

# HRSA Oral Health – Across the Agency

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) helps high-need communities across the country. We provide millions of Americans access to high-quality health care, including oral health care, that they would not have otherwise.



## Who do our oral health programs serve?

We help bring dental care to:

- Older Americans
- Mothers, infants, and children, including those with special health care needs
- People with HIV/AIDS
- People in rural areas and other people in need
- Patients of HRSA-funded health centers

We also offer scholarships and loans to students and health care professionals—including dentists and dental hygienists—who promise to work in rural and underserved communities.

## How do we support oral health?

Our programs help train oral health care providers, place providers in rural areas, and make it easier for people to find oral health care.

### Meeting the needs of people in rural areas

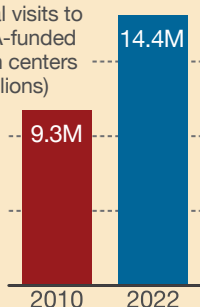
Our workforce programs train health care professionals. These programs bring quality oral health care to rural and underserved areas.

We support [oral health training programs](#), help states build their oral health workforce in designated dental shortage areas, and connect skilled health care professionals to communities in need. We provide grants to schools, hospitals, public health departments, and other organizations to improve training for health care workers.

For example, we strengthen and grow the primary care workforce through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). NHSC offers [scholarships](#), loans, and [loan repayment programs](#) to recruit, train, and keep health workers in rural and underserved communities. This includes dentists and dental hygienists.

## Key Facts About HRSA and Oral Health

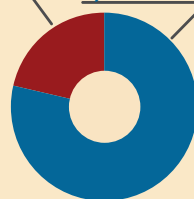
Dental visits to HRSA-funded health centers (in millions)



HRSA-funded health centers provided nearly **14.4 million dental visits** in 2022—an **increase of 55%** since 2010.<sup>1</sup>

**384** Dental Hygienists

**1,419** Dentists



**1,803** Clinicians

More than **1,800 dentists and registered dental hygienists** were working in Health Professional Shortage Areas and receiving loan repayment in fiscal year 2023.<sup>2</sup>

Scan the QR code to discover more key facts about **HRSA** and oral health.



## Improving access to care for underserved communities

We fund nearly [1,400 health centers](#) that provide high-quality primary health care, including oral health care, to underserved communities at more than 15,000 sites. These sites provide care even if patients cannot pay for it.

## Providing care for people with HIV/AIDS

The [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#) (RWHAP) provides HIV primary medical care to more than 550,000 people with HIV each year. RWHAP has two [dental programs](#) that focus on the special dental needs of people with HIV/AIDS:

- The Dental Reimbursement Program covers costs for dental schools that offer oral health care to people with HIV/AIDS.
- The Community-based Dental Partnership Program trains future oral health professionals how to give quality dental care to people with HIV.

## Serving the needs of mothers and children

We provide funding to help states [include preventive oral health care](#) as part of primary care for mothers and children. This includes [Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\) Block Grants](#) to MCH health programs in 59 states and jurisdictions.

Each state's program focuses on meeting National Performance Measures for each five-year reporting cycle. In 2022, 28 states and jurisdictions worked to improve dental care by increasing the:

- Percent of pregnant women who had a preventive dental visit
- Percent of children and adolescents who had a preventive dental visit in the past year

We test promising ways to make oral health a part of primary care and safety-net settings. For example, we support the Consortium for Oral Health Systems Integration and Improvement (COHSII).

COHSII improves access to preventive oral health care for mothers and children. It provides high-quality training and resources to state oral health programs, community-based programs, and other safety-net providers.

We also support Networks for Oral Health Integration (NOHI). This project helps pregnant people, infants, and children who are at high risk for oral disease get better access to quality oral health care. NOHI is:

- Making oral health care part of MCH services at community health centers and through other safety-net providers
- Training health professionals to provide excellent oral health care
- Teaching parents and caregivers how to take care of their children's oral health

## Identifying effective health programs and resources for rural areas

We support grant programs that strengthen health care for the 61 million people living in rural areas in the United States. This includes:

- Programs to increase access to quality health care in rural communities, including dental care.
- The [Rural Health Information Hub](#), which includes the [Rural Oral Health Toolkit](#). The Toolkit has resources to help start oral health programs in rural areas.

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<sup>1</sup> HRSA, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. [2022 Health Center Data, Table 5: Staffing and Utilization](#).

<sup>2</sup> HRSA, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. [Bureau of Health Workforce Field Strength and Students and Trainees Dashboards](#).