

Dental Health Aide Therapist Educational Program

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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DHAT Scope of Practice

Diagnosis and Treatment Planning, Prevention, Basic Hygiene, Radiographs, Infection Control, Restorative, Pediatric, Urgent Care, **Extractions**, Community Projects, Clinic Management, Equipment Repair and Maintenance, Referral Process

- **All ages**
- **General Supervision**
- Part of a **team** of dental and medical providers



DHAT, Ben Steward, examining patient

Alaska DHAT Educational Program

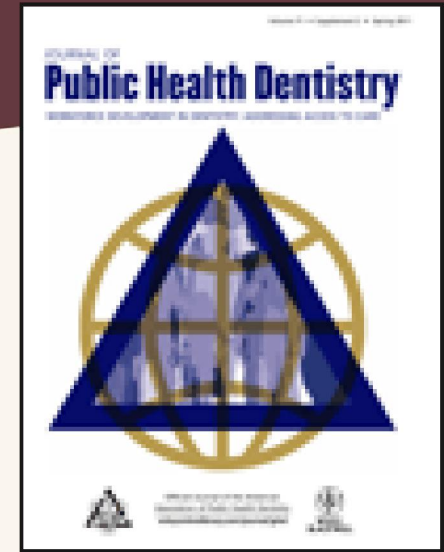
- Initially sent students to NZ 2003-2006
- Established AK program in 2007
- 3 graduated classes from NZ, 5 from AK
- AK program has 64% completion rate of students
 - US 2-year College completion rates ave. 29.1%
- 35 total students successfully graduated
- 29 DHAT still certified or in preceptorships
 - 10 year retention rate of providers in field = 83%





American Association of Public Health Dentistry

- **Proposed curriculum guidelines for dental therapy**
 - Expert panel of dental academics and policy makers
 - Year long project, 2010-2011
 - Reviewed models from NZ, Canada, UK, and Alaska
 - Two year program with track for hygienists (career ladder)
 - Results published in peer reviewed Journal of Public Health Dentistry



All documents are located on the WK Kellogg Foundation website (www.WKKF.org) or online at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.2011.71.issue-s2/issuetoc>



RTI Evaluation



The Dental Health Aide Therapist program works, as demonstrated by our recent program evaluation. Our therapists are providing safe, competent care to our communities.

- ANTHC news release Nov. 23, 2010

Evaluators observed dental therapists performing a variety of restorative procedures, observed few deficiencies and found dental therapists were technically competent to perform the procedures within their scope of their work.

- W.K. Kellogg Foundation, news release Oct. 26, 2010



Research Triangle Institute Clinical Evaluation

Areas of practice assessment

- Clinical technical performance
- Patient satisfaction
- Oral health status
- Record-based process measures & evaluation of facilities
- Implementation of community based prevention plans/programs



Research Triangle Institute Clinical Evaluation

Summary of findings

- Technically competent to perform procedures within their scope of practice
- Providing care safely and appropriately under general supervision of dentists
- Successfully treating cavities and helping relieve pain for patients without previous access to regular care
- Patient satisfaction high
- Well accepted in tribal villages



Therapist & dentist performance: RTI Study results

Evaluation of amalgam restorations placed by therapists and dentists.

RESTORATIONS, ACCORDING TO PERSONNEL PLACING THEM	SITE					
	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Placed by Therapist						
Number evaluated	15	17	13	3	36	84
Number with deficiencies	5	2	1	0	2	10
TOTAL DEFICIENCIES	5	2	1	0	2	10
Placed by Dentist						
Number evaluated	8	0	2	16	15	41
Number with deficiencies	2	0	1	4	2	9
TOTAL DEFICIENCIES	2	0	1	6	2	11

- No Statistical differences in quality of amalgam restorations placed by DHATs and dentists



Therapist & dentist performance: RTI Study results

Evaluation of composite restorations placed by therapists and dentists.

