

DHAT Issues in Indian Country

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Native Dental Therapy Initiative Project Director
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Oklahoma City, OK
1:30-3:00pm Sept 18, 2018

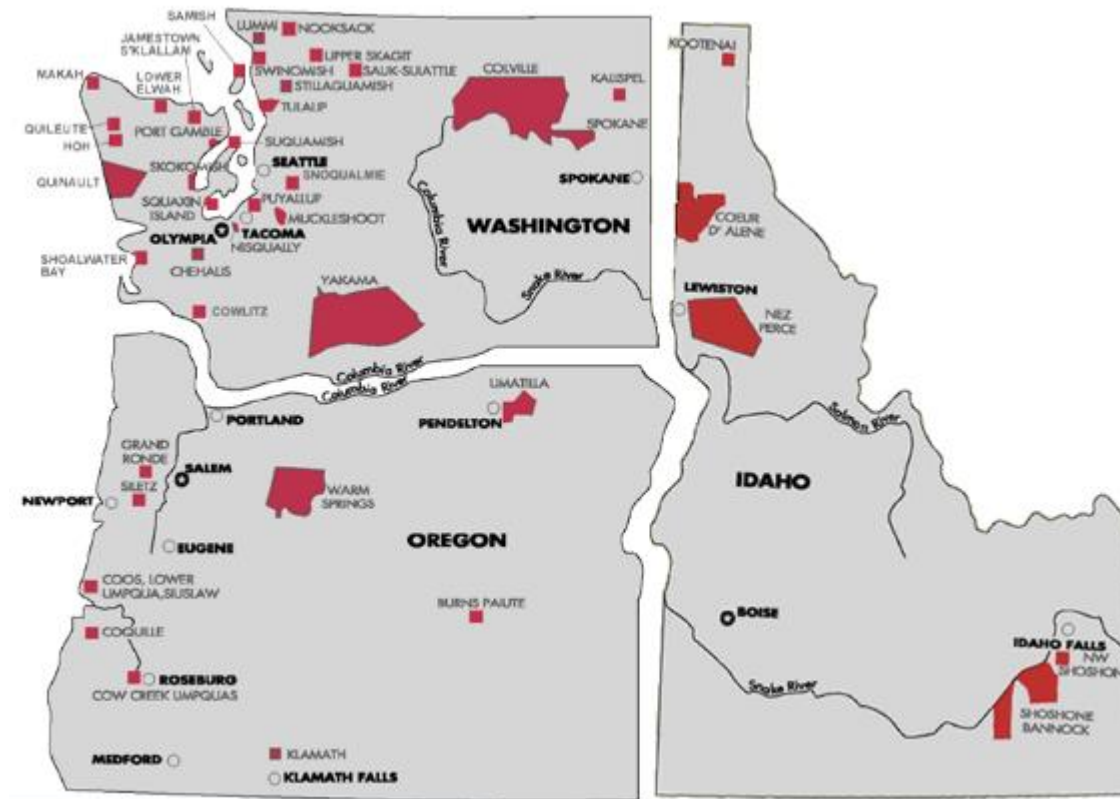


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BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY DENTAL TEAM



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- Began early 2003, ANTHC, Alaska tribal health organizations, CHAP developed a new solution – Dental Health Aide Therapists
- February 2003, six AN students to began a two year DHAT training curriculum in New Zealand with support from Rasmussen Foundation
- 2004, 6 more AN students were sent to New Zealand
- 2005 first DHATs certified in Alaska
- 2007 Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program welcomes first class in Anchorage
- 2015 ADTEP partners with Illisagvik College to offer AAS degrees in dental therapy
- The Alaska DHAT program is beginning its 15th year

Brief history of Alaska DHAT program



Alaska's Dental Therapists in action

- 35 dental therapists increased access to care for over 45,000 Alaska Natives
- Provide culturally competent care
- Produce high patient satisfaction rates
- Reduce amount of emergency care
- Increase preventive care
- Create jobs and generate economic impact
 - Created 76 full time jobs per year with total personal income of \$4.4 million
 - Net economic effect of program is \$9.7 million in Rural Alaska



Swinomish Dentist Rachael Hogan observes DHAT Savannah Bonorden on a recent learning trip to Sitka, AK



- Our Board is interested in supporting long term sustainable solutions that build up our communities, create opportunities for our youth and tribal members, educate our healers and train the next generation of work force.



