

Native Dental Therapy Initiative Update

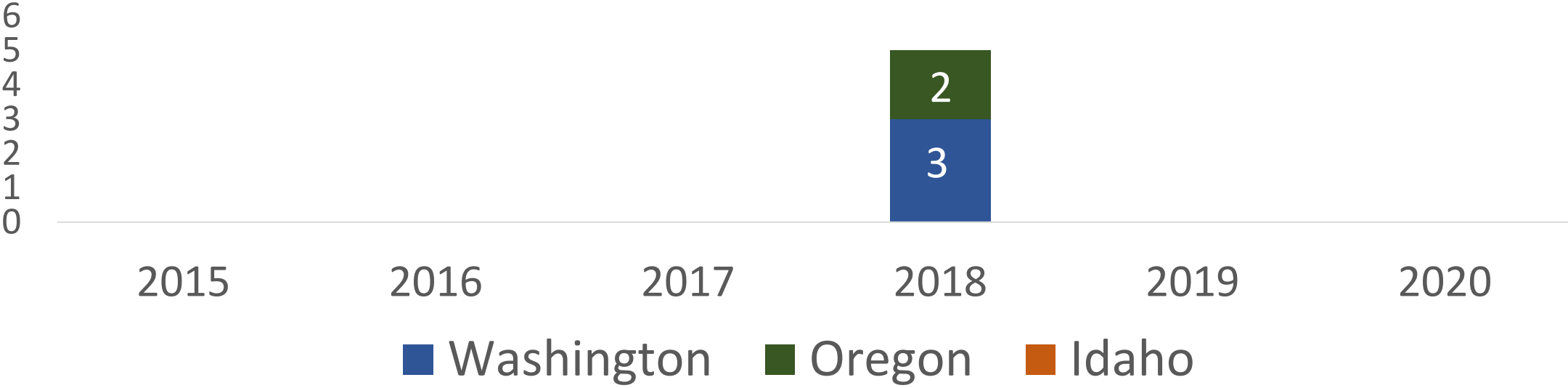
Miranda Davis, DDS, MPH
Native Dental Therapy Initiative Project Director
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board

Portland Area Dental Meeting
Tigard, OR
May 15, 2019



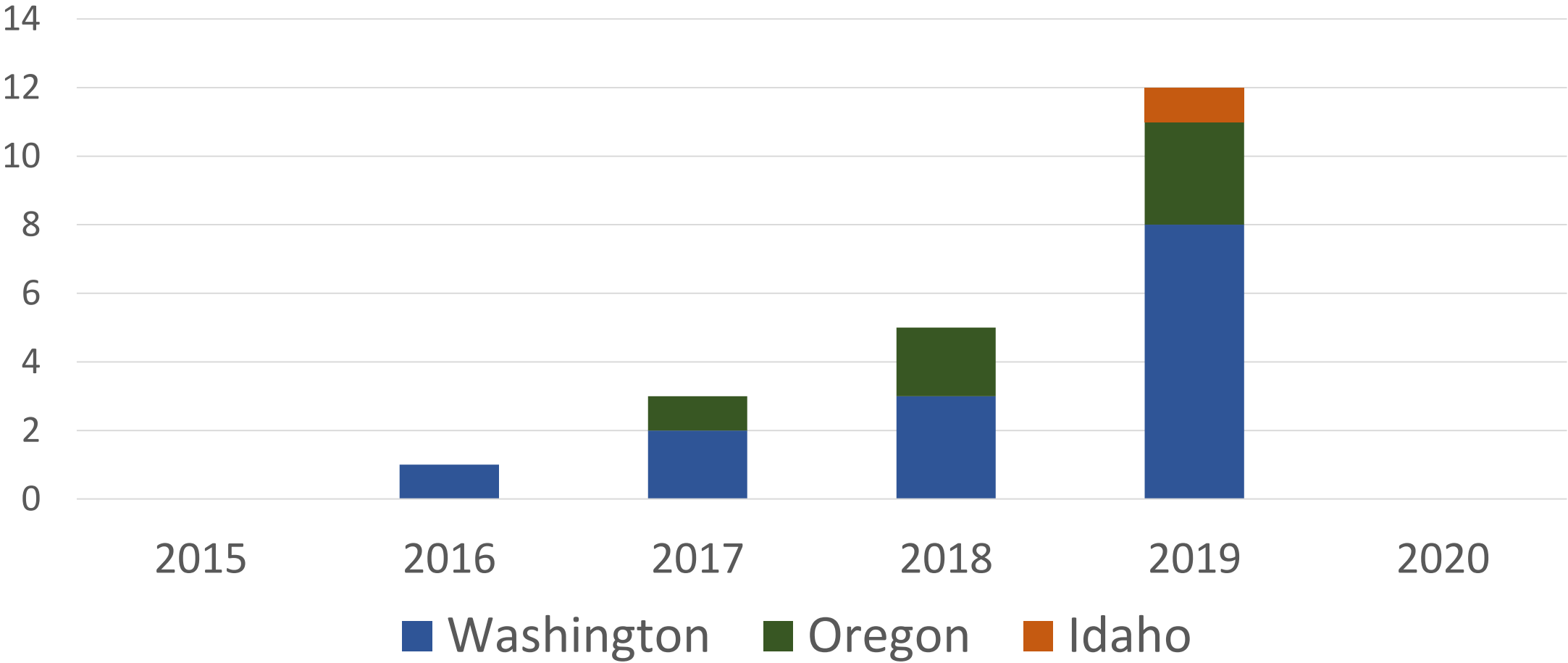
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Dental Therapists Working in Portland Area