RESTORATIONS, ACCORDING TO PERSONNEL PLACING THEM	SITE					
	A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
Placed by Therapist						
Number evaluated	10	1	7	24	5	47
Number with deficiencies	2	0	2	2	1	7
TOTAL DEFICIENCIES	2	0	6	3	1	12
Placed by Dentist						
Number evaluated	17	1	2	5	0	25
Number with deficiencies	1	0	2	0	0	3
TOTAL DEFICIENCIES	1	0	3	0	0	4

- No statistical differences in quality of composite restorations placed by DHATs and dentists



Alaska Dental Therapist Program: RTI Evaluation Report



www.wkkf.org/knowledge-center/resources/2010/10/Alaska-Dental-Therapist-Program-RTI-Evaluation-Report.aspx



“Economic Viability of Dental Therapists”

“More than 50 percent of the total number of procedures performed by DHATs, DTs and ADTs were preventive and evaluative in nature. This suggests that these providers not only provide definitive treatment (restorations) but also provide access to evaluation of oral health needs, early intervention and prevention.”*



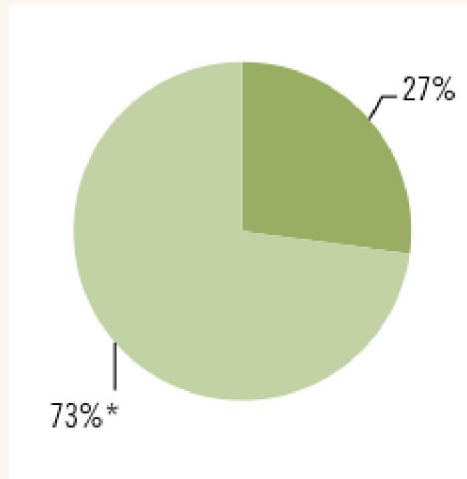
*May 2013 Prepared by: Frances M. Kim, DDS, DrPH
for Community Catalyst

DHAT are well suited to work with kids providing early intervention and prevention



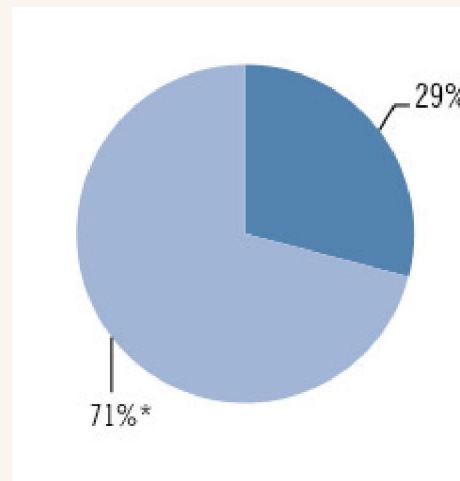
Total Revenue Generated by Dental Health Aide Therapists, Advanced Dental Therapists and Dental Therapists

Dental Health Aide Therapists



- Combined salaries of DHATs
- Remaining revenue*

Advanced Dental Therapists and Dental Therapists



- Combined salaries of DTs
- Remaining revenue*

From: "Economic Viability of Dental Therapists," May 2013, Prepared by: Frances M. Kim, DDS, DrPH for Community Catalyst



“A Review of the Global Literature on Dental Therapists”

Conclusions of review include:

- Dental therapists included in the oral health workforce have the potential to decrease the cost of care, specifically for children.
- Dental therapists’ scope of practice is primarily in caring for children, although several countries permit caring for adults.
- Dental therapists improve access to care, specifically for children.
- Dental therapists have a record of providing oral health care safely.
- The public values the role of dental therapists in the oral health workforce.