Why?



- Shortage of dentists in tribal communities
- Lack of Resources
- Coverage and Medicaid Acceptance
- Cost of care
- Historical Trauma
- Lack of culturally competent providers
- Geographic isolation
- Delivery system-Lack of a strong safety-net

DHATS scope and education
tailored to address barriers in
Indian Country



Male	84%
Female	16%
Native American	0.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	7%
Black/African American	3.5%
Hispanic/Latino	3.5%
White/Caucasian	86%

Historical Trauma and low number of
Native Providers or Culturally
Competent Providers



Tribal Health System Needs:

- Effective prevention programs
- Culturally competent care
- Basic restorative services
- Locally provided
- **Meeting our needs intelligently will lead to efficiencies**



Trisha Patton, DHAT, taking x-rays on patient



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Dental Health Aide Therapy Programs

- Expand access to consistent, routine, high quality oral health care in tribal communities;
- Grow the number of AI/AN oral health care providers available to tribal communities;
- Bring culturally competent care into tribal communities;
- Create a more efficient and effective oral health team that can meet the needs of the tribal communities;
- Establish cost effective solutions to oral health challenges into tribal communities;
- Bring care where it is needed most.



Chelsea Shoemaker, DHAT, with Patient



- **Dental Health Aid Therapist (DHAT)**

[---]-----
<50 Billable Procedures

- **DDS**

[-----]
>500 Billable Procedures

Alaska DHAT training program information:

First year: 40 weeks
Second year: 39 weeks
Total: 79 weeks (3160 hours)

Curriculum Break-down first year

Biological Science: 30%
Social Science: 10%
Pre-clinic: 40%
Clinic: 20%

Curriculum Break-down second year

Biological Science: 15%
Social Science: 7%
Pre-clinic: 0%
Clinic: 78% (1215 hours)

Curriculum Break-down two years

combined:

Biological Science: 22.5%
Social Science: 8.5%
Pre-clinic: 20% (632 hours)
Clinic: 49% (1548 hours)

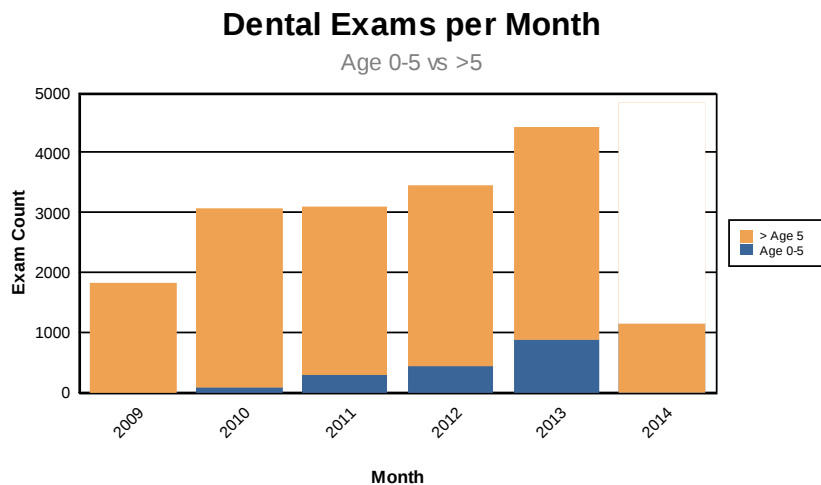
Source: Dr. Louis Fiset, BA-DDS-University of Washington

