

Join Us in Detroit for the ADTA Annual Conference 2026!



ADTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Rooted & Rising: Dental Therapy Education, Identity & Opportunity

REGISTER NOW!

**AUGUST 10-12TH
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

*Early bird registration pricing available
now through June 20th*

Up to 13 CDE available!

Brought to you by:



This August, dental therapists, educators, policymakers, advocates, and oral health leaders from across the country will come together in Detroit for ADTA's premier annual event. Over three days, attendees will explore emerging research, workforce innovations, policy developments, and strategies to expand access to oral healthcare in communities nationwide.

Whether you're a practicing dental therapist, student, educator, researcher, or supporter of the profession, the Annual Conference offers a unique opportunity to learn, connect, and help shape the future of dental therapy.

August 10–12, 2026

Detroit, Michigan

Conference attendees can look forward to:

- Inspiring presentations from national leaders and experts
- 13+ Continuing Dental Education Credits
- Networking with colleagues from across the country
- ADTA member business meetings and organizational updates
- Recognition of leaders advancing the profession of dental therapy

As dental therapy continues to gain momentum across the United States, there has never been a more important time to come together, share experiences, and strengthen our collective voice.

Early-bird registration is now open, and ADTA members receive a 20% discount on registration.

[Register Here](#)

From the ADTA Community



Explore ADTA's New Website!

We are excited to announce the launch of ADTA's newly redesigned website! The new site offers an enhanced user experience and serves as a central hub for information about dental therapy, membership, education, advocacy, events, and resources for oral health professionals.

Whether you're a current member, prospective dental therapist, educator, policymaker, or supporter of the profession, we invite you to explore the new

website and discover the latest news, resources, and opportunities available through ADTA.

Membership registration is once again available through the new platform, and we encourage both new and returning members to visit the site and stay connected with the growing dental therapy community.

[Visit the New ADTA Website](#)

If you have questions or feedback about the new website, please contact us at info@americandentaltherapyassociation.org

Planning for the Future of ADTA

This spring, the ADTA Board of Directors gathered in Seattle, Washington, for a two-day retreat dedicated to shaping the future of the association and the dental therapy profession. Held on May 19–20, the retreat brought Board of Directors, staff and contractors together to reflect on ADTA's progress, identify strategic priorities, and develop a roadmap for the organization's next chapter of growth and impact. The ADTA has contracted with [Be Culture](#) founders James Whitfield and Kristen Whitfield to facilitate the ADTA Strategic Plan.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the [Arcora Foundation](#) for sponsoring this important milestone for the association and investing in the future of dental therapy.



Dental Therapy Represented on Capitol Hill

Thanks to the support of CareQuest Institute for Oral Health and the OPEN Network, **ADTA Vice President Dana Obey** recently participated in the OPEN Hill Day advocacy event in Washington, D.C. During the event, Dana

joined policymakers, advocates, and oral health leaders from across the country to discuss equitable access to care and the role dental therapists play in strengthening the oral health workforce. ADTA is proud to have dental therapy represented in national conversations shaping the future of oral health access and advocacy.

Learn more about the OPEN Network [here](#).



ADTA Invited to New Jersey's State Oral Health Conference

Dental therapy will be part of the conversation at New Jersey's Second Annual Oral Health Conference on July 8, 2026. **ADTA Executive Director Kari Ann Kuntzelman** has been invited to speak on integrating dental therapy into the oral health workforce and the important role dental therapists play in expanding access to care.

ADTA is proud to have dental therapy represented in conversations shaping the future of oral health policy, workforce development, and health equity. If you'll be attending, be sure to stop by and hear from Kari!

Save the Date
New Jersey's Second Annual
Oral Health Conference
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
7:30 am – 5:00 pm
Participate in person (Plainsboro, NJ) or online!

It's Not Just About Teeth!

Dentistry Medicine Public Health Policy

Registration is opening soon for this **free** event.
Continuing education credits available.

NJHealth
New Jersey Department of Health

CS3452

ADTA Research Spotlight

Building the Evidence Base for Dental Therapy



Making the Case for Dental Therapists in the United States

Annals of Global Health (April 2026)

This article presents a global health perspective on dental therapy, positioning the profession as an evidence-based solution to persistent access challenges. The authors examine the evolution of dental therapy in the U.S., highlight demonstrated successes, and outline opportunities for future growth. A key feature: the article names specific barriers erected by organized dentistry while describing dental therapy as "one of the workforce's best practices globally."

Access the full article [here](#).

