

Implementing Dental Therapy: Clinic Readiness Process

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Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

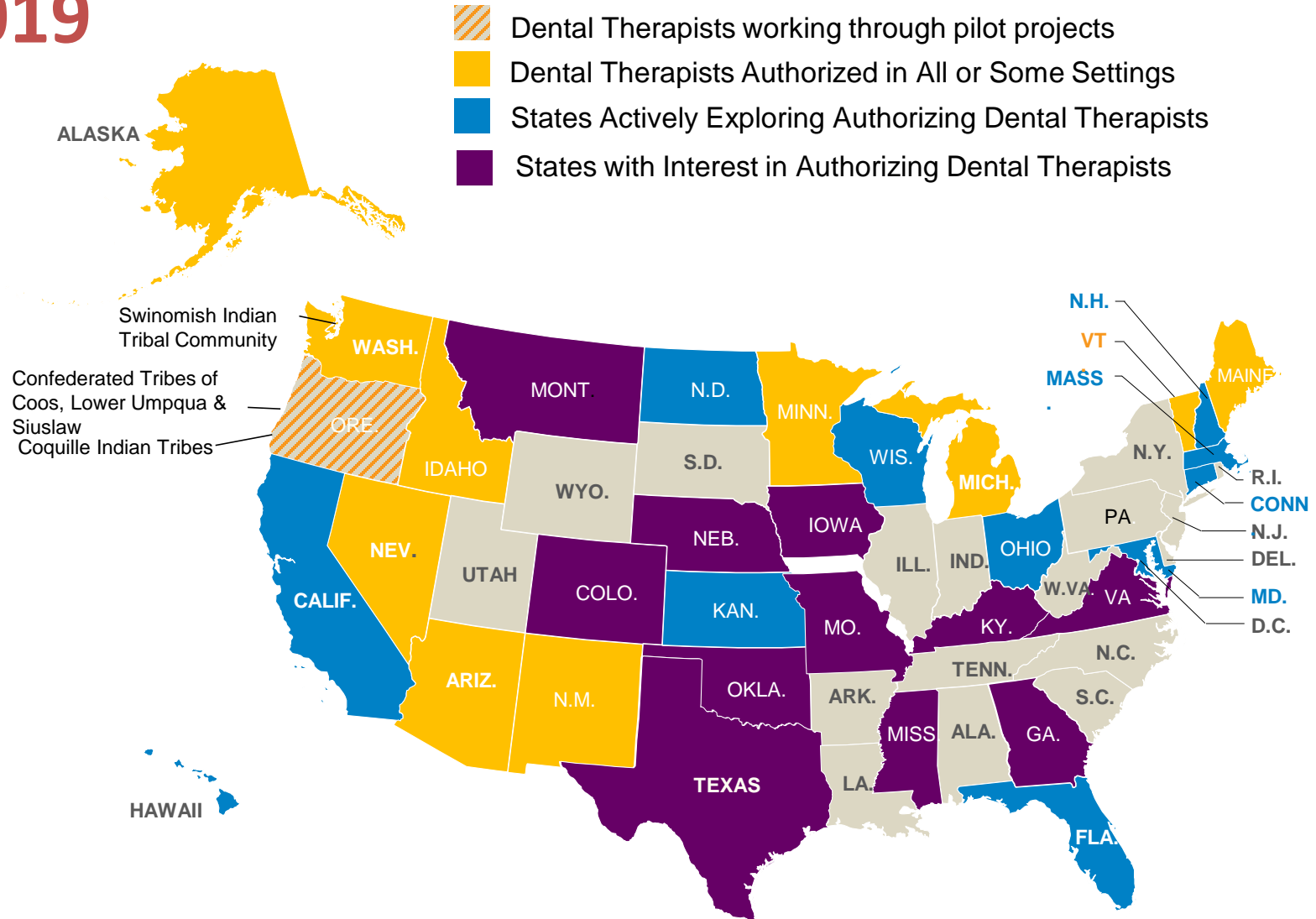
National Indian Health Board
National Tribal Health Conference
Temecula, California
September 19, 2019



