

Dental Education, Prevention, Collaboration and Outreach in North Dakota

The North Dakota Dental Association firmly believes that all North Dakotans – regardless of their socioeconomic status – deserve quality dental care from the highest-trained professionals. With that driving determination, NDDA continuously partners with organizations, state health officials and North Dakota’s dental community to provide education, preventive care and dental treatment to reach as many in need as possible.

Programs and partnerships currently in place include:

256
ND HEALTH PROVIDERS PARTICIPATED



Smiles for Life – 256 North Dakota health providers and 54 clinics have participated since 2014. Smiles for Life provides dental education and allows doctors, advanced practice RNs, physician assistants, RNs and licensed practical nurses who complete North Dakota dental board-approved curriculum to apply fluoride varnish.

 **112**
ND SCHOOLS

Seal!ND – 112 North Dakota schools currently participate – 49 served by private dental offices. Implemented by the North Dakota Dept. of Health Oral Health Program, Seal!ND provides low-income students with dental screening, sealant placements and fluoride varnish applications in their schools. The program was established in part due to HB 1176 in 2009, which allows dental hygienists to perform procedures in outreach settings authorized in advance by a dentist.

875
PATIENTS



Donated Dental Services (DDS) – 875 patients have received more than \$3 million in donated services from 126 dentists and 11 dental labs in North Dakota since 2011. Nearly 40% of North Dakota dentists volunteer. DDS provides free, comprehensive treatment to people with disabilities, the elderly or the medically fragile as part of the national Dental Lifeline Network.

 **\$17K**
IN DONATED SERVICES

Give Kids a Smile – Dental hygiene/assistant students and pediatric dentist volunteers provided more than \$17,000 worth of services to North Dakota children in 2018. North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS), through its Allied Dental Education program, participates each year in this national program that provides screenings, cleanings, sealants and other dental treatments to in-need children.

73%
OF PATIENTS HAD NO INSURANCE



Mission of Mercy (MOM) – 110 dentists, 48 hygienists, 105 dental assistants and 4 lab techs provided an estimated \$564,964 of dental care for 916 individuals. 73% of patients served reported having no dental insurance. A program to provide free dental care to anyone in need, North Dakota’s first MOM was held Sept. 28-29, 2018, in Bismarck. Treatments included extractions, replacement front teeth, root canals, fillings, cleanings and sealants.



Nonprofit Public Health Dental Clinics – 5 clinics, in Bismarck, Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo, serve thousands of patients each year. Clinics include Bridging the Dental Gap, Family HealthCare, Northland Community Health Center Dental Clinic, Valley Community Health Centers Dental Clinic and the Red River Valley Dental Access Project. These clinics and private practice dentists partner with the North Dakota Dept. of Health Oral Health Program to help provide dental care to older adults at long-term care facilities across North Dakota.

ER Diversion – Patients presenting for dental issues at Sanford Health emergency rooms in Fargo and Bismarck are referred to non-profit clinics for next-day care. Clinics are staffed in part by volunteer community dentists and oral surgeons, and backed up by local dentists.



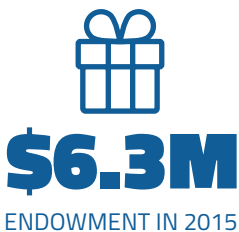
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile – 1,001 children in western North Dakota received \$572,868 worth of dental care in 2017. The state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic is owned and operated by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Bismarck. Nonprofit clinic Bridging the Dental Gap is the clinical manager. A school-based sealant program served an additional 930 children in 2017. Priority service areas include low-income students, Head Start programs, American Indian reservations and community health centers without dental clinics.

Take Five More – 75 North Dakota dentists agreed to increase the number of Medicaid-eligible patients through the Take Five More initiative in 2015, although Medicaid reimbursement fees for dentists are less than the cost of providing care.



Loan Repayment – North Dakota licenses 20-30 new dentists each year and leads the nation in dentist in-migration, due in part to its loan repayment programs. Most dental school graduates have an average of \$250,000 in debt. By providing state and federally financed repayment programs, North Dakota is successfully incentivizing young dentists to serve low-income patients, work in nonprofit clinics and practice in rural or underserved areas.

Collaboration with Tribal Communities – The North Dakota Dental Association networks with local dentists to boost IHS dental workforce and address the arduous credentialing process. Outreach events coordinated by NDDA and local dentists provide care for in-need children.



Continuous Overall Outreach – The North Dakota Dental Foundation was boosted with a \$6.3 million endowment in 2015 with remainder funds from the dissolution of Dental Services Corporation. NDDF works with partners across North Dakota to remove barriers to dental care, provide prevention and education and ensure an adequate supply of dental staff are available.

Maximizing Current Workforce – Rules passed in 2014 allow registered dental hygienists and assistants with additional training to perform expanded duties under a dentist's supervision. These duties include filling cavities after a dentist prepares them. Allowing and incentivizing hygienists to perform duties without a dentist present, and facilitating reimbursement for case management, expands outreach to rural settings, schools and long-term care facilities.