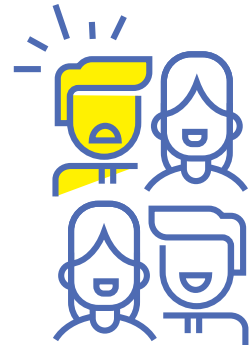


Dental Therapists

Good for North Dakotans' Health and Good for North Dakota

North Dakotans need dental therapists.

- Dental therapists will help give access to dental care to elderly people, children, those in poverty, Native Americans, and those without insurance.
- Nearly 97,000 North Dakotans live in areas with a shortage of dentists.ⁱ
- Thousands of North Dakotans do not receive regular, routine dental care.ⁱⁱ
- More than 1 in 4 North Dakota 3rd graders have untreated tooth decay.ⁱⁱⁱ
- North Dakota is the worst in the nation for providing dental care to Medicaid-enrolled children. 68% did not see a dentist in 2017.^{iv}
- More than 1 in 5 adults have untreated decay.^v
- Half of Native American 3rd graders have had untreated tooth decay.^{vi}
- Among nursing home residents with teeth, 1/3 need early or urgent care.^{vii}



More than 1 in 4 North Dakota 3rd graders have untreated tooth decay.

What is a dental therapist?

- Similar to physician assistants, dental therapists are midlevel providers who are trained to offer routine and commonly needed preventive and restorative services, such as filling cavities.
- Dentists hire and supervise dental therapists to expand quality care to more patients, and provide treatment to underserved at-risk populations in community settings, such as schools or nursing homes.
- Eight states have authorized dental therapists in some capacity: Arizona, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Vermont, and tribal communities in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington.



A dental therapist is similar to a physician assistant on the medical team

North Dakota does not have enough dentists to provide routine care for the state's growing population.

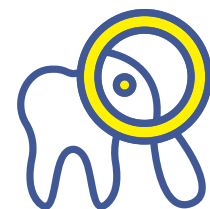
- Nearly half of North Dakota counties have no dentists or just one (17 have none, 8 have one).^{viii}
- According to the American Dental Association, North Dakota dentists are the busiest in the nation.^{ix}
- Allowing dentists to hire dental therapists would increase access to care for North Dakotans in rural and urban communities.^x



Nearly half of North Dakota counties have no dentists or just one.

Dental therapists provide quality care under the supervision of a dentist.

- 1,100 studies and assessments show dental therapists provide high quality care.^{xi}
- A dentist will supervise each licensed dental therapist, affirm their abilities, and set their scope of practice through a written management agreement.
- To become licensed, dental therapists will need to go through the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners process similar to dentists and other dental providers.
- The national accrediting commission for schools educating dentists and other dental providers has approved standards for dental therapy.^{xii}
- The Journal of the American Dental Association published a study in 2011 stating that dental therapists provided high quality care comparable to dentists for procedures both can do.^{xiii}



More than 1,100 studies show dental therapists provide high quality care

North Dakotans for Dental Access Coalition Members

AARP North Dakota
Alliance for Health Care Access (Grand Forks)
Community Action Partnership of ND
Family Voices of ND
Fargo-Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Dakota Dental Hygienists' Association
North Dakota Nurses Association
North Dakota Nurse Practitioners Association
North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project
North Dakota Public Health Association
North Dakota Rural Health Association
North Dakota State Association of City and County Health Officers
North Dakota Women's Network
Northland Health Centers
Third Street Clinic (Grand Forks)
Americans for Prosperity
Americans for Tax Reform
The Pew Charitable Trusts
United Tribes of North
Spirit Lake Tribe
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Three Affiliated Tribes of Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians

i Health Resources and Services Administration, "Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas," Sept. 2018. ii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ND Oral Health Data, Adults (2016), Children (2014), accessed Jan. 2019. iii Nijau G. and Yineman K., "Findings and Lessons from the 2014-2015 North Dakota Oral Health Third Grade Basic Screening Survey," ND Department of Health (Presented at the Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health, 2016). iv The Pew Charitable Trusts, analysis using Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Annual Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Participation Report, Form CMS-416, 2017. v North Dakota Department of Health, Basic Screening Survey for Adults (2012). vi Nijau and Yineman (2016). vii Schroeder, S., UND Center for Rural Health, "Oral Health among North Dakota Elderly," Oct. 2016. viii Schroder, S., UND CRH, "Dental Workforce in Rural and Urban North Dakota," June 2016. ix Vujcic, M., "Rethinking dentist shortages," Journal of the American Dental Association 146(5), May 2015. x S. Schroder et al., UND CRH, "North Dakota Oral Health Report: Needs and Proposed Models, 2014," 2014. xi D. Nash et al., "A Review of Global Literature on Dental Therapists," W.K. Kellogg Foundation, April 2012. xii American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, Accreditation Standards for Dental Therapy Programs, Feb. 2015. xiii J. Bader et al., "Clinical technical performance of dental therapists in Alaska," Journal of the American Dental Association 142(3), March 2011.