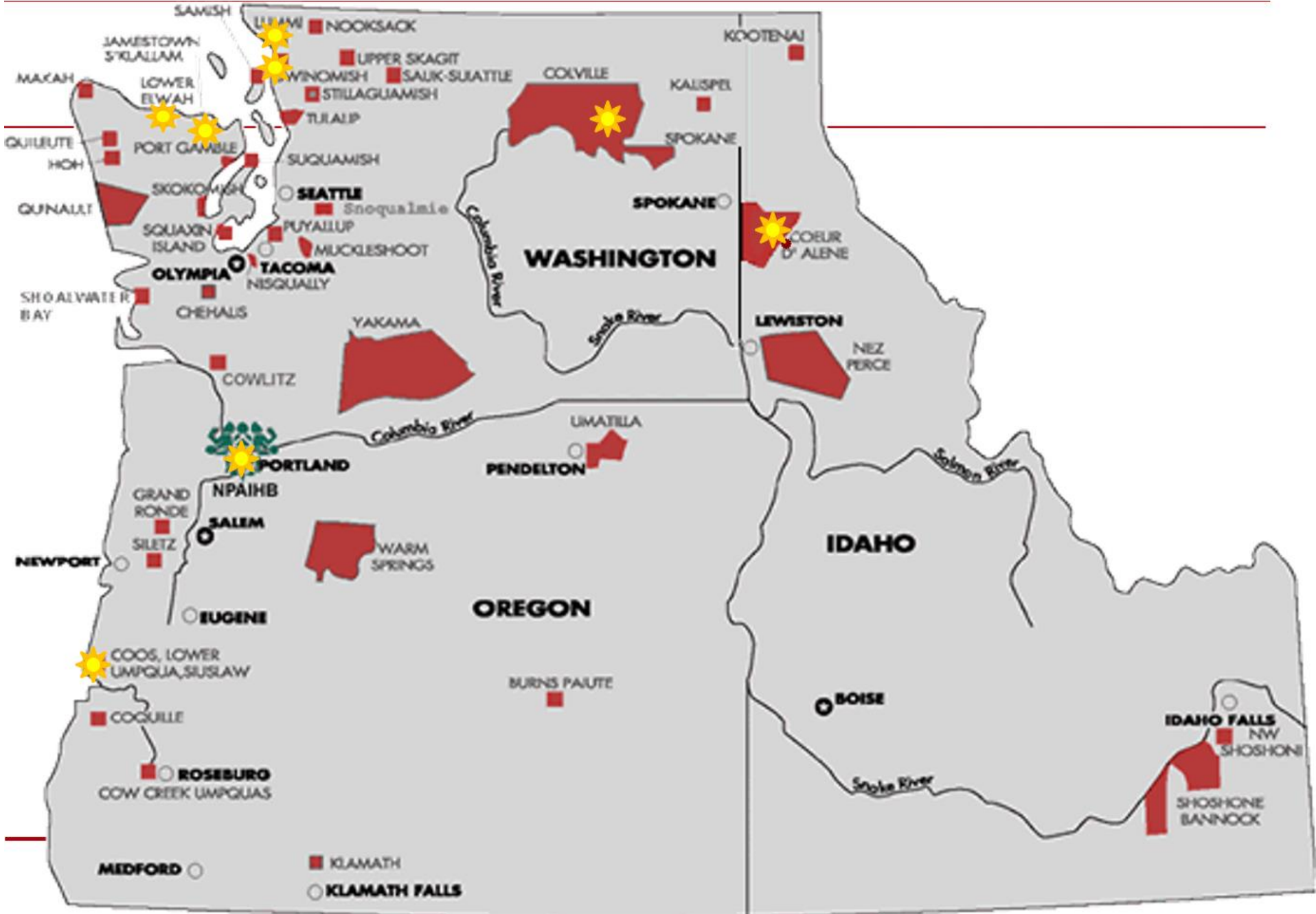
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Momentum for Dental Therapists

2019



Dental Therapists in the Portland Area



Dental Therapists in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho



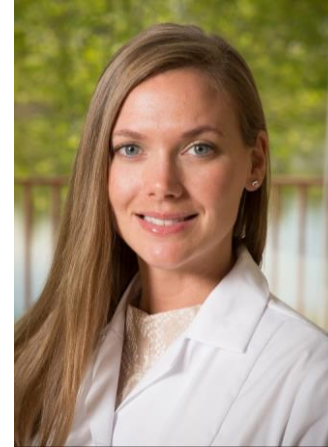
Daniel Kennedy – La Conner, WA
Swinomish Indian Tribal
Community



Rochelle Ferry – Port Gamble, WA
Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe



Naomi Petrie – Coos Bay, OR
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians



Marissa Gardner – Coos Bay, OR
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians



Jason Mecum – Port Angeles, WA
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Coquille Indian Tribe



Alex Jones
Coquille Indian Tribe



Arielle Cawston-Coulee Dam, WA
Confederated Tribes of the Colvill
Reservation



Sarah Chagnon-Bellingham, WA
Swinomish Indian Tribal
Community



Anna DeGraffenreid-Plummer, ID
Coeur d’Alene Tribes of Indians
and NPAIHB



Kari Douglass-Portland, OR
NARA and NPAIHB



Avena Finkbonner-Lummi, WA
Lummi Nation



Asiah Gonzalez-La Conner, WA
Swinomish Indian Tribal
Community



Angela Johnson-Lummi, WA
Lummi Nation and NPAIHB



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Clinic Readiness Process

Clinic Handbook:

- Timeline
- Cert/licensure
- Practical info

Supervising
Dentist
Training

Clinic Presentations:

- Admin and Leadership
- All Staff
- Dental Department

Support system:

- DT network
- Annual meeting
- Mentors



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Clinic Preparation Handbook



Native Dental Therapy Initiative

Clinic Guide:

Preparing Your Clinic for a Dental Therapist

For Washington State

May 2019

Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Our mission is to eliminate health disparities and improve the quality of life of American Indian and Alaska Natives by supporting Northwest Tribes in their delivery of culturally appropriate, high quality healthcare.



2121 SW Broadway, Suite 300, Portland, Oregon 97201
503.228.4185 Main | 503.228.8182 Fax | www.npaihb.org

- Timeline
- Certification/Licensing
 - Supervising Dentist Training
 - Preceptorship, Practice Agreement
- Scope of Practice
 - CODA standards
 - State comparison chart
 - Levels of Supervision
- Examples/Suggestions:
 - Job description
 - Consent form
 - Schedule blocks
 - MOA



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Timeline: 12+ months prior

- Schedule clinic assessment
 - NPAIHB-DSC and/or IHS area dental consultant
 - QA/QI, clinic capacity and resources, patients' needs and barriers
- Update Policies and Procedures
 - Include dental therapist as a provider in applicable forms & workflows
 - Amend IHS funding cooperative agreement
- Plan for certification/licensure and begin process
 - Dental therapist(s) and supervising dentist(s)
- Plan for program evaluation
 - Begin data collection



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Timeline: 6 months prior

- Draft appointment schedules
- Schedule SD training
- Create DT onboarding plan with support departments: HR, IT, Billing, etc.
- Consider interdepartmental collaboration, community outreach for DT
 - Create MOAs as needed with partnering organizations
- Introduce the role of the DT
 - to: other departments, external partners, community
 - Media options: website, newspaper, mail/e-mail, bulletin board
- Schedule clinic readiness training with NPAIHB NDTI



