of tooth decay.



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You can help your baby avoid tooth decay and gum disease with daily healthy habits.

Tooth Tips

- After feeding and before bed, wipe gums with a clean damp cloth to remove bacteria and sugars.
- To relieve teething discomfort like feeding, irritability and tender gums offer a cold teething ring or rub gums with a cool damp cloth.
- When the first tooth appears (around 6 months) clean with a soft brush and water twice daily. Avoid toothpaste unless advised by your dentist.
- Visit your dentist by your baby's first birthday.

Diet Tips

- Breastmilk, formula and cooled bottled tap water in the baby's bottle. Unflavored water and milk are the most tooth friendly. Avoid adding juice, fruit drinks, sugar etc., to the bottle or food as sugar triggers decay.
- When your baby starts on solid food, begin to wean off the bottle, and encourage drinking from a sippy cup (around 6 months). Choose healthy low sugar snacks between meals.
- Read labels for sugar content. Less than 5g per 100g of sugar is a low sugar.

Things to Consider


- Using a bottle after 12 months increases the risk of tooth decay, as does dipping a soother in honey, jam, or anything sweet.
- Avoid letting your baby sleep with a bottle in its mouth to limit sugars and bacteria.
- Some medications have high sugar content. Ask your pharmacist for a sugar-free option.

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10,000 copies of the new Maternity oral health card were printed, and will be distributed by the Coombe Hospital in their Registration Packs for pregnant women throughout 2021. The DHF plan is to roll out this initiative in early 2021 to all maternity hospitals and hospitals with maternity wards nationwide.

Maternity



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ORAL HEALTH MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

OUR PRINTED / WEB MATERIAL

The messages throughout DHF oral health promotional resources reinforce that fluoride toothpaste is not used with children under 2 years of age without dental advice, while toothbrushing supervision is always recommended for those aged 2-7 years. This is in line with **Smile agus Sláinte** (signpost young children and parents to oral healthcare services, oral health promotion and toothpaste usage (Action 3)) and with the advice the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health regarding Recommendation 3 of the Forum on Fluoridation concerning Fluoride Toothpaste.

NEW ORAL HEALTH PROMOTIONAL CARD

Oral and heart health

Problems in your mouth can affect the rest of your body and people with gum disease are often more likely to have heart disease (*cardiovascular*) than people with healthy gums.

Reduce the risk of gum disease and bacterial endocarditis by practicing good oral hygiene habits daily.

Your oral health is important. Research has shown that poor oral hygiene is a risk factor in causing heart infection (*endocarditis*).



IHF
Dental Health Foundation Ireland

www.dentalhealth.ie | info@dentalhealth.ie

Charity No. 6200

TAKING CARE OF YOUR GUMS CAN HELP YOUR HEART

Tooth Tips

- Brush your teeth twice a day, at bedtime and one other time.
- Use a soft/medium toothbrush, spit, don't rinse after brushing.
- Brush for 2-3 mins using a gentle circular motion.
- Floss daily and/or use interdental brushes. Ask your dental team for advice on technique.
- Change your toothbrush every 3 months or when bristles are worn.
- Use a fluoride toothpaste (for adults 1,450ppm).

Diet and Heart Tips

- Small diet changes can make a big difference, eat more fruit and vegetables.
- Choose healthy snacks and drinks between meals such as whole fruits, limiting sugary drinks and snacks to mealtimes. Water and low-fat milk are the most suitable drinks. Avoid fizzy energy drinks.
- Smoking and alcohol and stress are risk factors for severe gum disease, heart diseases and stroke. Increased physical activity may help relieve stress.
- Sugar-free gum increases saliva and can help relieve dry mouth caused by blood pressure medication. Choose sugar-free medicine when available.

Things to Consider

- Visit your dental team at least once a year for advice and a checkup (even if you have no teeth of your own) to prevent gum disease, tooth decay, bad breath, and endocarditis. Tell them if you have a heart condition.
- Ask your doctor/dentist for advice on disease prevention and ways to reduce oral and heart disease risk.
- For further heart health information & support: www.irisheart.ie

www.dentalhealth.ie

We recently developed a new oral health and heart card promotional card to highlight the risk factors oral health and heart health, with the support of the **Irish Heart Foundation (IHF)**. We hope to collaborate with the IHF on a more detailed resource in 2021.

COLLABORATIONS

THE NATIONAL DAIRY COUNCIL (NDC) MOOCREW SCHEME

The Moo Crew programme, is linked to SPHE, and developed in consultation with primary teachers. The lesson plans in the educational packs are developed in line with the Irish primary school curriculum, registered nutritionists and the Dental Health Foundation. A DHF Dental Health Lesson Plan is included in the NDC suite of lesson plans and primary school resources (www.moocrew.ie). In 2019/2020 Approximately 530 primary schools (including special schools) nationwide are involved, including 220 DEIS schools.



