New Educational Models for a New Workforce: Oral Health

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February 28, 2011
In Texas (2009):

• Dentists:
  • 86% (9401/10,977) are general dentists
  • 3 dental schools in Texas (UT-Houston, UT-San Antonio, Texas A&M-Baylor)

• Dental Hygienists:
  • 9,820 practicing dental hygienists
  • 23 dental hygiene programs in Texas
Figure 46. Dentists per 100,000 Population, U.S. and Texas, 1981-2009

Source: Texas State Board of Dental Examiners; HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions and others, see page 8. Texas data include all licensed, active, in-state, non-federal dentists; US data may vary.

Oral Health Workforce Needs
Figure 50. Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population, U.S. and Texas, 1981-2009

Dental Hygienists per 100,000 Population

Year

1981 1983 1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

Texas Dental Hygienists
U.S. Dental Hygienists

Source: Texas State Board of Dental Examiners; HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions and others; see page 8. Texas data include all licensed, active, in-state dental hygienists; US data may vary.

Oral Health Workforce Needs
Dental Hygiene:
• 2-year program following 0-2 years of college prerequisites

Dentistry:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-dental</th>
<th>Dental School</th>
<th>Residency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current U.S. Model</td>
<td>3-4 years</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible 6+1 Model</td>
<td>Combined 6 years</td>
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<td>Required 1 year</td>
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“Mid-level” Providers:
• Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) - Alaska, 2003
• Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) - ADA, 2006
• Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) – ADHA
• Dental Therapist (DT)/Advanced Dental Therapist (ADT) - 2009

Oral Health Workforce Education
• Need a plan in collaboration with organized dentistry that addresses access to care
• Consider workforce models that can be supported educationally, and that are effective and sustainable in practice
• Develop funding models for changes to/new educational programs
• Increase enrollment and develop incentives for practitioners to work in underserved areas
Thank you!