Alaska DHAT Scope of Practice and training



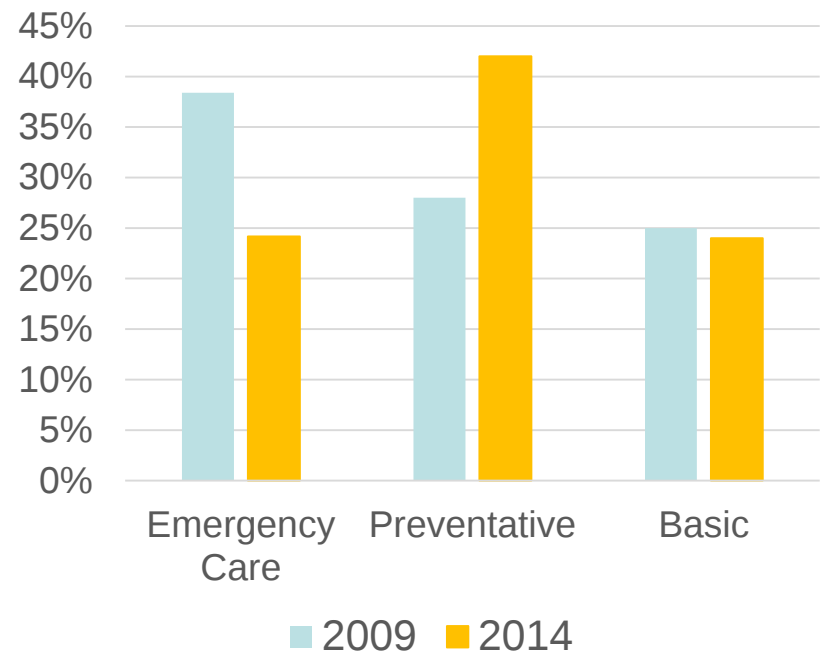
DHATs are increasing access to dental exams

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Alaska



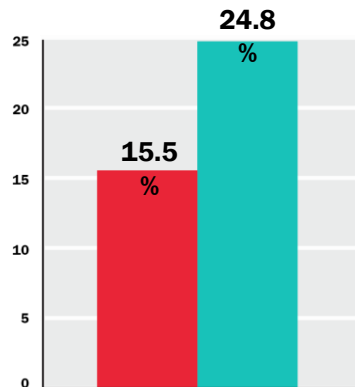
DHATs are reducing costly emergency care

YKHC Service Distribution: 2009 vs. 2014



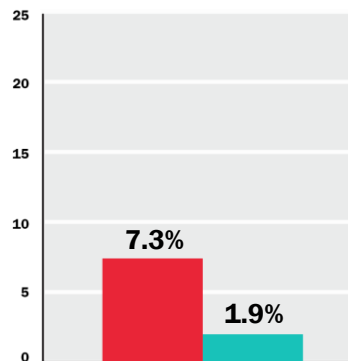
In High-DT Communities:

More kids get preventative care.



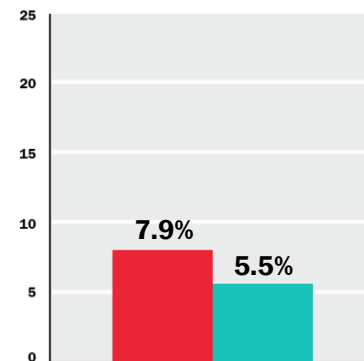
Child Preventative Care

Kids need fewer front teeth extractions.



Child Extraction Rate

Fewer kids need general anesthesia.



Child General Anesthesia Rate



No DT Communities



High DT Communities

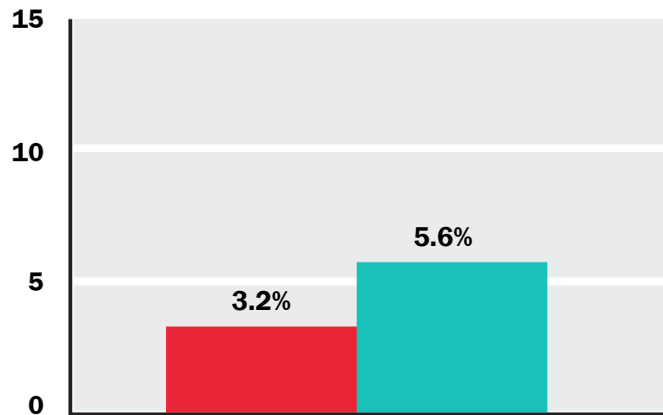
Dental Utilization for Communities Served by Dental Therapists in Alaska's Yukon Kuskokwim Delta: Findings from an Observational Quantitative Study Final Report August 11, 2017

Principal Investigator Donald L. Chi, DDS, PhD Associate Professor University of Washington, School of Dentistry dchi@uw.edu Co-Investigators Dane Lenaker, DMD, MPH; Lloyd Mancl, PhD; Matthew Dunbar, PhD; Michael Babb, MA