While schools were shut for periods of time during Covid19, the NDC's Moo Crew added online videos shot in a classroom and to lessons and activities specifically designed to help parents with home-schooling their primary school children during the Covid19 crisis. Each video is accompanied by optional worksheets and activities for children to learn a range of interesting facts including nutrition, dental health, and keeping active.

The Irish Independent ran 2 articles on the Moo Crew online for home schooling with supportive comments from the Minister of Agriculture and also from the Dental Health Foundation in highlighting that taking care of oral hygiene is really important to help prevent tooth decay, particularly in the current climate.

In November/December 2020 DHF worked in collaboration with the National Dairy Council in reviewing and updating the dental health lesson for the NDC suite of lesson plans and resources for delivery to schools in 2021.

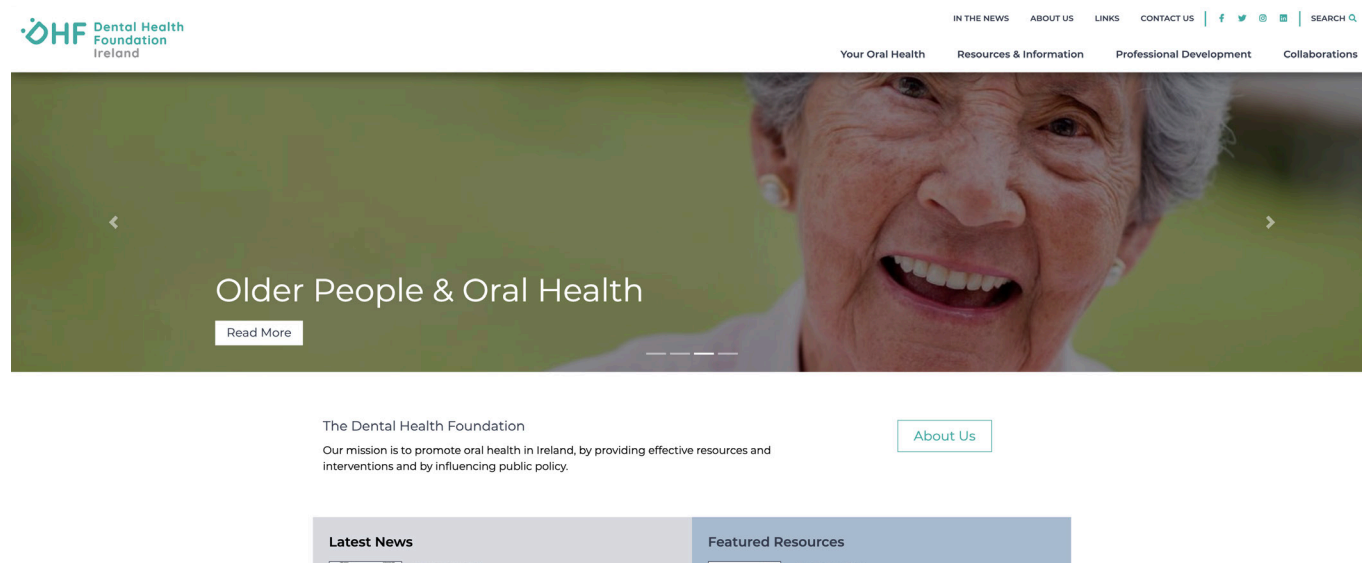
COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

The DHF launched a new website in 2020 at www.dentalhealth.ie

New features include:

- The website is mobile/tablet friendly, to ensure that evidence-based oral health promotion information and resources are easily accessible to the public and all health professionals.
- The site is fully accessible for people with disabilities.
- The site is coded so that user's privacy rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be fully respected.
- The structure of the site has been re-organised to properly reflect the current priorities and objectives of the Dental Health Foundation. This restructuring also aims to improve the site navigation to make it easier for users to find the information they need.
- The new graphic redesign of the site is modern and clean. Improvements in the use of white space and typography aims to make the site more legible.
- The news section regularly features issued based oral health features.