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Dental Therapists Working in Portland Area



What is a Dental Therapist?

A primary oral health care provider and an integral part of the dental team.

What do they do?

Focus on **preventive** oral health care **AND** treat dental disease.

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

How do they do it?

Receive as much training as dentists, or more, for procedures in their scope.

Held to the same high standard of care to which dentists are held.

Must be licensed or certified (depending on jurisdiction).

Work within the team, under license of a supervising dentist.



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**Different
Providers**

**Different
Education**

Dental Therapists

NEED TO KNOW

Limited scope, 46 procedures

Supervised

Prevention oriented team
approach

Accessible to students in
target populations

Culturally competent

Patient centered

Dentists

NEED to know+ nice to know

Large scope, 500+

Team leader

Surgically oriented

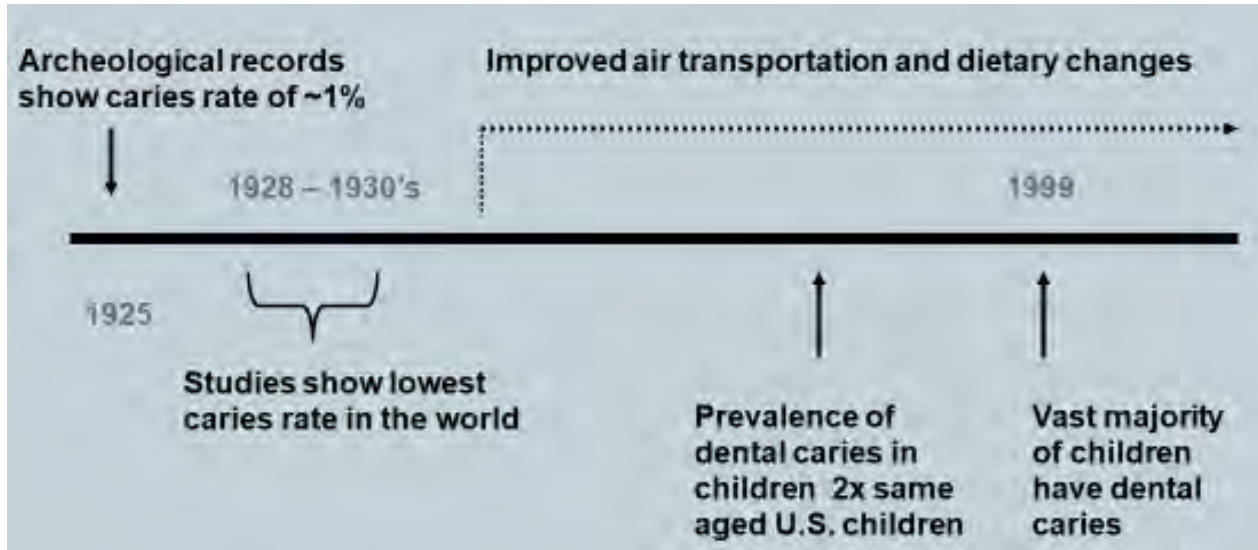
Education is difficult to
access, especially for
minorities