Timeline: 3 months prior

- Documentation for HR processing, credentialing & privileging
- Plan for billing of DT procedures (private insurers, Medicaid)
- Communicate plans for DT orientation/integration at clinic meetings
- Begin selecting and scheduling patients for the DT preceptorship
- Confirm that clinic and outreach programs are resourced properly
 - Order supplies, materials, equipment
- Create and practice applicable scripts for back and front offices
- Prepare for inquiries and visits from internal and external parties interested in your DT program - Practice narrative, tours



Supervising Dentist Training

Required before supervising DT

In-person *or* Webinar

Conducted by DTEP director

CE in the works

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Scope
- ✓ Preceptorship
- ✓ Practice Agreement



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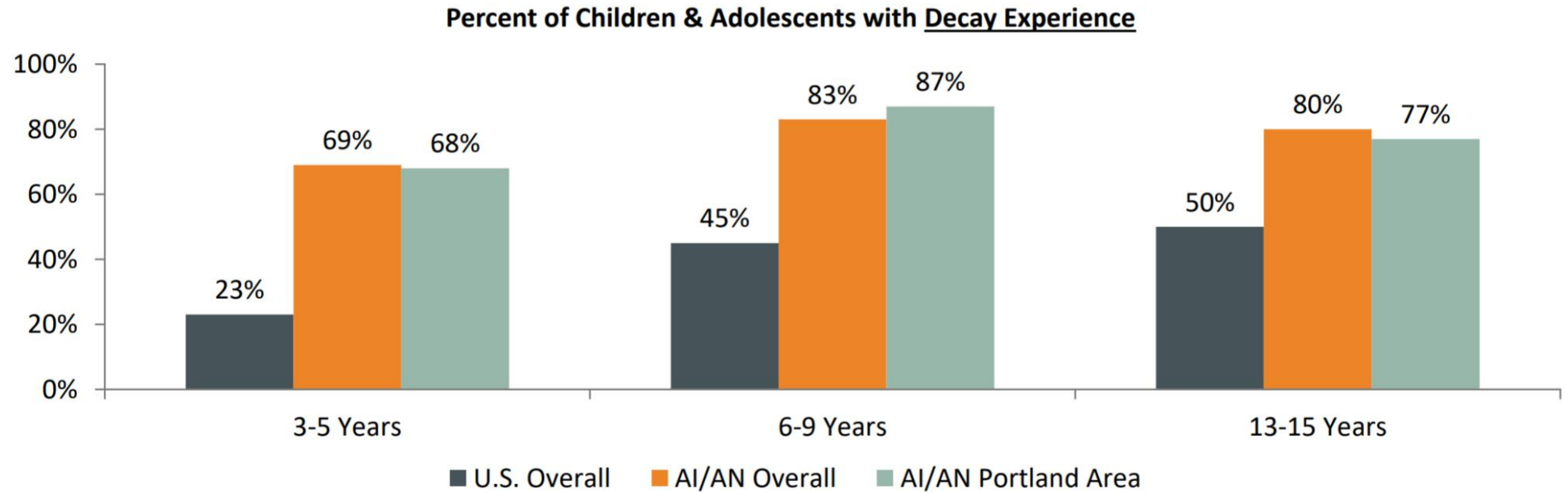
Building a 21st Century Dental Team

(Training for staff from all departments)

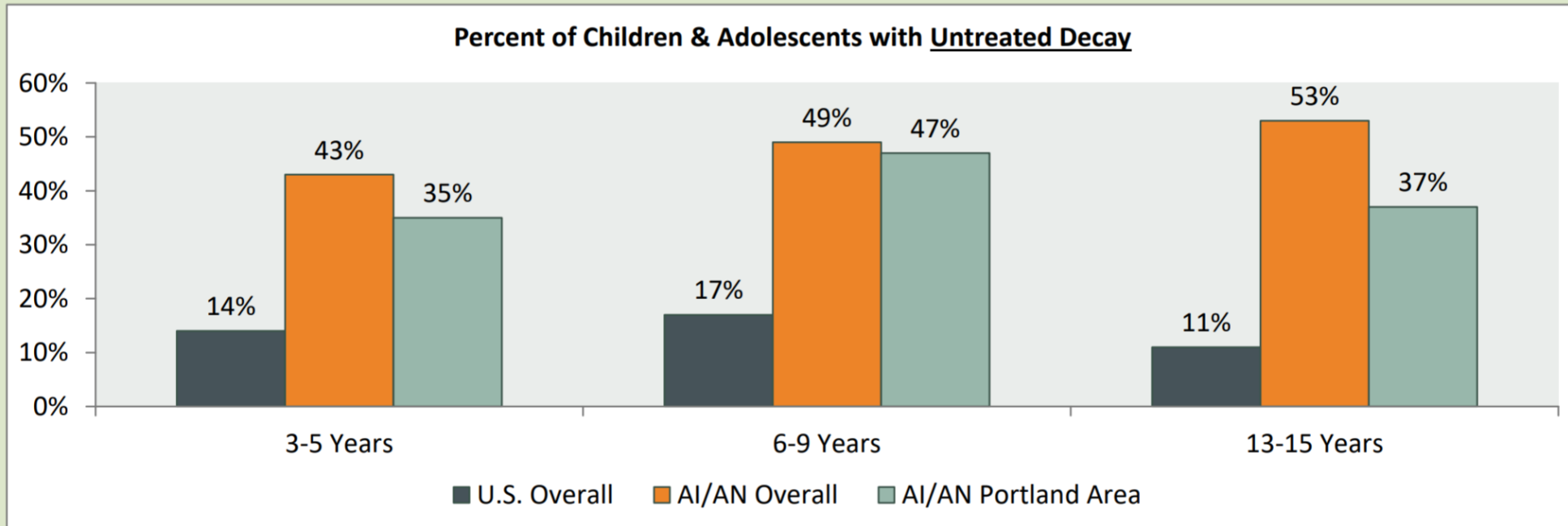


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AI/AN CHILDREN HAVE MORE DISEASE THAN OTHER POPULATIONS



AI/AN CHILDREN HAVE LESS ACCESS TO CARE THAN OTHER POPULATION GROUPS



Why does NPAIHB support dental therapy?