(Home page)

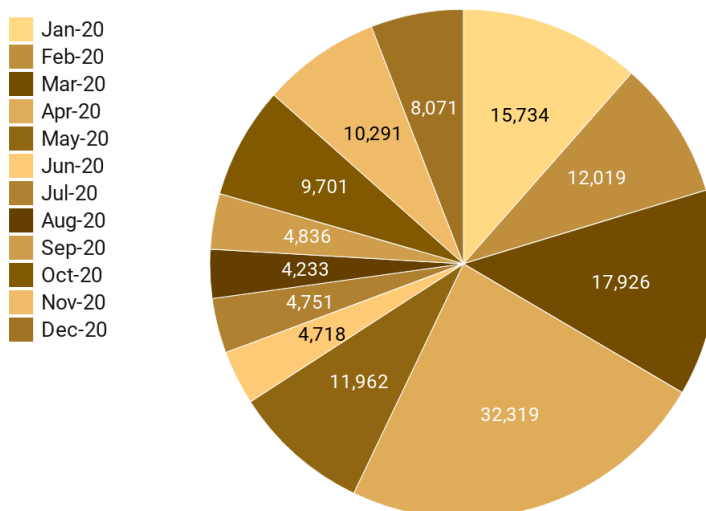
SOCIAL AND OTHER MEDIA PRESENCE

DHF increased its presence on social media at the start of 2020. It is active on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to enhance its oral health promotion messaging and widen its reach with both the public and profession.

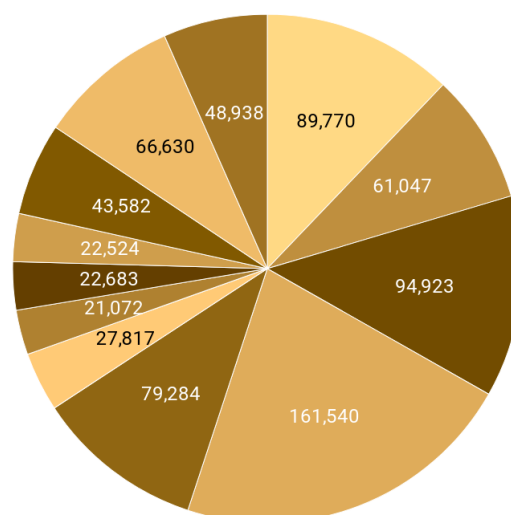
Other media includes, but is not limited to the following:

- The Foundation contributed an article to the June/July edition of the Irish Dental Association Journal to highlight the work of DHF.
- During the summer the DHF ran a successful 2 week, 34-slot radio ad campaign to promote oral health nationwide through RTE1, RTE 2 and Lyric FM. The ad is available to listen to on the DHF website.
- More recently, Orlaith Kennedy, CEO contributed to an article in the Irish Independent 'Keep on top of your dental health.'
- DHF issued a Press Release for **Gum Health Day** (12th May 2020) to throw a spotlight on the importance of gum health and a letter to the Editor Irish Independent.