Prepared by: David A. Nash, Jay W. Friedman, Kavita R. Mathu-Muju, Peter G. Robinson, Julie Satur, Susan Moffat, Rosemary Kardos, Edward C.M. Lo, Anthony H.H. Wong, Nasruddin Jaafar, Jos van den Heuvel, Prathip Phantumvanit, Eu Oy Chu, Rahul Naidu, Lesley Naidoo, Irving McKenzie and Eshani Fernando

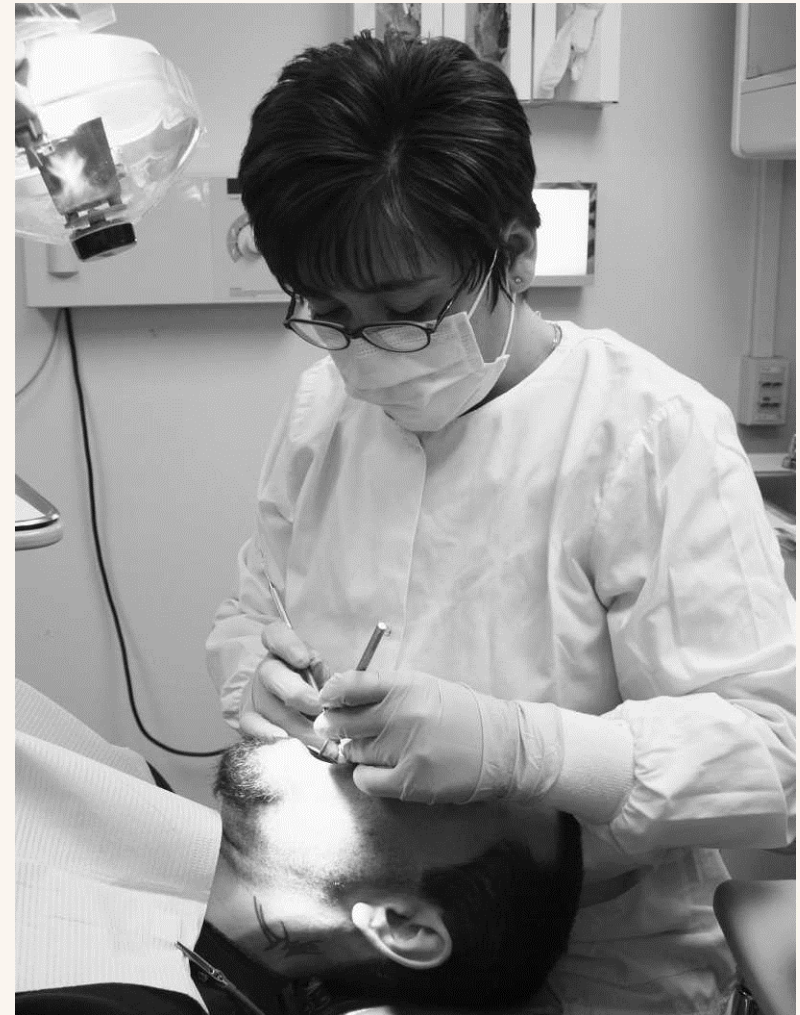
Supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation



Improved Access and Quality

DHAT Aurora Johnson,
NZ Educated

- >40,000 people in rural AK now have direct access to care
- Living and working where there have never been dentists before
- Continuity of care
 - Higher level of care possible
 - Dentist working up to their licensure



Quality Assurance in DHAT- The Criteria

“Regardless of the specific title everyone certified under the community health aide program has the same basic responsibility: ***to improve the health status among Alaska Natives living in rural Alaska.***”

- CHAPCB Standards amended June 19, 2008 final
 - Article 40. Findings, Sec. 1.40.010(2)



Health Aides



DHA Certification

- ***After coursework-***
 - preceptorship
 - Direct supervision
- ***Standing orders-***
 - Limits for general supervision
- ***Recertification-***
 - Every two years
 - CDE- 24 hours
 - Direct observation of all technical skills in scope.



DHAT students Bernadette Charles and Tambre Guido with supervising dentist Edwin Allgair, 2010