Struggling to address cultural
competency

Practice centered



A Brief History of Dental Therapy



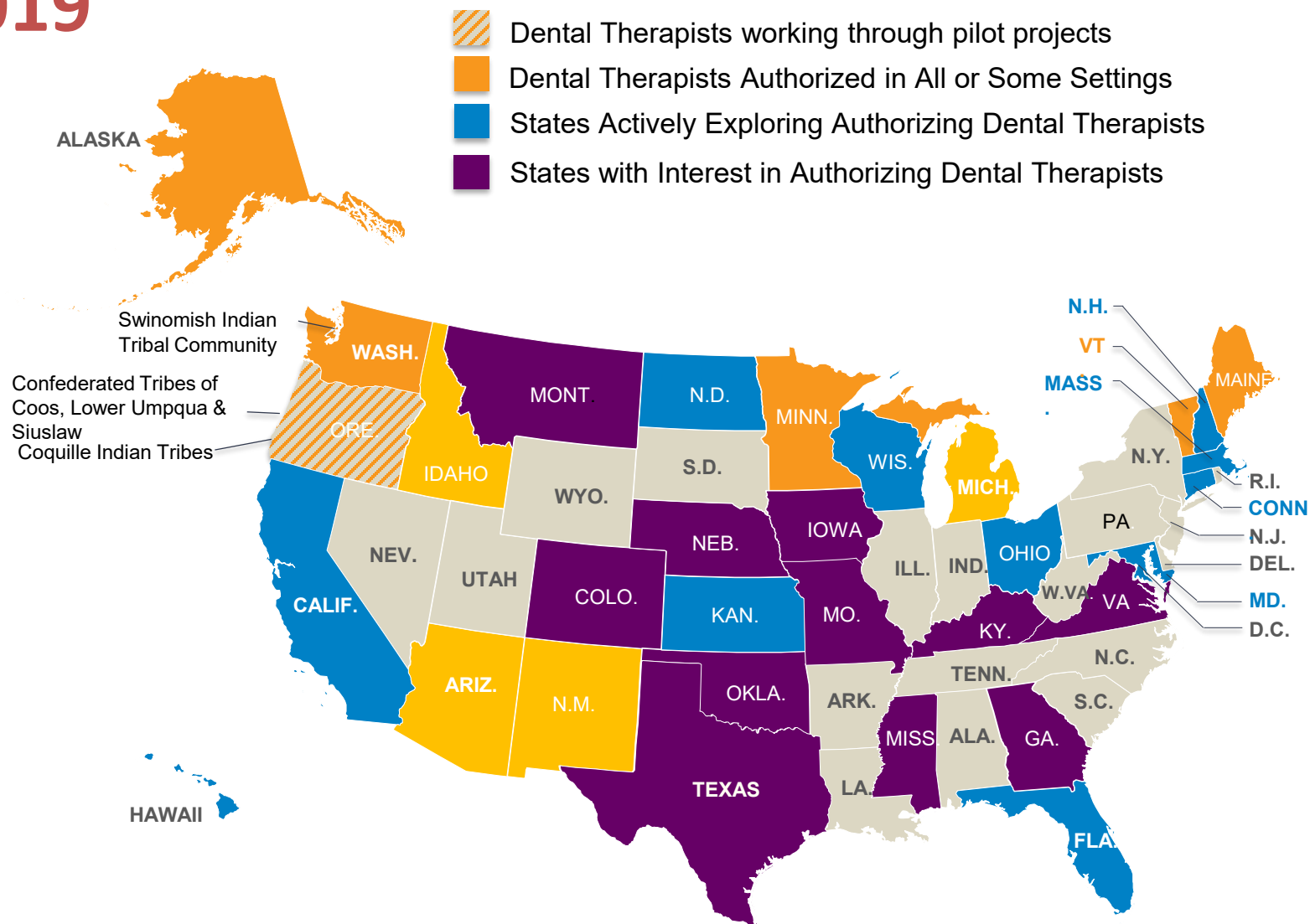
- Since 1921 in New Zealand
- NZ program a success!
- Now dental therapists are employed in **54** countries
- 2000: Alaska tribal leaders seek solution to oral health crisis

