

HOW ARE WASHINGTONIANS BEING LEFT BEHIND?

Since 2011, when the first bill to authorize dental therapists in Washington was introduced, our most vulnerable populations have experienced stagnant or declining oral health care access and outcomes.

In the past 10 years:

Significant **oral health inequities persist** for children in low income households and BIPOC children.

The rate of Medicaid-covered adults accessing dental services has **stagnated at only 25% eligible patients.**

Dental health professional shortage areas **increased from 35 to 37 counties** that do not have enough providers to meet the need for care.

2011

The first Dental Therapy bill is introduced in **Washington** State.

2017

Enrolled SSB 5079 passes in **Washington**, allowing dental therapists to practice on federally designated tribal land.

2021

THE DENTAL THERAPY TASK FORCE IS PROPOSED TO BRING STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER TO SEEK EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BRING DENTAL THERAPY TO ALL WASHINGTONIANS.



2003

Alaska tribes greenlight dental therapist training, the first cohort of dental therapists begin training in New Zealand.



2005

Dental therapists begin providing care in **Alaska**.



2007

The first US dental therapy education program opens in **Alaska**.



2009

Minnesota becomes the first state to pass dental therapy legislation.



2011

First **Minnesota** dental therapy class to graduate begins work.



2014

Maine passes dental therapy bill.



2015

Commission on Dental Accreditation guidelines for dental therapy training programs approved.

Oregon tribal dental therapy pilot approved.



2016

Vermont passes dental therapy bill.



2017

77 **Minnesota** dental therapists provide more than 100,000 visits.



2018

Arizona and **Michigan** enact dental therapy laws.



2019

Connecticut, Nevada, and New Mexico pass dental therapy bills. **Idaho** authorizes Dental Therapists to practice on federally designated tribal land.



2020

Commission on Dental Accreditation grants accreditation to the Alaska Dental Therapy Education Program at Iłisaġvik College.



2021

American Public Health Association, the National Rural Health Association & over 100 other groups announce support for dental therapists.



Washington
DENTAL ACCESS
Campaign