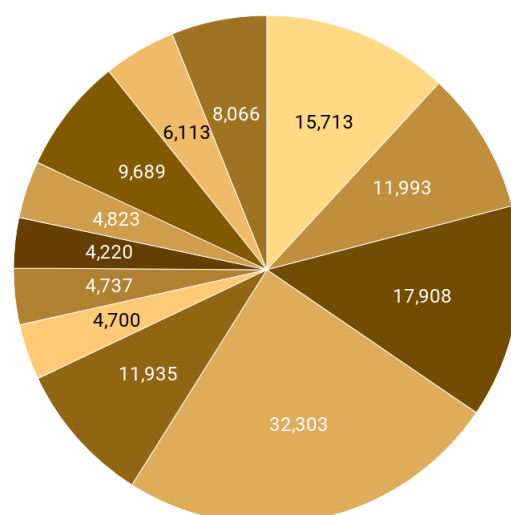
Facebook Interactions 2020



Daily Total Reach



Weekly Total Reach



Daily Organic Reach

Resource Distribution 2020

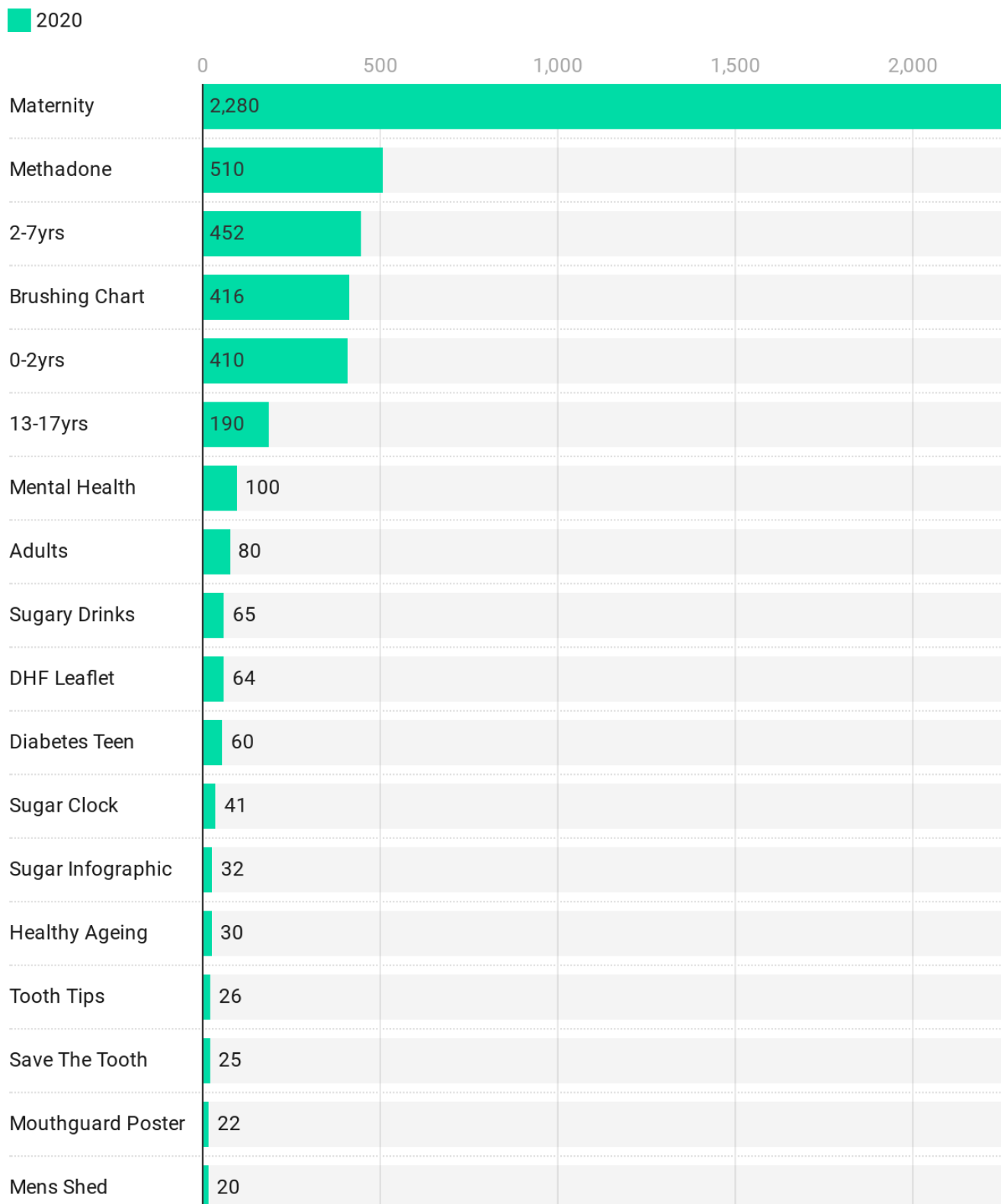


Chart: Katie Hurley • Source: DHF • Created with Datawrapper

Visitor Numbers

In launching the new website, we lost our historical analytic figures. The chart below highlights this google anomaly.