NPAIHB supports solutions that:

- Promote health
- Prevent disease
- Create opportunities
- Lift up communities
- Provide culturally competent care
- Improve efficiency in health care
- Are sustainable long term

<https://workingnation.com/dental-health-aide-therapist-alaska-solution-health-crisis/> (5 minute video)



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What *is* a Dental Therapist?

A primary oral health care provider:

(“mid-level provider” or “allied health professional”) (similar to a PA)

A specified scope of practice:

some of the procedures that a dentist can do (<70 out of >500 procedures)

Increasingly becoming an integral part of the dental team:

works under the license and supervision of a supervising dentist

improves efficiency, allows dentist more time for complex procedures

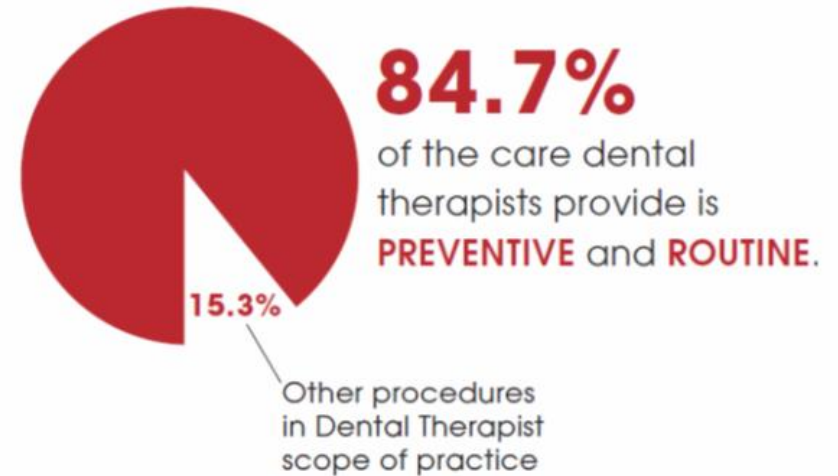


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What do Dental Therapists *do*?

1. Most of scope is preventive and routine
2. Treat dental disease when present and within scope of practice

- ✓ Patient education
- ✓ Dental exams/evaluations
- ✓ Fluoride
- ✓ Sealants
- ✓ Simple cleanings
- ✓ Removing dental decay
- ✓ Fillings
- ✓ Simple extractions



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Intensive training

Receive intensive training for each procedure in their scope of practice
- Two intensive years to complete
three academic years of study

Preceptorship period of direct supervision with dental team

Required to provide the same high standard of care as all other providers

Licensed or certified (depending on jurisdiction)



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Preceptorship

- 400+ hours under direct supervision
 - (~6-12 months full time)
- Allows dental therapist to learn from supervising dentist
- Helps supervising dentist to know dental therapist's abilities
- Facilitates strong communication between providers
- Plan for a **significant drop in clinic productivity** during the preceptorship, to be followed by a gain in productivity after the preceptorship.
- **Administrative time needed!**



Swinomish Dentist Rachael Hogan observes
DHAT Savannah Bonorden in Sitka, AK



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Practice Agreement

- An agreement between the Dental Therapist and the Supervising Dentist (SD)
- Decided at the end of the preceptorship
- Details the specific **procedures** the dental therapist may perform and the specific **level of supervision** that is approved for each procedure

Levels of Supervision:

Close/Direct supervision:

SD diagnoses the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedure to be performed, and checks the completed procedure

Indirect supervision:

SD remains on premises

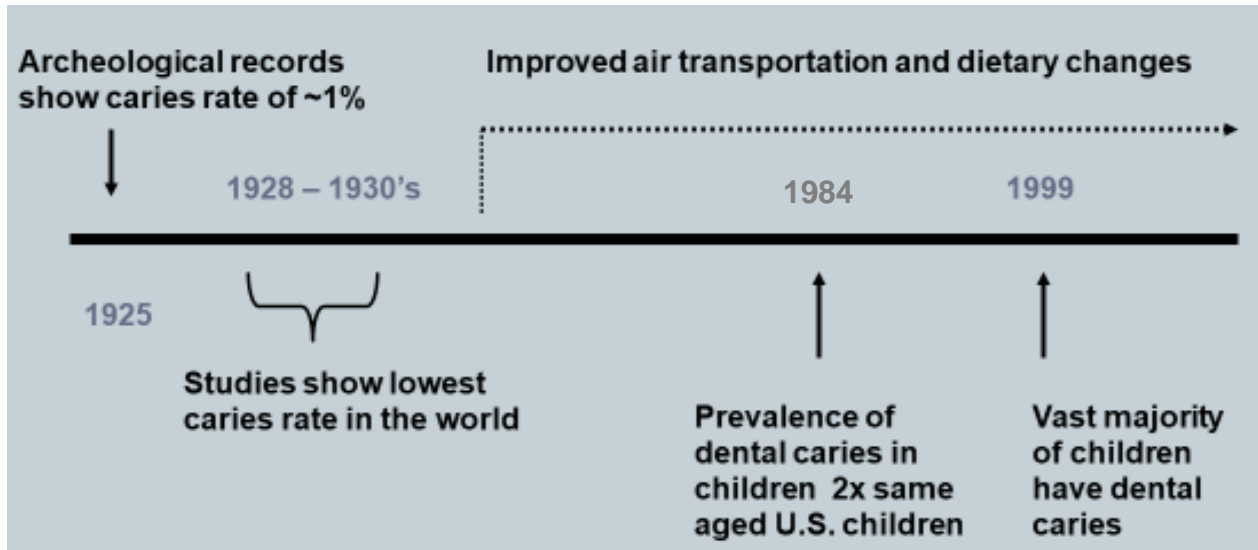
General supervision:

SD available for consultation
(can be phone or internet)



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15 Years of Success in the US



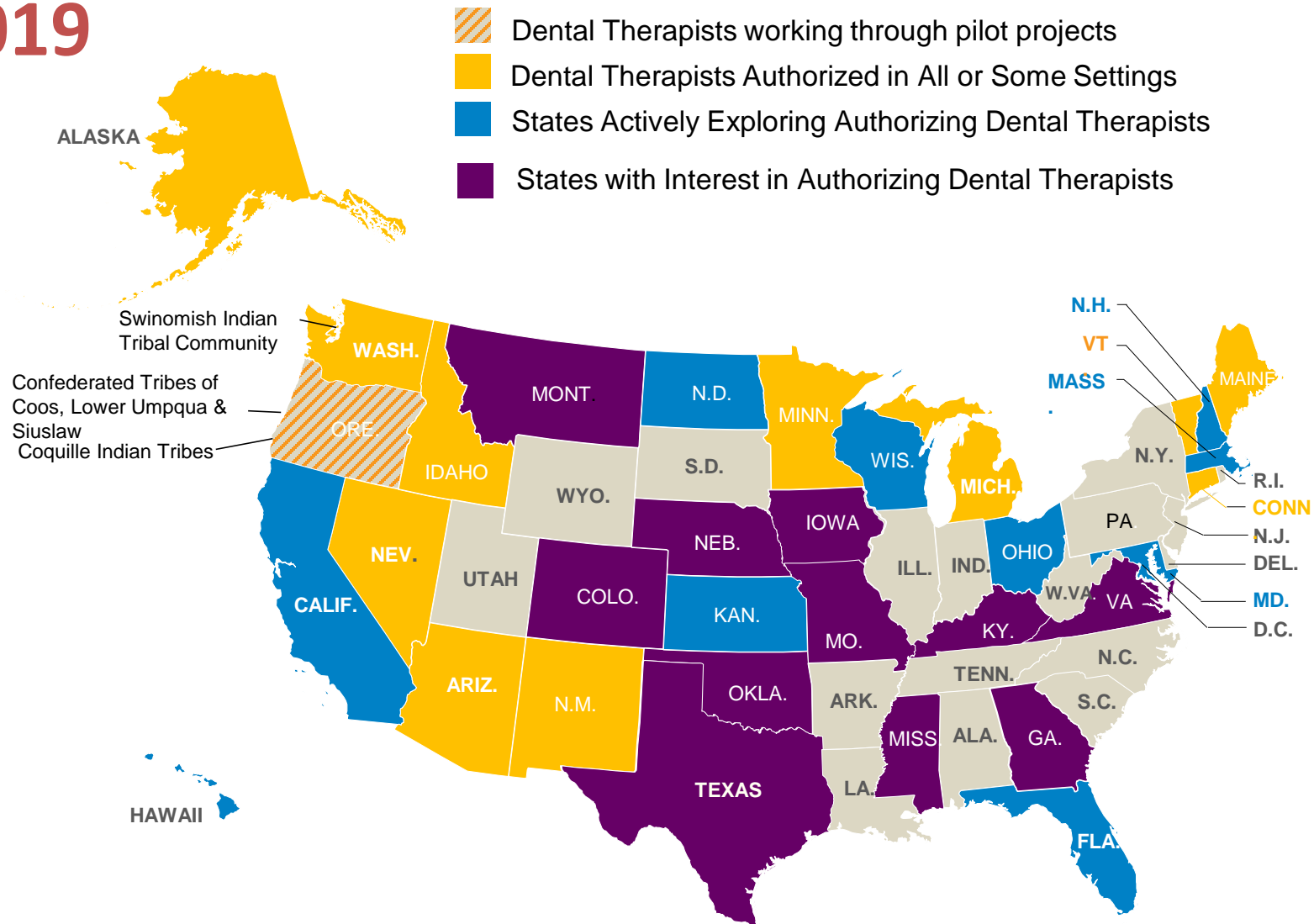
- Since 1921 in New Zealand
- NZ program a success!
- Now dental therapists are employed in **54** countries

