

- Most dentists (98%) and physicians (96%) agree access to preventive dentistry is key for improving overall health.ⁱ
- 80 entire Texas counties contain federally classified Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas with 3 additional counties having partial HPSA designations.
- With 58% of Texas's counties containing federally classified Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, Texas now ranks 47th in the US in dentists needed to correct the dental HPSA deficiency.ⁱⁱ
- As of June 30, 2020, 406 dentists are needed to remove the Dental HPSAs according to HRSA.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In September 2019, 57 counties have no general dentists and 30 counties have only 1 according to DSHS. For Data Information Click [Here](#).
- Oral Health America recently released, ***A State of Decay: Volume III***; the report rates each U.S. state on edentulism, adult Medicaid dental benefits, community water fluoridation, basic screening surveys and state oral health plans. ***Texas ranked forty-third out of fifty states*** with a composite score of 22% resulting in a "poor" overall rating.^{iv}
- Untreated decay impacts over one-quarter of all adults,^v including approximately 4 million in Texas. Over half of Texas adults, more than 9 million, have lost at least one tooth due to dental disease^{vi}
- Nationally, untreated dental decay affects one in three seniors, including more than 1 million Texas seniors.^{vii} Almost one in five Texas seniors has lost all their natural teeth.^{viii} Tooth loss and poorly fitting dentures impair their ability to speak and interact socially and lead to poor diet because they can't chew properly.^{ix}
- Texas's dentist shortage is going to intensify. The Health Resources and Services Administration projects that the current dentist shortage will substantially worsen in the next decade.^x Within that timeframe, more than a third of general dentists will be at or past retirement age.^{xi} Texas's aging dental workforce coupled with its booming population will likely leave many Texans unable to access dental care.
- More than 3 million Texas children have Medicaid coverage but nearly one-third of Texas counties have no dentist participating in Medicaid.^{xii}
- Tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease of childhood and affects nearly 60% of the children in the United States.
- **Nearly six of every ten Texas children** have experienced dental decay and over one-quarter have untreated decay.^{xiii} Kids with untreated decay not only suffer pain and infection; they have trouble eating, talking, sleeping, and learning. This directly impacts school performance and causes missed school days, —**costing school districts money**.^{xiv}
- In a year, nearly 30,000 new cases of oral and pharyngeal cancers are diagnosed, of which about 7,500 deaths occur. Also, stroke, coronary heart disease, atherosclerosis, preterm and low-birth-weight babies, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory disease are all associated with poor oral health.^{xv}
- In Texas, there were 122,096 emergency room visits for non-traumatic dental conditions in 2016 with an average cost of \$1,853 and 4,692 inpatient admissions for NTDC with an average charge of \$46,198. For Report Link Click [Here](#).
- In total, **10 Texas patients died in the ER because of the Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in 2016**.^{xvi}
- The lives and costs are so significant, they should not go unnoticed or unaddressed. Additionally, according to [Fair Health Study](#) from January and February 2020 to March and April 2020, dental caries (tooth decay or cavities) rose from fifth to fourth most common dental-related diagnosis presenting in urgent care centers and ERs.

- **Oral disease is solely responsible for 164 million lost work hours each year in the United States.**^{xvii}
- Employers are interested in implementing value-based care models that prioritize healthy outcomes (51%).^{xviii}

ⁱ <https://dentaquest.com/pdfs/reports/reversible-decay.pdf/>

ⁱⁱ U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Designated Health Professional Shortage Area Statistics. As of December 31, 2017.

ⁱⁱⁱ file:///C:/Users/Stephanie/Downloads/BCD_HPSA_SCR50_Qtr_Smry.pdf

^{iv} Oral Health America, Wisdom Tooth Project. Volume III, 2016. http://b.3cdn.net/teeth/492f646d03c892b6aa_l6m6bj3ql.pdf

^v U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1999-2004.

<http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/DataStatistics/FindDataByTopic/DentalCaries/DentalCariesAdults20to64.htm>

^{vi} Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey 2010.

^{vii} U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 2000

^{viii} National Oral Health Surveillance System. 2008 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/nohss/DisplayV.asp?DataSet=2&nkey=10056&qkey=8>

^{ix} Oral Health America, "A State of Decay: Are Older Americans Coming of Age Without Oral Healthcare?" 2014, Page 5. Accessible at

http://b.3cdn.net/teeth/1a112ba122b6192a9d_1dm6bks67.pdf

^x U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, National Center for Health Workforce Analysis. National and State-Level Projections of Dentists and Dental Hygienists in the U.S., 2012-2025. Rockville, Maryland, 2015.

^{xi} Texas Department of State Health Services, Health Professions Resource Center. "Trends, Distributions, and Demographics: Dentists (General) 2014." <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/hprc/Publications/2014FactSheets.aspx>

^{xii} Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Texas Medicaid Enrollment Statistics. Preliminary Medicaid Enrollment by Month: December 2014. <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/MedicaidEnrollment/MedicaidEnrollment.asp> ; Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Texas Medicaid Provider Database. As of July 2014

^{xiii} Texas Department of State Health Services, Division of Family and Community Health, Office of Program Decision Support. Second Assessment of Children Dental Health Status: As Required by Frew v. Janek. March 2014

^{xiv} Holt K, Barzel R. 2013. Oral Health and Learning: When Children's Health Suffers, So Does Their Ability to Learn (3rd ed.). Washington, D.C.: National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center. Retrieved October 14, 2014 from

<http://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/learningfactsheet.pdf>; U.S. General Accounting Office. 2000. Oral Health: Dental Disease is a Chronic Problem Among Low Income and Vulnerable Populations. Washington, DC: General Accounting Office. Retrieved October 14, 2014 from

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/he00072.pdf>

^{xv} Department of Health and Human Services, US Public Health Service. "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research. (2000) Available from: <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/hck10cv.%40www.surgeon.fullrpt.pdf>

^{xvi} Texas Health Institute. Emergency Department and Inpatient Hospitalization for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions in Texas. October 2018

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1456343/>

^{xviii} <https://dentaquest.com/pdfs/reports/reversible-decay.pdf/>