Website Visitors 2020

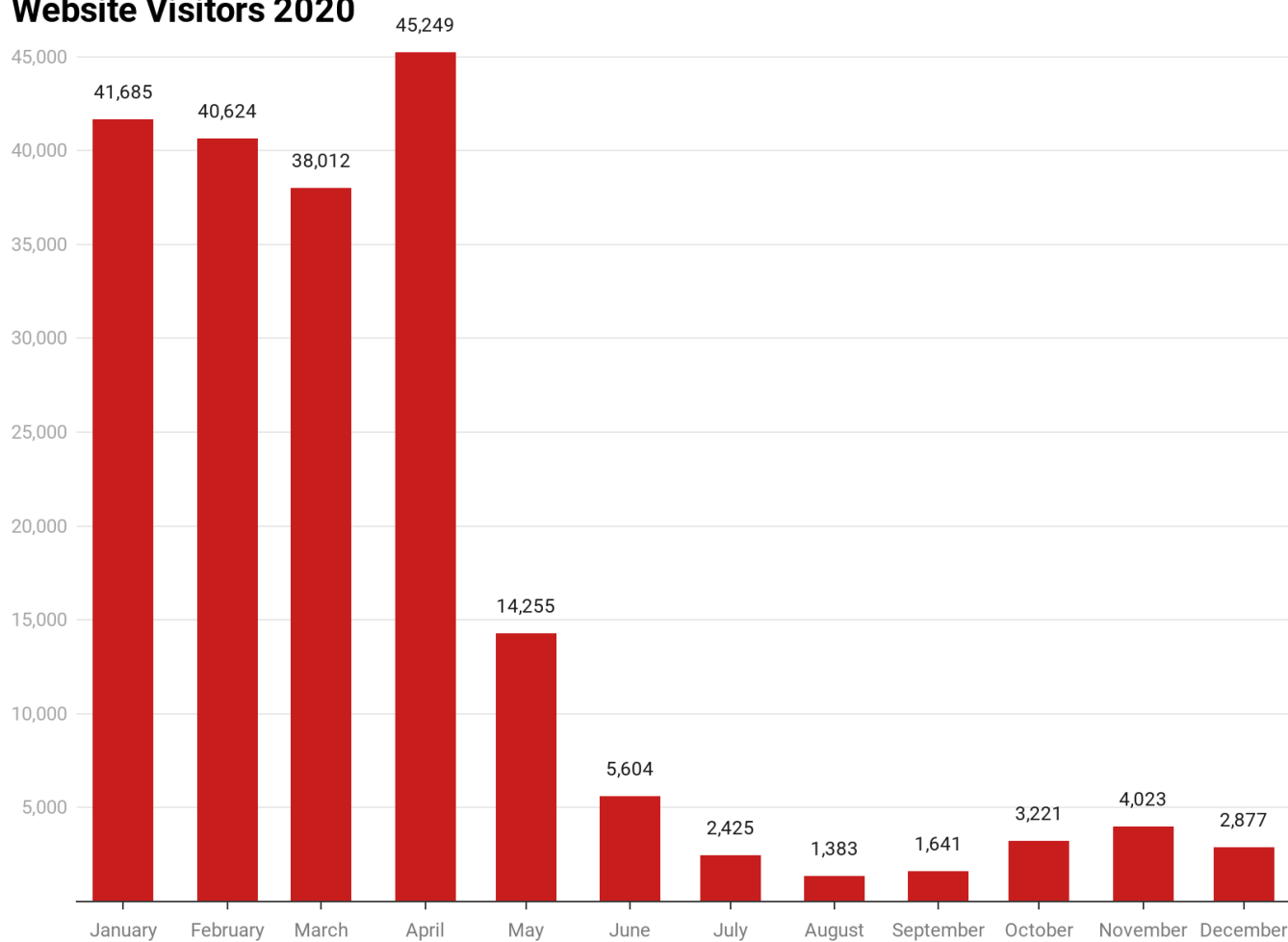


Chart: Katie Hurley • Source: Google Analytics • Created with Datawrapper

COVID-19 COMMUNICATIONS/STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public health information materials from HSE Communications in relation to COVID-19 and the *Keep Well Campaign* are available on DHF's social media platforms.

We have also written a series of articles relevant to Oral Health and Covid which are available on our website and social media.



1. Tooth Brushing, Coronavirus and COVID 19
https://www.dentalhealth.ie/assets/files/pdf/toothbrushes_-_covid_19_april_2020.pdf
2. Oral Health Advice in Challenging Times
https://www.dentalhealth.ie/assets/files/pdf/oral_health_advice_in_challenging_times_final.pdf
3. Opinion Piece -The Importance of Oral Health Promotion
https://www.dentalhealth.ie/assets/files/pdf/opinion_piece_-_ohp-dhf-fdi_10th_june.pdf
4. Have you noticed bad breath behind your face covering?
https://www.dentalhealth.ie/assets/files/pdf/1595243124_14820671.pdf

EDUCATION

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE ON HEALTH PROMOTION (ORAL HEALTH)

The DHF has been actively engaged in promoting oral health in the education field on many levels throughout 2020.

This course is delivered through a combination of distance and classroom-based learning for dental health professionals to develop and improve oral health promotion skills. Approximately 230 students have qualified since 1999. The course is approved for non-core CPD points by the Dental Council. Due to the restrictions of the Covid19 pandemic, the course did not run in the 2020 academic year. Applicants that applied this year will be contacted again in early 2021 and be offered a place on next year's course instead.

PROGRAMME BOARD FOR HEALTH PROMOTION MA/ POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA AND SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE, NUI, GALWAY

DHF is a member of the Board which meets annually to review the MA/Postgraduate Diploma and Specialist Certificate programmes in health promotion and discuss proposed course amendments/developments.

INFORMATION SESSIONS / PRESENTATIONS / AWARDS

DHF continually fosters both knowledge and an understanding of its role as a source of ongoing support and information in Oral Health Promotion by delivering information presentations and providing information packs and resources to oral health / dental graduates. Earlier this year, a presentation was given to Dental students in **University College Cork**. A number of months later due to Covid. 19, online presentations were delivered to Masters students in Dental Public Health and to Dental Nurse Students in **Dublin Dental University Hospital**, and Masters Marketing students in UCD's Smurfit School.