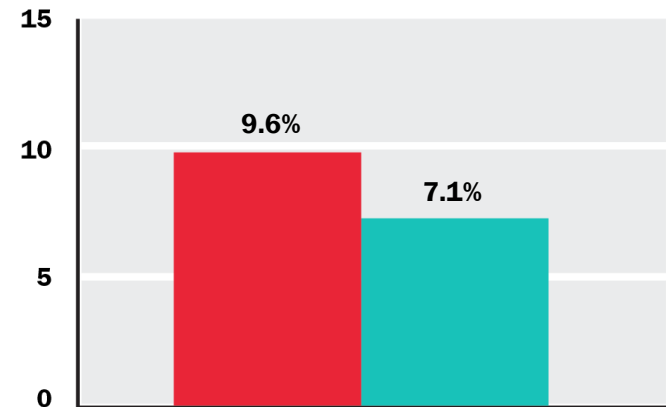
In High-DT Communities:

More adults get preventative care.



Adult Preventative Care

Adults need fewer teeth extractions.



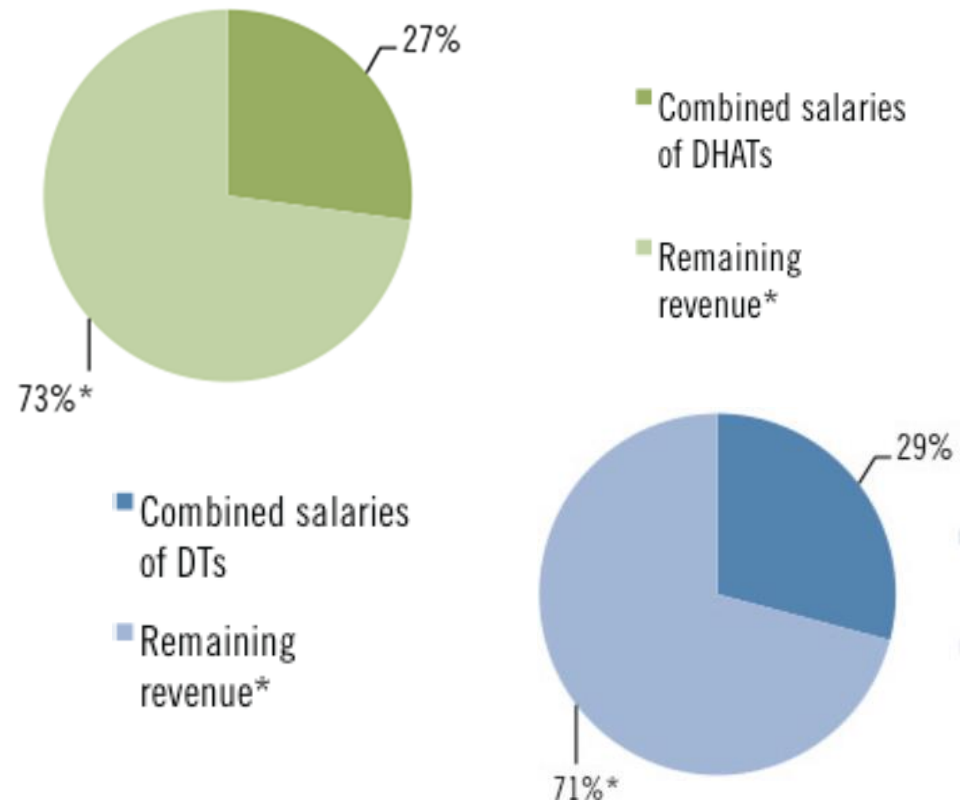
Adult Extraction Rate

 No DT Communities  High DT Communities



Financial Impact of Expanding the Dental Team

According to a May, 2013 Community Catalyst study on the economic viability of dental therapists in Alaska and Minnesota, dental therapists cost their employers less than 30 cents for every dollar of revenue they generate.



