



NTDC is Dec. 8-10 in Sacramento.
Registration Opens Aug. 25th.

Mark your calendars for August 25th! That's when registration opens for the National Dental Therapy Conference, which takes place Dec. 8-10, 2025 in Sacramento, California. But before then -- let us know if you would like to be a sponsor or exhibitor. We're actively seeking sponsors and exhibitors and can tailor packages to fit your needs.

We hope you're having a great summer. See you at NDTC!

- American Dental Therapy Association

National Dental Therapy Conference- 2025

Just 4 months until NDTC!

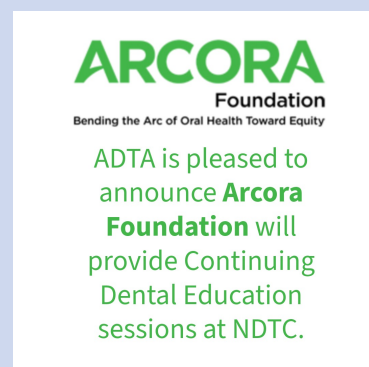
We're gearing up for the National Dental Therapy Conference and are excited to share some of the opportunities we've created. Co-Chaired by [The American Dental Therapy Association](#), [Community Catalyst](#) and [COHEC](#), the 2025 National Dental Therapy Conference takes place in Sacramento, California December 8-10, 2025.

A don't-miss, free CDE opportunity Dec. 8

A special note for **dental therapists** and other oral healthcare providers: [Arcora Foundation](#) will provide several ADA CERP continuing dental education sessions during the conference! (The clinical CDE sessions offered will meet all dental therapy credentialing requirements.) On Dec. 8, don't miss Arcora's session on the clinical **Medical Management of Caries** (this session will meet the requirements of state dental therapy license and CHAP Certification requirements).

Conference at a glance

Day 1 (Dec. 8): a pre-conference day featuring California-specific sessions on statewide and Indian Country policy, advocacy and implementation. There will be a hands-on



training course related to Minimally Invasive Dentistry. We'll also join together as dental therapists and allies to talk about how the ADTA can support the workforce.

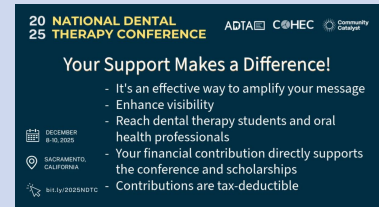
Day 2 (Dec. 9): a full day with breakout sessions.

Day 3 (Dec.10): a half day with a morning plenary session.

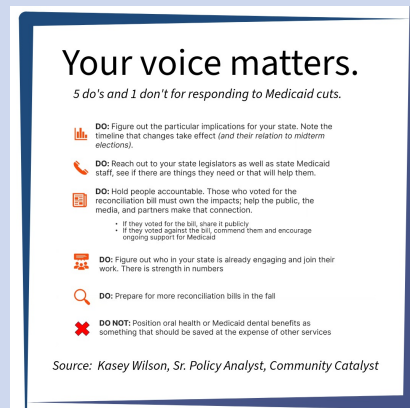


Sponsorship: Your dollars help sustain us!

We can't say it enough -- conference sponsors and exhibitors are part of why NDTC is so great. Not only does it offer excellent exposure for you, but your dollars directly support our ability to offer travel scholarships, educational opportunities and conference expenses. Look for more details in our separate sponsorship / exhibitor email.



Legislative Update



Oral Health Threats and Opportunities in Medicaid

On June 29, ADTA hosted a webinar with Kasey Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst with the Dental Access Project at Community Catalyst. In case you missed it, here's a brief recap of how the Big Beautiful Bill, passed into law earlier this summer, is likely to affect our profession.

Wilson discussed the impact of recent federal policies on Medicaid, highlighting the largest cuts since its inception. She emphasized that Medicaid is crucial for dental care, covering 23 million adults, including many low-income and elderly

individuals. The new law introduces work requirements, cost-sharing, and increased eligibility checks, which could strain state budgets and lead to cuts in optional Medicaid services like adult dental benefits.

So, what can you do about it? Wilson encourages individuals concerned about these changes to speak up. Giving elected officials feedback on how their actions will hurt or help dental therapy as a profession, and our patients, helps advocate for access to care and helps hold decision makers accountable. Just make sure that if you're doing something on behalf of your employer, or under the banner of your employer, you check before you do it as it can be considered lobbying.

Additional Resources related to federal policies and Medicaid:

- [Tracking Health Provisions in the 2025 Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill](#)
- [Federal Medicaid Cuts Threaten State Dental Benefits: Lessons from 6 States](#)

Compensation Survey Update

This important survey needs more data to ensure we deliver meaningful findings. With that in mind, be on the lookout for another survey questionnaire in the weeks ahead. Your participation is needed and valued! ADTA has partnered with Carequest Institute for Oral Health to administer this follow-up survey and capture important points we were unable to capture in 2024.

In the News



Sweet Home, Oregon, will discontinue adding fluoride to its public drinking water this month, following a City Council vote in early July to enact an ordinance.

Fluoridation had been a long-standing practice since 1964 after a vote by residents. The decision stems in part from the cost of running the system—approximately \$20,000 annually—being weighed against the city's \$7.7 million general fund for 2025–26. While some community members called for a public vote, the mayor noted that many residents preferred a council-led decision. The ordinance takes effect August 7, 2025.