EDUCATIONAL AWARDS & BURSARIES

The annual awards and bursaries programme is valued by DHF as a means of placing oral health promotion on the agenda in a variety of settings. Our awards also encourage young and emerging professionals to participate in further educational development. Winning an award is a great way to energise oral health programmes and be recognised, in the community, and nationally among peers. This year due to Covid, the majority of these were cancelled but it is planned to continue with them in 2021. The awards in 2020 included the following:

DHF Award for Best Capstone Portfolio for the BSc in Dental Practice Management & Oral Health Promotion, Athlone Institute of Technology.

The Capstone Portfolio is based on a chosen subject within the Dental Practice Management or Oral Health Promotion theme. A Bursary for Best Capstone Portfolio 2020, BSc in Dental Practice Management & Oral Health Promotion programme, Athlone Institute of Technology was presented by Orlaith Kennedy, CEO, Dental Health Foundation to students in AIT.

The winning students were Rebecca Frayne (highest academic mark on paper)-€150 / and Lauren O'Toole Crawford -€50. The presentation was done online for the first time (Zoom) due to the current pandemic. Orlaith Kennedy, from the DHF gave a presentation briefly outlining the work of the foundation.

Both Lauren & Rebecca spoke for approx. 15/20 mins to share the work that they did in a dynamic presentation to fellow students, faculty and the foundation. Present were Dr Eileen Lane and Dr Miriam O'Connor who supervised the Oral Health Portfolio, Dr Clodagh Maloney (Dental Lecturer) and Dr Des Cawley (Head of Department).

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Foundation continued to inform government and community leaders and decision makers on specific issues that have an impact on the oral health and wellbeing of Irish people. We represent and promote oral health on a range of committees and memberships and engage in partnership programmes and policy input on mainstreaming oral health and the public health agenda.

MOUTH, HEAD AND NECK CANCER AWARENESS IRELAND (MHNCAI)

The Foundation is one of the stakeholders in this collaborative group. The Mission of MHNCAI is to work collectively to promote public and professional (doctors, dentists, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals) awareness of Mouth Head and Neck Cancer. (Membership includes: Mouth Head & Neck Cancer Survivors, Dublin Dental University Hospital, Cork University Dental School and Hospital, Dental Health Foundation, Irish Cancer Society, Irish Dental Association and the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), SpunOut.ie.

Mouth Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland issued an important notice during the early days of the pandemic for members of the public seeking dental care treatment for ulcer or suspicious lesion. It advised the public that in the event that their own Dental Practice was closed for routine treatment with the exception of emergencies, to call or email their practice in the first instance if urgent dental care was needed. The group advised the public that if they noticed an ulcer or sore inside their mouth that hadn't gone away after 3 weeks, to seek professional advice from their dentist or doctor.

MOUTH CANCER AWARENESS DAY

The 2020 Mouth Cancer Awareness Day campaign targeted those over 55's and as part of the launch Mouth Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland (MHNCAI) developed a new website www.mouthcancer.ie and video highlighting a new patient story. The Dental Health Foundation recruited media coverage for a patient story for the Irish Independent (2020). The campaign received great coverage through social media and other media and was mentioned in 'What's on in the Papers', RTE Radio 1. Information was also made available on the DHF website news section and social media to promote increase awareness of mouth head and neck cancer.

A letter to the Editor Irish Times from MHNCAI was published on the importance of early detection of mouth head and neck cancer and regular dental check-up ([Irishtimes/opinion/letters/mouth-cancer-early-detection-is-crucial](https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/letters/mouth-cancer-early-detection-is-crucial)). The impact and media/social media coverage were excellent. Messaging was clear and straightforward and well coordinated.



A letter on behalf of the **Mouth Head & Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland** on the 'Diagnostic Delays due to COVID-19 and how these delays may increase morbidity and mortality of Head & Neck Cancer' was sent to the Irish Medical Association, Irish College of General Practitioners, NCCP, Irish Pharmacy Union, Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation, and The Irish Dental Hygienists Association.

The referral toolkit for medical and dental practitioners and pharmacists was also highlighted to assist diagnosis and appropriate referral and is available on the 'For Professionals' section of the new website www.mouthcancer.ie. This is especially important during the current pandemic to help in the early detection of mouth head and neck cancer by all health professionals, not just by dentists.

IRISH MENS SHEDS ASSOCIATION

The Dental Health Foundation is a stakeholder participating of the Sheds for Life Programme (SFL) an initiative by Irish Men's Sheds Association (IMSA). In working towards a common goal with many other partner organisations, our aim is to effect change regarding men and their oral health in Ireland.