• **2000: Alaska tribal leaders seek solution to oral health crisis**

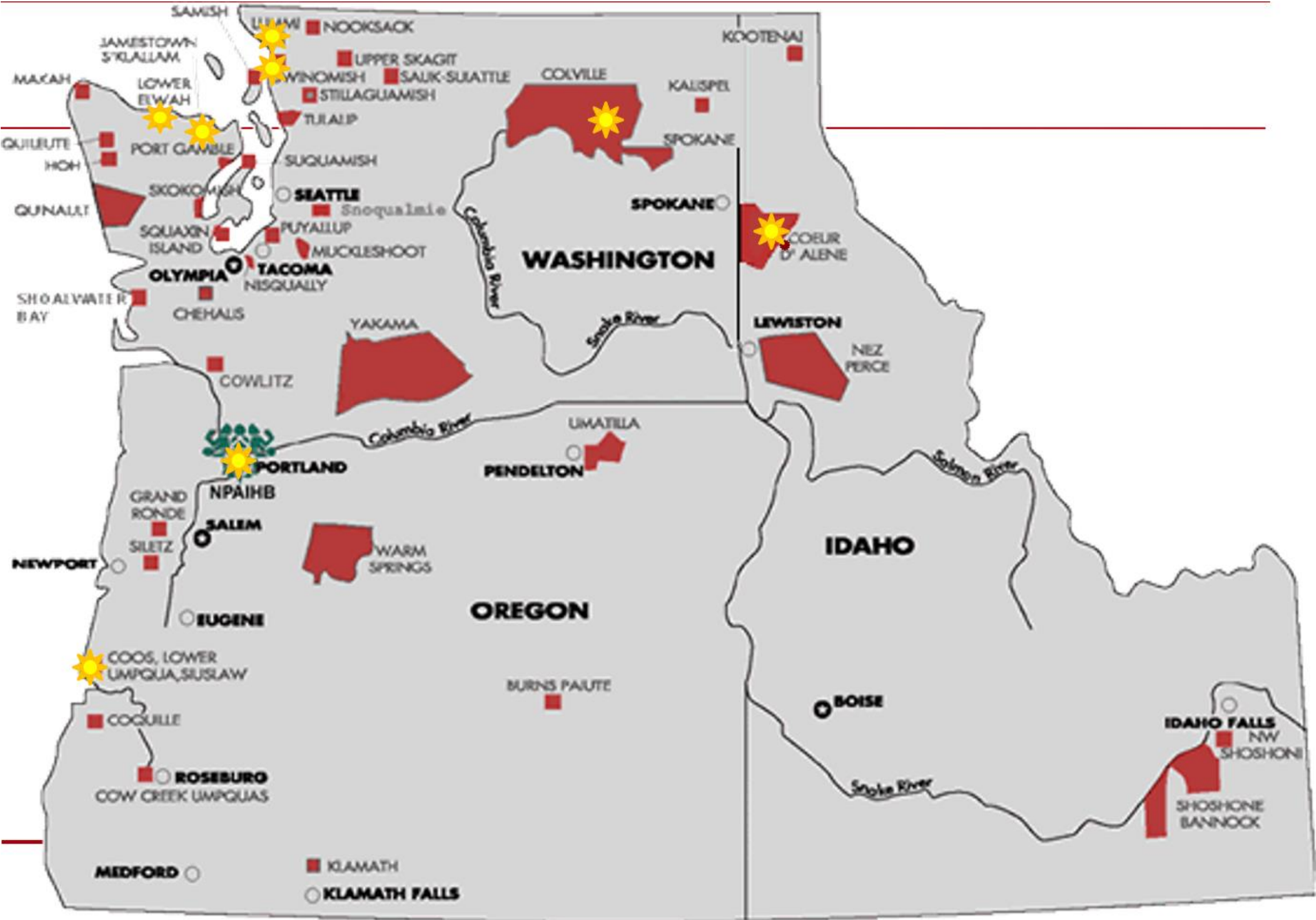
- 2005: First dental therapists practicing in AK (trained in NZ)
- 2006: ANTHC graduates first class of dental therapists
- 2016: First dental therapist practicing in WA (trained in AK)
- 2019: Dental therapists approved to practice in 11 US states

Momentum for Dental Therapists

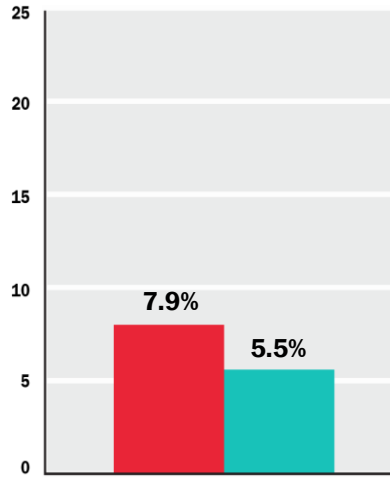
2019



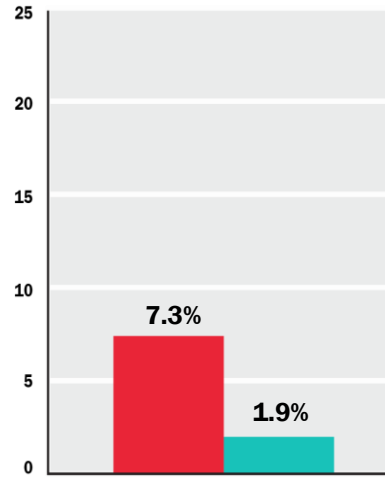
Dental Therapists in the Portland Area



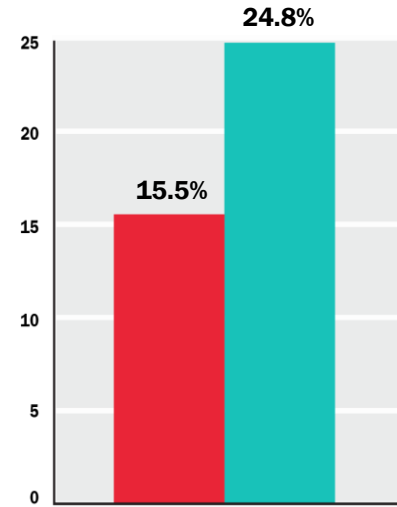
Dental Therapy is Working!