- 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 10 US states

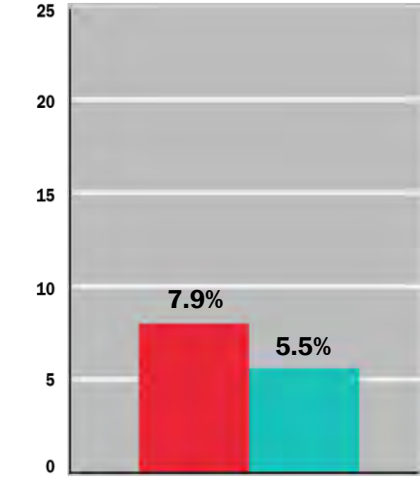


Momentum for Dental Therapists

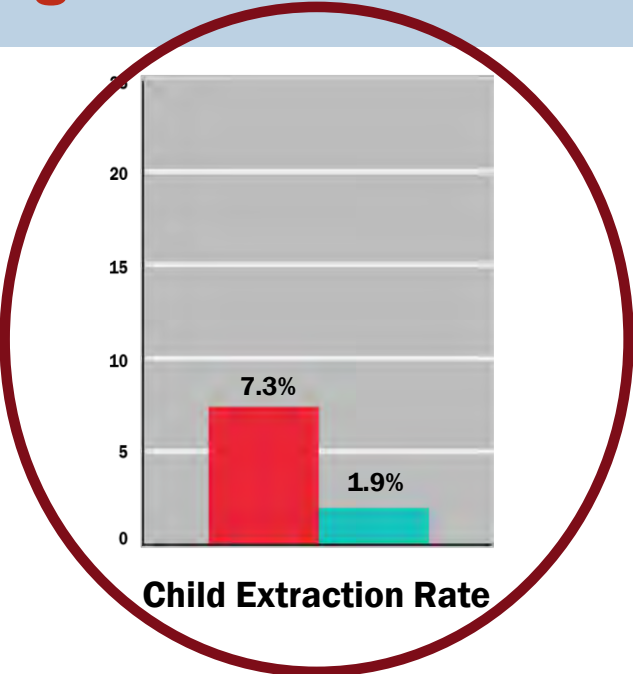
2019



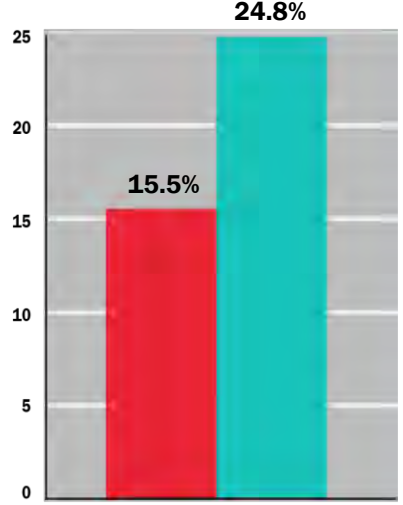
Dental Therapy is Working!