The 10-week intervention was cancelled in 2020 due to the closure of the Men's Sheds around the country in compliance with Covid Regulations. The Intervention components align with the HSE Healthy Ireland Framework and National Men's Health Action Plan.

Mens shed



DHF provided a blog specifically relating to stress during Covid and how best to look after oral health for the male health dedicated website, (run by IMSA), several stakeholder meetings have taken place with IMSA during 2020 and discussions as to how best redevelop the oral health component of the programme for 2021.

DHF have also contributed to the new Sheds for Life Handbook designed to further support the health and wellbeing of those who participate in Sheds for Life. Hardcopies have been distributed to the men participating in Sheds for Life.

The research partners, the Irish Research Council, Waterford Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Carlow are carrying out the evaluation of Sheds for Life with the aim of bringing Sheds for Life to all Men's sheds across Ireland.

ALCOHOL HEALTH ALLIANCE IRELAND

DHF is a member of the Alcohol Health Alliance Ireland (AHA) (established by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) and Alcohol Action Ireland), which 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 World Health Organisation recommendations 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 Public Health Alcohol Act was enacted two years ago. And while some aspects of the Act have been implemented, much remains to be done. DHF was a supporting signatory on an open letter to An Taoiseach, Micheal Martin and Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly (October 2020) calling for their commitment to a firm timeline for the full implementation of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act. This letter was also published in the Irish Times.

CHILDRENS RIGHTS ALLIANCE

DHF is a member of the Children's Rights Alliance, a coalition of almost 100 non governmental organisations (NGOs) 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.

DHF made a submission in July 2020 regarding the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (List of Issues).

DHF made a submission in October 2020 for Report Card 2021 regarding the new Programme for Government: Our Shared Future.

HEALTHY IRELAND SMART START PROGRAMME

Oral health information resource packs continued to be provided by the DHF as part of the Pre-School Services on the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Programme (National Childhood Network), to ensure children in the pre-school settings are supported to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviours in early childhood. In conjunction with the HSE Oral Health Department, the National Children's Network is piloting a new programme for the 0-3 age group under the Healthy Ireland Smart Start programme. DHF has provided its new oral health promotion postcard for 0-2-year olds, in support of the programme.

HEALTHY IRELAND NETWORK

DHF is a member of this network, the purpose of which is to establish and grow an empowering national movement that treats health and wellbeing as an individual and collective responsibility and to support and promote the goals and vision of Healthy Ireland. the DHF ensures that the Healthy Ireland messages are regularly shared on its social media platforms.

OUTLINE OF 2021 ACTIVITY PLANS

DIGITAL HEALTH

In light of a changed working landscape in recent times, the DHF is taking a proactive approach in engaging with the wider public, and will concentrate on developing a deeper digital approach to oral health promotion in 2021.

This is in line with the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025 which states that digital health should be an integral part of health priorities and that it will be valued if it strengthens and scales up health promotion and disease prevention. The DHF aims to empower consumers/patients, health professionals, health care providers etc., to work towards achieving the vision of good oral health for all.

Marketing Strategy

The Foundation is currently working on a marketing strategy, to develop a plan for oral health promotion nationwide. To progress and implement this the Foundation intends to hire a digital marketing professional to capitalise on the many new developments and initiatives undertaken in the past 12 months.

A digital campaign is envisioned for 2021 (including short oral health promotion/information videos for the DHF website).

DISSEMINATION OF RESOURCES

Journal of the Irish Dental Association

A copy of each of the new Tooth Tips Posters for 0-2 year olds and 2-7 year olds will be included in the December/January edition of JIDA for circulation to the dental health profession/members of the Irish Dental Association (4,000 posters).

Distribution to health professionals, schools etc.

Resources will be sent out on request and also on a planned basis, to health professionals, schools and Montessori's, including distribution of the DHF Maternity/Oral Health card to maternity hospitals around the country, including 10,000 for the Coombe Hospital in February 2021.

The Foundation will reach out to Dental Surgeons and HSE Orthodontic professionals nationwide to distribute oral health promotion resources through their offices and personnel.

New resource cards

New oral health cards will be produced regarding oral health and Cleft/Lip Palate and oral health for children in hospital, (Children in Hospital Ireland).

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

DEIS Schools

The Foundation will embark on a pilot project in 2021 to bring oral health promotion to DEIS schools. In consultation with teachers and liaison officers, the programme hopes to influence behavioral change in children ages 4-7 years through lesson plans and engaging interactives. This project will address some of the oral health issues surrounding amongst vulnerable communities highlighted in the Oral Health Policy.

Science Week November 2021

The Foundation plans to develop a suite of interactive science workshops for schools (primary), in addition to a teacher's lesson plan to look at oral health issues.