Child General Anesthesia Rate

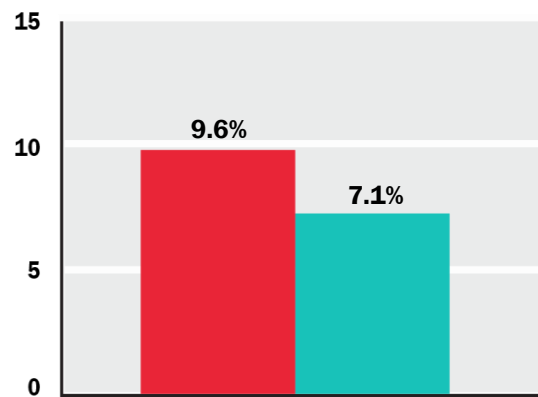


Child Extraction Rate

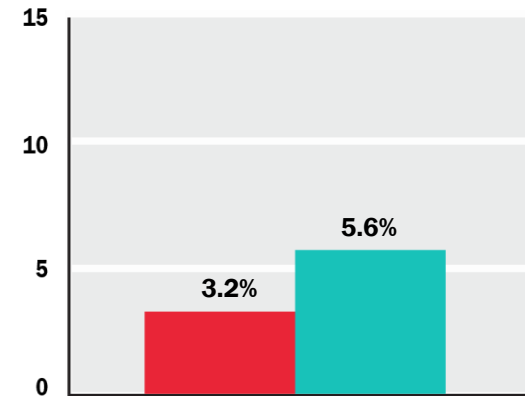


Child Preventative Care

■ No DT Communities ■ High DT Communities



Adult Extraction Rate



Adult Preventative Care

History of allied health professionals in US

- **1910** – First **Dental Hygiene** program began (Ohio)
- **1917** – First **Dental Hygiene** licensure law passed (Connecticut)
- **1931** – First **Nurse Midwife** education program began in US (New York)
- **1965** – First **Physician Assistant** education program began in US (North Carolina)
- **1965** – First **Nurse Practitioner** education program began in US (Colorado)
- **2004** – First **Dental Therapy** education program began in US (Alaska)

Interdepartmental Collaboration

- Women Infants and Children:
 - Education
 - Case management
- Pediatrics:
 - Well-child checks
- Obstetrics:
 - Prenatal education
- Community Health
 - Home visits

Chelsea Shoemaker, Bonnie Johnson, Corrina Cadzow (DHAT students) providing fluoride varnish treatment for a Head Start student.



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Community Outreach

- Long-term care
- Elders
- Home visits
- Preschool / Head Start
- School programs



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THEIR DENTAL HEALTH AIDE JOURNEY

Caroline Edwards, qyuuqs News Editor
Photos Courtesy of Jessica Ortez



Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Program graduates, Asiah Gonzalez and Sarah Chagnon!

Two years ago, two women embarked on a journey that lead them all the way up to Bethel, Alaska. Their journey began with an application to the Alaska Dental Therapy Educational Program, two years later and their returning to Swinomish as Dental Health Aide Therapists!

JUNE 14 — Sarah Chagnon and Asiah Gonzalez graduated from the Dental Therapy Educational Program as licensed dental therapists.

Both of them have returned to the Swinomish Tribe where they will be Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHAT) working at the Swinomish Dental Clinic!

In an effort to capture the story of their journey, I interviewed Sarah and Asiah to get a better understanding of what it took to go to school full-time in Alaska.

Now that you're done with school, what's the plan? Here's their response:

I've always loved helping people and feel that helping others improve their health is a part of who I am. Now that I'm done with school, I will be working at the Swinomish Dental Clinic as a licensed dental therapist serving my community. I hope to work as a DHAT for the next four to five years to get my foot in the door and gain lots of experience. My dream goal is to go back to school in five years and become a dentist, said Sarah Chagnon.

I've talked with Dr. Hogan and my start date is July 1. I've got a two-week break and then I'm back to it. It's exciting, it's nice to know coming into this program that I've already got something set up for me. I know that's something college student struggle with, I'm really grateful I've got something set up for me, said Asiah Gonzalez.

What was it like to live in Alaska and go to school?

Alaska really has stolen my heart. I never thought I could possibly love another state just as much as Washington, but living in Alaska was good for me. Being away in Alaska helped me grow as a person and it will forever hold a special place in my heart, said Sarah Chagnon.

Oh gosh... It was difficult, I'm sure it was difficult for everyone else in the class, but I've never been away from home before, I live up the street from here [on the Swinomish Reservation], I don't go very far. That was my biggest challenge, was being away from home. The first year was an easier transition, then the second year they moved us out to Bethel and I got on the plane and was like, "Oh my God, where did they send me?" It was really nice that I already built that relationship with my classmates so I felt like I had somebody. Moving anywhere is a whole new environment, said Asiah Gonzalez.

What is your most favorite thing about becoming a DHAT?

My dream is to become a resource to my people, become a role model and help my community

Share the News!

- Clinic Website
- Bulletin Boards
- Tribal Newspapers
- Newsletters (clinic, school, Head Start)
- Meetings/Conferences
- E-mail introductions
- Community Events



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*Incorporating Dental Therapists into
your team
(This is the Dental-Only portion of the training.)*



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Focus on Prevention:

Time-intensive activities that ultimately have the greatest long-term impact

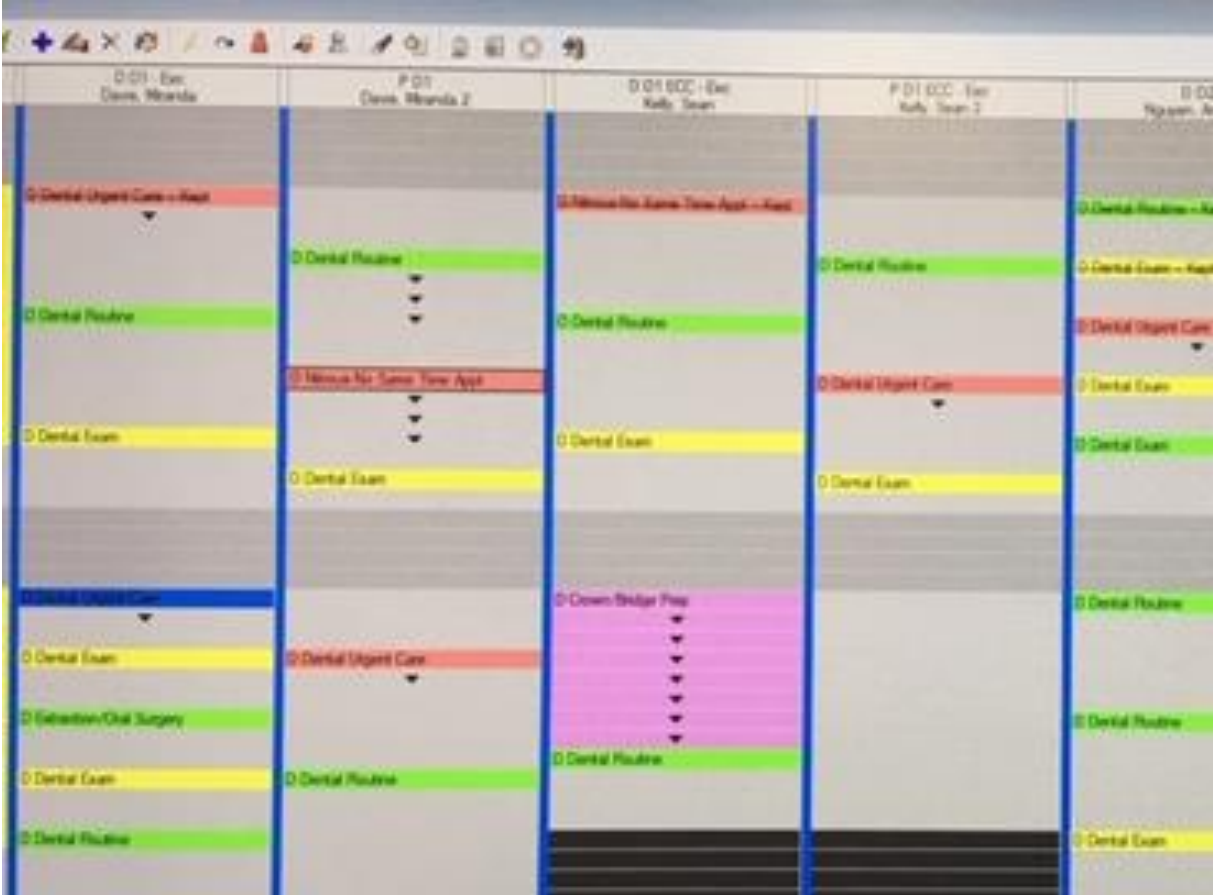
- ✓ Thorough patient history
- ✓ **D9311**: Consultation with a medical health care professional
- ✓ **D9991**: Case management: addressing **appointment compliance barriers**
- ✓ **D9992**: Case management: **care coordination**
- ✓ **D9993**: Case management: **motivational interviewing**
- ✓ Community involvement



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Scheduling

- “Our first available appointment...”
- Admin time
- 2h blocks to start
- Balance SD + DT
- Experienced DA



Preceptorship

- 400+ hours under direct supervision
 - (~12+ months full time)
- Allows dental therapist to learn from supervising dentist
- Helps supervising dentist to understand dental therapist's abilities
- Facilitates strong communication between providers
- Results in a Practice Agreement

Plan for reduced overall clinic productivity during the preceptorship, to be followed by a gain in productivity after the preceptorship.



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Swinomish Dental Therapist Preceptorship Evaluation Form
-for Dental License Renewal or by Reciprocity

This form is designed to support licensing renewal or licensing by reciprocity (i.e. previously CHAP certified) dental therapists in Washington State. Each procedure must be completed under the direct supervision of a supervising dentist, or their designated colleague. The dental therapist is expected to perform the procedures independently, and in compliance with the established standards. Procedures may be simulated if applicable and no appropriate patients are available.

Each section has a scoring criteria of “Acceptable” and “Unacceptable.” Within the preceptors’ handbook, a description of criteria definitions is provided for reference.

Dental Therapist Critical Procedures	Reference # (Partial Chart # &/or Date)	Competency Met -Checkmark indicates Acceptable	Supervising Dentist’s Initials and Date	Notes
Examination Findings				
Bitewings				
Periapical (anterior)				
Periapical (posterior)				
Caries Diagnosis				
Treatment Planning				
Preventative Services				
Fluoride Varnish				
Oral Hygiene Instruction				
Sealants				
Prophylaxis (toothbrush)				
Prophylaxis (scaling & polishing coronal surfaces)				
Restorative Services				
ART				

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Working Within the Dental Team

- Dental Director: Administrative oversight
- Supervising Dentist(s): Supervising, consulting, mentoring
- Dentists: Working at top of scope
- Dental Hygienists: Advising, customizing practice
- Dental Assistants: Working with dental therapist
- Dental Therapists: Learning, helping, practicing



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Please contact us!

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Native Dental Therapy Initiative

Christina Peters, Tribal Community Health Provider (TCHP) Director

Miranda Davis, Native Dental Therapy Initiative (NDTI) Director

Pam Johnson, NDTI Specialist

Tanya Firemoon, NDTI Coordinator

Ticey Mason, Dental Support Center Director

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<https://twitter.com/NWDentalTherapy>



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Questions?

www.NPAIHB.org/NDTI

