

ORAL HEALTH

Across the Agency

HOW DO WE IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH?

HRSA provides funding, technical assistance and subject matter expertise for multiple oral health programs, activities, and initiatives to increase access to quality oral health care in underserved communities across the country.

Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

In 2016, BPHC provided an **additional \$156 M to 420 grantees** as part of the [HRSA Oral Health Service Expansion Supplement](#). HRSA's Health Center Program provided more than 14 million dental visits in 2016, an increase of more than 1,263,000 visits from the prior year.

Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

- [Oral Health Workforce Development Programs](#) support states and training institutions to help build and train the oral health workforce that improves access to quality oral health-care for those most in need.
- HRSA's National Health Service Corps (NHSC) program **offers loan repayments and scholarships for health care professionals, including dentists and dental hygienists** that practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas. In FY17, nearly 1,300 dentists and registered dental hygienists received loan repayment through the NSHC Loan Repayment Program and more than 120 NHSC dentist scholarships were awarded.
- In addition, nearly **\$3 million in scholarships for disadvantaged students** was dispersed to dental students in FY17.

Office of Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation (OPAE)

OPAE provides the [HRSA-wide oral health leadership](#) for cross-agency initiatives and departmental priorities. Working across the agency, HRSA **developed an essential set of oral health core clinical competencies** for primary care clinicians in efforts to improve access for early detection and preventive interventions leading to improved health. OPAE also administers the National Organizations for State and Local Officials (NOSLO) cooperative agreement program which funds activities that address oral health.

Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)

Oral health is **one of 15 Title V national performance priority areas** that states can track to demonstrate improvement in the percent of women who had a dental visit during pregnancy and the percent of children who had a preventive dental visit in the last year. MCHB created the [Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement initiative](#) to target pregnant women and infants at high risk for dental diseases through community-based approaches for integrating oral health care into statewide health care systems.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB)

In FY17, HAB provided around **\$ 8.7 million for the Part F Dental Reimbursement Program** that defrays costs for educational institutions that provide oral health care to PLWH, and **\$3.1 million for the Community-Based Dental Partnership Program** that provides hands-on learning opportunities for future oral health professionals.

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP)

FORHP administers community-based and telehealth programs. In FY17, through the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program, **nearly \$2.2 million was invested in rural communities** to focus on outreach and education on oral health issues as one focus area. The Rural Health Network Development Program provides funding to mature rural healthcare networks that are working to collaboratively address the healthcare needs of their community. The program currently awards approximately **\$5 million of funding across five programs** that utilize a network approach to provide innovative solutions to oral healthcare needs. Both programs support innovative approaches that includes the use of telehealth, school-based clinics, and mobile dental clinics to increase access to and quality of oral health services. Through the Telehealth Network Grant Program, HRSA awarded more than \$3 million to eleven telehealth networks that are focusing on oral health. The purpose of this 4-year grant program is to demonstrate how telehealth networks can improve access to health care services and support health care providers in rural and underserved communities".

KEY FACTS

- Around **63 million people** live in designated dental health professional shortage areas.
- **420 HRSA health center grantees** expanded oral health services in FY 2016.
- HRSA's Community- Based Dental Partnership Program provided direct **dental services to nearly 5,000 people** living with HIV/AIDS in calendar year 2016.
- About **1,600 National Health Service Corps dentists and registered dental hygienists** work in health professional shortage areas.
- HRSA Oral Health Training (OHT) programs trained **nearly 5,300 oral health students** and more than **460 primary care dental residents** in academic year 2016-2017.
- **Seventy-one percent** of OHT program-supported predoctoral students and 64 percent of postdoctoral trainees received clinical training in medically underserved communities in academic year 2016-2017.
- HRSA has expanded the **Students to Service Loan Repayment Program** to include 35 dental students pursuing a DDS or DMD degree.