Oral Health in Ireland, A Handbook for Health Professionals

This publication provides evidence-based guidance on oral health promotion for health and allied health professionals. It adopts a common risk factor and holistic approach to oral and general health.

This 2nd Edition (2014) will be reviewed and rewritten and edited to update the evidence and will be published both in digital and hardcopy format as it is intended as a 'Handbook' that can be easily accessed when required by all health professionals including dentists public health nurses (it is supplied to public health nurses who are involved in 'Lift the Lip Programme').



Sheds for Life Programme

The DHF Oral Health Module for the Sheds for Life Programme will be reviewed and updated. Expressions of interest have been sent to counties Roscommon, Leitrim, Meath and Carlow.

Due to the current pandemic different options will be considered by all stakeholders for the delivery of this intervention programme in light of any Covid restrictions.

Plan A

Schedule indoor workshops for March to May.
Source larger venues as close to the sheds as possibly.

Plan B

If sheds are still closed in the Spring, the Irish Men's Sheds Association will apply for a further extension to deliver SFL in Autumn 2021 instead.

Mouth, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland (MHNCAI)

MHNCAI is embarking on reviewing/ developing its Strategic Plan/Direction early 2021. Preparation will also begin in planning Mouth Cancer Awareness Day Wednesday 15th September 2021.

Programme Board for Health Promotion MA/Postgraduate Diploma and Specialist Certificate programmes, National University of Ireland, Galway.

As a member of the Board, the CEO attends the annual meeting in January 2021 which is held to review the MA/Postgraduate Diploma and Specialist Certificate programmes in health promotion and discuss proposed course amendments/developments.

AWARDS / BURSARIES

The DHF will continue with the *Dental Health Foundation Excellence in Practice Awards* for outstanding efforts by oral health professionals in oral health improvements, including through research and innovation.

We also plan to continue with our Bursary Programme for both professionals and students.

The Awards include the following:

- Annual Moloney Award
- International Association for Dental Research/DHF Award
- DHF Award Best Oral Health Project (Dental Hygiene Diploma, Dublin Dental University Hospital)
- Best Capstone Portfolio (Athlone Institute of Technology)

The Bursaries include the following:

- The Oral Health Promotion Research Group (OHPRG)
- Irish Division of the IADR - Annual Seminar
- The Irish Society for Disability and Oral Health (ISDH)

INFORMATION SESSIONS / PRESENTATIONS

DHF will continue in its role as a source of ongoing support and information in Oral Health Promotion both the profession and to oral health / dental graduates. by providing information packs and resources. It is planned to deliver presentations to Masters students in Dental Public Health and to Dental Nurse Students in Dublin Dental University Hospital and to student in Athlone Institute of Technology. These presentations will be delivered online.

ALLIANCES

The DHF as a member of both the Children's Rights Alliance and the Alcohol Health Alliance will continue to support this work/attend meetings as required.

GOVERNANCE

Governance Documents

The DHF adopts the appropriate components of the code of practice for the governance of charities and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

The DHF is governed by a board of 5 Trustees and its governing document is a Deed of Trust. The Foundation completed an update of its governance documents and procedures in 2020 which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Written codes of business conduct for Board Members and employees.
- Internal Audit and Procurement
- Disposal of Assets and Access to Assets by Third Parties
- Reporting arrangements
- Reporting annual reports and accounts
- Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest

The Dental Health Foundation is also subject to the Freedom of Information Act (1997) and (Amendment) Act (2003). The Trustees of the Foundation meet 8 times per year. A quorum of three members is needed for decisions to be ratified.

Annual Report

The directors Financial Report is available online through the website, and can also be accessed through the Charities Regulatory Authority.

SECRETARIAT

IRISH EXPERT BODY ON FLUORIDES AND HEALTH

The Dental Health Foundation also acts as the agent for Secretariat to the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health, providing substantial management and secretarial support on an on-going basis. It does so in the following manner:

- Assists in collating and organising relevant literature/ reports to enable the Body to determine and constantly update the highest quality assurance standards throughout.
- Enables the Body to investigate and if appropriate publish these standards and receive and evaluate regular reports from independent auditors that these standards are being maintained.
- Organises and supports meetings of plenary and sub-committees (including virtual meetings to comply with government regulations regarding COVID 19), dealing with the day-to-day communications with the industry, the public and professionals, managing and administering third party services.
- Ensures appropriate financial and administrative records are maintained.
- Engages in activities related to 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.
- Manages the Expert Body website, which hosts information relating to the ongoing working of the Body.
- Attends and participates in relevant conferences, liaising with relevant authorities and bodies within the island of Ireland and overseas on behalf of the body as appropriate.