

Join Us & Speak Up for Kids' Health!

Storytelling is a powerful tool for policy change

Every day we hear stories that help us understand why a policy is important and how it's working (or the reasons it's not). Health care providers, like you, are valuable storytellers.

You are powerfully persuasive health leaders when sharing stories about your patients and clients about the health implications of sugary drink consumption to decision makers.

Your voice and experience can shift the narrative around sugary drink consumption. We need you to be a health leader for healthy kids because you know, better than anyone, the importance of nutrition for the health of all children.

Voices for Healthy Kids works around the country to improve or create equitable policies that will make the places kids, live, learn and play healthier.

Do you want to speak up?

Do your patients or clients have diseases made worse by sugary drinks? Do you want to change the narrative around sugary drinks in your community? Do you want to advocate for policy changes that will save lives? Yes, yes, yes – we're looking for doctors, dentists, community health workers, dental hygienists, nurses, certified nutritionists and other health professionals. If you agree with the following, join us!

- ✓ I prevent or treat type 2 diabetes, tooth decay, heart disease or obesity
- ✓ I can commit to participation in topic-specific training to support health leader messages with media and advocates
- ✓ I can commit to listening and learning from the AAP advocacy skills session links
- ✓ I can commit to a monthly call with other health care leaders from around the country
- ✓ I will take action with advocates in my community to help pass policies that protect kids
- ✓ I want to talk with my peers about the need to speak out and support healthy hydration

What will you do?

Voices for Healthy Kids, along with our many collaborators, are working on state, local and tribal campaigns to pass policies that make it easier for parents to make healthier drink choices for their kids. We support policies that raise the price of sugary drinks, make healthy drinks the default choice in restaurant kids' meals and provide no cost, safe drinking water in schools. Once you are trained—and feeling comfortable—we will introduce you to advocates leading campaigns.

It's your choice on how involved you are and may be asked to speak up by:

- Motivating patients and clients to make healthier beverage choices
- Educating and motivating community advocates
- Writing letters-to-the-editor
- Talking to the media
- Meeting with lawmakers
- Testifying at public hearings

Speaking Up as Health Leaders for Healthy Kids Members

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- American Network of Oral Health Coalitions
- American Osteopathic Association
- Beyond Type One
- NAACP
- NACCHO
- Oral Health Progress & Equity Network (OPEN)
- Public Health Law Center
- Taking Control of Your Diabetes
- Texas Oral Health Coalition
- Urban Indian Health Institute