The British Dental Journal has an interesting article out this month entitled **“Cultivating a resilient future workforce.”** In the article, the British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) highlights a growing crisis in dental therapy (DTh) and hygiene (DH) training, as outlined in the **March 2025 editorial “Therapy in jeopardy?” by Professor Philip Preshaw.**

Despite recognition of the need to expand dental therapy education within the NHS Long-Term Workforce Plan (2023), BSDHT raises concerns that DTh and DH programs are systematically underfunded compared to dental (BDS/BChD) training, leading to course closures—especially in institutions not co-located with dental schools—and threatening the future workforce pipeline. The BSDHT calls for equitable investment in academic leadership and research capacity for dental therapists to ensure profession-led progress and sustainability

A mule, a mission, and improved oral health for aging seniors.



Mike Siddall, a farrier and mule wrangler, has embarked on a month-long journey across Iowa—riding a mule and leading a mammoth donkey—to draw attention to oral hygiene needs among residents of long-term care facilities.

The trek, which began near Rock Valley along U.S. Highway 18, serves to promote his wife Anita's nonprofit, Toothbrushers and Balaam's Donkey, aimed at providing oral-care assistance to underserved populations. Siddall's unusual mode of travel is capturing attention and raising awareness for the cause.

Upcoming Opportunities

Webinar: Building Oral Health Policy Framework for Tribal Nations

Join a free webinar **August 18, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. (PST)** hosted by Southern Plains Tribal Health Board's Native Oral Health Network (NOHN). This webinar will explore designing and implementing effective, culturally grounded oral health policy frameworks that serve the unique needs of Tribal Nations in Oklahoma and beyond. Speakers will include Indigenous health leaders and policy advocates who will break down the current landscape.

Participants will gain insights into successful tribal initiatives, policy levers that actually move the needle, and strategies to advocate for sustainable, community-driven solutions. Whether you work in health administration, tribal governance, public health, or policy reform, this session will empower you with actionable knowledge to support strong smiles across Indian Country.

[Register here.](#)

Minnesota Dental Therapy Association Conference 2025

The 2025 MDTA Conference is where dental professionals gather, learn, network, and discover the world of dental therapy. This year, it will feature six presentations on a variety of dental-themed topics. Attendees can obtain up to 7 CE credits from this event.

Learn more about MDTA 2025 [here](#).

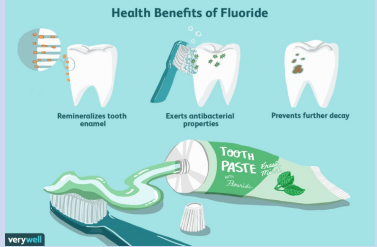
On Demand: Arcora - "Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists"

The "Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists Course" will help you become more familiar with the Dental Therapist role, their responsibilities and education, and the benefits they bring to clinics that support optimizing dental teams. By completing this course you will receive 3 Continuing Dental Education Credits. (Note: this course specifically addresses singularly credentialed Dental Therapists. If you have an education resource that would help support integrating dual licensed dental therapists, [please reach out!](#))

[Register here.](#)

We're recruiting director positions for terms beginning in Jan. 2026!

[Joining the ADTA Board of Directors](#) is a great way to help shape the future of dental therapy while growing your leadership skills. We're at our best when we're fully represented by providers and students who are committed to excellence, advocacy and growth. Learn more [here](#). If you think you might be interested, but aren't ready to commit, please fill out the [Board Member Interest Form](#) so that 1) we know you're thinking about it, and 2) we can start talking with you about what's involved and answer any questions.



concerns about fluoride's safety. The article addresses how fluoride works, its benefits and risks in toothpaste, and alternatives. Read the full article [here](#).



ilikemyteeth.org

The Campaign for Dental Health, a program of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is dedicated to providing the public and policy makers with the evidence-based information and tools they need to promote and protect [community water fluoridation](#) as an important public health measure. The easy-to-navigate and aptly named website, ilikemyteeth.org, has facts about oral health and [preventive strategies like fluoride](#).



[Oral Health Learning Café](#)

The [Oral Health Learning Café](#), part of the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, is a group of stakeholders working on medical-dental integration. An informal, supportive space where professionals can engage with others and learn. the café includes a discussion list and monthly webinars that provide information about oral health programs and services (e.g., integrating oral health care and primary care) throughout the country and share strategies, challenges, lessons learned, and resources.

On-Demand Learning



ADTA Learning Management System - ADTA Members and Education Subscribers receive access to On Demand Webinars with CE credit as part of their membership benefits, excluding specialty webinars and online workshops.

If you are a current ADTA member or education subscriber, [click here](#) to login to your member account. Once you have logged in, click on the Learning Management System button to gain

access to online programs.

Non-Members can purchase individual webinars using the registration form below. Interested in saving money? Join the ADTA as a member or Education subscriber. [Click here](#) to review pricing and benefits.

To access on demand webinars, click here.

More Resources

[Arcora Foundation](#) is an ADA CERP recognized provider, and another great resource for continuing education. Click [here](#) to access their library of courses, which includes the 1.5- CDE course (Oct. 2024) on [Minimally Invasive Dentistry: What It Is and Why it Works](#), the 1 CDE course (Sept. 2024) [Dental Care is Prenatal Care](#), and the 3 CDE credit course (February 2024) [Optimize Dental Teams with Dental Therapists](#).

The National Coalition Of Dentists for Health Equity has developed a [webinar series on the most accurate information on Dental Therapists](#). Knowledgeable and experienced researchers, practitioners and program administrators share findings regarding the education, supervision and quality of patient care provided by dental therapists. They also delineate financial information that dental practices need to use to determine whether dental therapists would be an asset to their clinical operations. [Access the webinar series here](#).

Elevate Oral Care's products provide valuable tools for implementing preventive measures and managing caries, which align with the principles of minimally invasive dentistry. [Sign up here](#) to schedule a staff meeting to learn more about what they offer.

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