Child General Anesthesia Rate

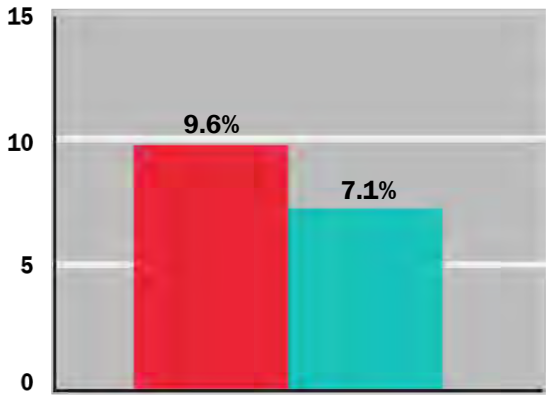


Child Extraction Rate

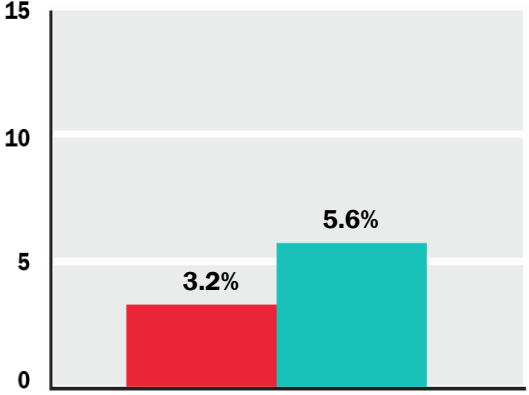


Child Preventative Care

No DT Communities **High DT Communities**



Adult Extraction Rate



Adult Preventative Care

Source: Chi, D. L., Lenaker, D., Mancl, L., Dunbar, M., Babb, M. (2018). Dental therapists linked to improved dental outcomes for Alaska Native communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, 78(2), 175-182.

Dental Therapy:

- Expands care for tribal communities that is:
 - Accessible
 - Consistent
 - High quality
 - Culturally competent
 - Cost effective
 - From their own community
- Grows the number of AI/AN oral health care providers
- Creates an oral health team that is more efficient and effective

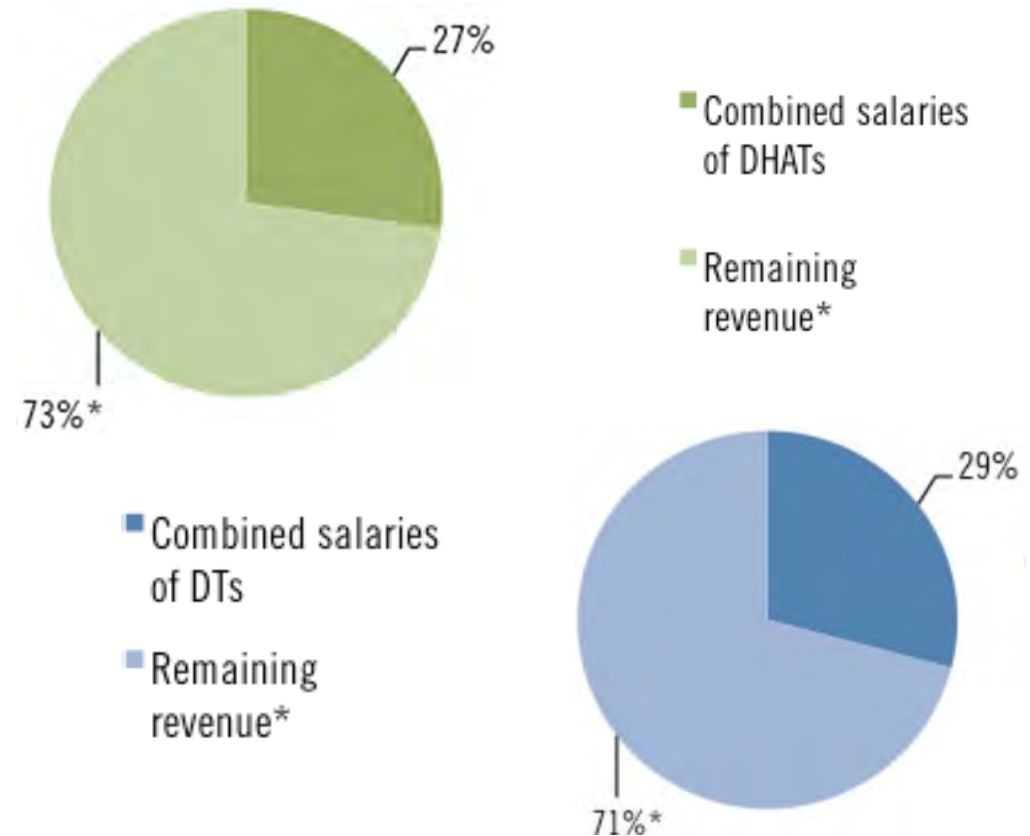


Dental therapist Chelsea Shoemaker,
with Patient



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



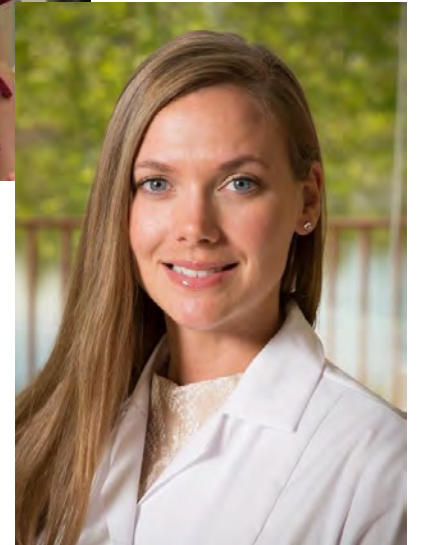
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CTCLUSI Today