Total Revenue Generated by Advanced Dental Therapists and Dental Therapists in Minnesota - green
Dental Health Aide Therapists in Alaska – blue



http://www.communitycatalyst.org/doc_store/publications/economic-viability-dental-therapists.pdf;

Report conducted by Dr. Frances M. Kim, May 2013

Daniel
Kennedy,
Swinomish
Dental Clinic,
WA



Naomi Petrie, CTCLUSI
Dental Clinic, Oregon

There are 4 DHATs working in Washington and Oregon

Ben Steward, NARA
Dental Clinic,
Portland, OR



Rochelle Ferry, Pt
Gamble S'Klallam,
Washington



Swinomish Today



Pt Gamble S'Klallam Today

- Wait time is almost gone
- DHAT Rochelle Ferry is out in the community
 - Exams and sealants with head start program
 - Working with Home Health Nurse doing home visits targeting elders and diabetic population, doing exams and listening and bringing people BACK into care
- Roz is the only full time provider at the clinic
- The community is eager to see Roz
- More elders than ever before are getting care.



CTCLUSI Today

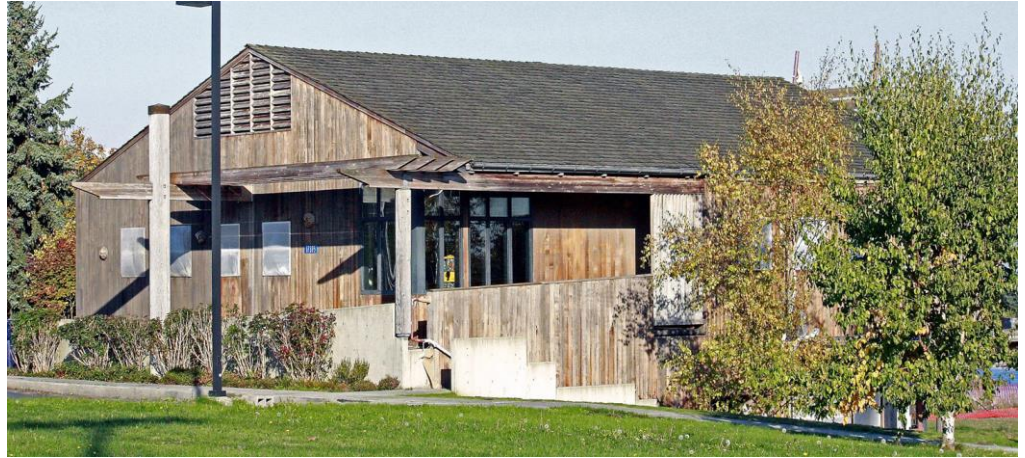
- One DHAT near the end of her preceptorship
- 2nd DHAT starting preceptorship
- Increase in level 4 and 5 services
- Even with burden of preceptorship, there has been an increase in patients seen
- Two new dental chairs
- Plans for clinic expansion
- Once Naomi completes her preceptorship, she will begin community projects.



NARA Today

- Patients are connecting with the DHAT
 - Children and old ladies love Ben
 - Ben connects with his patients on a very personal level
- Screenings and oral health education available at the residential treatment facility
- Focus on bringing more kids into care
- Focus on increased outreach opportunities in partnership with other members of the dental team.





Skagit Valley College and Swinomish Indian Tribe Collaboration



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ADTEP/Illisagvik Education program is the **gold** standard for Dental Therapy Training

- With the ANTHC/Illisagvik program as the basis of our education program, we are making a **conscious decision** to ensure accessibility for tribal members, and other underrepresented groups in the health professions.



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Marissa Gardner
CTCLUSI,
Class of 2018



Jason Mecum
Coquille,
Class of 2018



Alex Jones
Coquille,
Class of 2018

DHATs starting their
preceptorships in Oregon
and WA



Students from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho in the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program, class of 2019



Angela Johnson (First Nations), Lummi, Class of 2019



Anna Degraffenreid, Coeur d'Alene, Class of 2019



Asiah Gonzalez, Swinomish, Class of 2019



Sarah Chagnon, Swinomish, Class of 2019

Inga Weddle, Tulalip, class of 2020



Arielle Cawston, Colville, Class of 2019



Avena Finkbonner, Lummi, Class of 2019



Kari Douglass (Chickasaw), NARA Dental Clinic, Class of 2019



Questions?

www.NPAIHB.org/NDTI