- Naomi practicing under general supervision
 - Will be out in the community with Head Start
- Marissa in preceptorship
- Passed 2018 Oregon Health Authority site visit with flying colors
- Year 1 report (including preceptorships) shows:
 - Increase in patients seen (7%)
 - Increase in procedures done (12%)
 - Increase in Level 4 and 5 procedures done
 - High patient satisfaction
- 1st half of year 2 report (including preceptorship):
 - On track to nearly triple number of patients seen this year compared to baseline year



Naomi Petrie
CTCLUSI,
Class of 2017



Marissa Gardner
CTCLUSI,
Class of 2018



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CTCLUSI Patient Comments

- 2/3 of patients say CTCLUSI clinic is better than private clinics
 - 8% say it's not as good, the rest feel it's the same.

Comments include:

- I feel comfortable that they are familiar with Native Americans and are not prejudiced.
- I felt my concerns were heard. I was treated like family, not a credit card.
- The care at CTCLUSI is more personal. The staff is friendly and show genuine care for the patient and knowledge when it comes to ancestry.
- Care is respectful and I just feel better being here. They don't make me feel bad.
- It's great to know the people who work on you! It was great to have [a dental therapist] who was a young person going through a program to become an awesome adult.
- CTCLUSI has always been great with my children. They are patient and understand the difference with youth and native teeth.



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NARA

- In one year after adding a dental therapist:
 - 57% increase in patients seen at clinic
 - 105% increase in young patients seen at clinic
 - High patient satisfaction with care provided by dental therapist
- Recently hired a new dentist and a new clinic manager
- Dental therapist Kari will begin this year



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



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Swinomish Today

- Increase in patients seen
- Completing treatment plans faster
- Dentists doing almost 50% more crown, bridge, and partials
- More efficient “urgent” care time
- Daniel is out in the community every week
 - Head Start Program: brushing and flossing
 - Delivering meals to elders in the community
- Two Swinomish Dental Therapy students are set to graduate from the ADTEP class of 2019!



Dental therapist Daniel Kennedy and patient



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Port Gamble S'Klallam Today

- Wait time is almost gone
- Rochelle Ferry (Roz) is out in the community
 - Head Start Program
 - Exams and sealants
 - Home Visits with Home Health Nurse
 - elders and diabetic population,
 - Exams, listening and bringing people BACK into care
- Roz is the only full time provider at the clinic
- The community is happy to see Roz
- More elders than ever before are getting care.



Dental therapist Rochelle Ferry



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Lower Elwha

- Reorganizing after admin and staff changes
- Jason is continuing preceptorship
- Staff and patients love Jason. He fits in well with the dental team.



Jason Mecum
Coquille,
Class of 2018



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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



Skagit Valley College and Swinomish Tribe Collaborate to form WDTEP



Skagit Valley College



Swinomish Dental Clinic, 2019



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Accomplishments:

- Dental Therapy is an established and growing profession in the Portland Area
- 8 current students and four graduated students from Portland Area
- Pilot Project in Oregon on track
- Funding secured for DT education program in WA
- Funding secured for next 3 years of NDTI project
- Legislation passed in WA (2017) and ID (2019)
- Medicaid reimbursement approved (6.5M)
- Strong infrastructure to support dental therapists



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2019 Goals



Swinomish Dental Clinic, 2019

- Support clinics integrating DT into dental team
- DTEP at SVC: hire director, curriculum, CODA
- Lay groundwork for legislation in Oregon
- Continued success for Oregon Pilot Project
- OR Tribes adding new clinics (Coquille, possibly Cow Creek)
- Work toward implementing a full CHAP program



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Please contact us!

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Native Dental Therapy Initiative

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Questions?

www.NPAIHB.org/NDTI