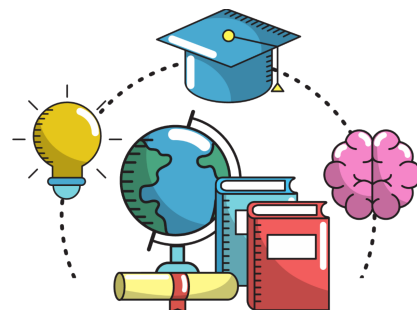
Dental Therapy in the United States as a Public Health Imperative: Perspectives From the Front Lines

Journal of Public Health Dentistry (March 2026)

This invited review brings together perspectives from leaders working directly in communities where dental therapists are making a measurable difference. The article focuses on how dental therapy addresses workforce shortages, expands access for tribal and rural populations, and supports prevention-focused care. By centering front-line experiences, the authors demonstrate why dental therapy remains an essential public health strategy for improving oral health outcomes nationwide.

Access the full article [here](#).

The Latest In Education



Recent developments in Oregon and Wisconsin highlight growing investments in dental therapy and oral health workforce education.

Pacific University Launches Oregon's First Dental Therapy Master's Program

Pacific University has officially launched its new Master of Science in Dental Therapy program following accreditation approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) in March 2026. The program is now the fourth CODA-accredited dental therapy program in the United States and only the second master's-level dental therapy program nationwide.

The program builds on Oregon's 2021 authorization of dental therapy and follows a successful pilot partnership between Pacific University and Willamette Dental Group, which helped train and license 17 dental therapists between 2020 and 2023.

The launch of this program represents an important milestone for dental therapy education and workforce development, helping expand pathways for future dental therapists while increasing access to oral healthcare in Oregon and beyond.



[Read More About the Program](#)

Wisconsin Expands Pathways into Dental Therapy

Wisconsin continues to invest in the future of dental therapy by launching the state's first Dental Therapy Associate Degree program at Northcentral Technical College (NTC). Developed in response to growing workforce shortages and access-to-care challenges, the program provides a new

pathway for licensed dental hygienists to expand their scope of practice and help meet oral health needs in underserved communities.

To enroll, applicants must be graduates of a CODA-accredited dental hygiene program, hold an active Wisconsin dental hygiene license, maintain certification in local anesthesia and nitrous oxide administration, and possess current CPR/AED certification.

Upon graduation, students are eligible to apply for Wisconsin dental therapy licensure and join the oral health workforce as dental therapists, helping expand access to care across the state.

[Read More about the Program](#)

Upcoming Webinars



Join the Conversation on Advancing Dental Therapy in California

Mark your calendar for June 16 as the California Rural Indian Health Board and the California Oral Health Equity Coalition host a virtual convening focused on advancing dental therapy in California. Throughout the day, participants will explore opportunities to strengthen the oral health workforce, expand access to care, and improve oral health outcomes in Tribal and non-Tribal communities.

The event will bring together stakeholders, advocates, and oral health leaders to discuss workforce innovation, policy considerations, and practical strategies for increasing access to care through

A promotional poster for a "DENTAL THERAPY WEBINAR". The poster has a green background with a black and white geometric pattern at the top and bottom. The text reads: "Join the California Rural Indian Health Board and the California Oral Health Equity Coalition for a virtual convening on advancing Dental Therapy in California." Below this, it says "June 16, 2026 8AM - 3PM". A QR code is displayed with the text "Scan the QR code to explore the draft agenda and register here!" and a "SCAN ME" button. To the right of the QR code is a cartoon tooth character with a magnifying glass. Below the QR code, it says "Project Coordinator: Arianna Pretolani (916)286-7250 apretolani@carih.org". At the bottom right, there are two logos: the California Rural Indian Health Board logo and the COHEC logo (California Oral Health Equity Coalition). The COHEC logo includes the text "Communities Advancing Oral Health for All".

dental therapy.

June 16, 2026 | 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. PT
Free Virtual Event

[Register Here](#)

Explore the Future of Minimally Invasive Dentistry.

The poster is for a free virtual event titled "Beyond the Drill: Advancing Care Through Minimally Invasive Dentistry". It features a portrait of Dr. Jonathan Norris, DDS, on the right. The text on the left describes the event as exploring modern strategies that preserve tooth structure, improve patient outcomes, and redefine preventive-focused care. The date and time are listed as Tuesday, June 23, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM ET. The event is free and virtual.

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

Beyond the Drill: Advancing Care Through Minimally Invasive Dentistry

Exploring modern strategies that preserve tooth structure, improve patient outcomes, and redefine preventive-focused care.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 | **7:00 – 8:00 PM ET**

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT

with
Dr. Jonathan Norris
DDS

There's still time to register for a free continuing education webinar hosted by Floridians for Dental Access and the Dental Hygiene Alliance of Florida. This virtual event will explore how minimally invasive dentistry is transforming patient care through prevention-focused, evidence-based approaches that preserve healthy tooth structure and reduce the need for extensive treatment.

Participants will learn how modern clinical techniques can improve patient comfort, build trust, and support better long-term oral health outcomes while rethinking traditional restorative approaches.

June 23, 2026 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET
FREE Virtual Event

[Register Here](#)

Strengthen Your Clinical Decision-Making with Practical Guidance on Antibiotic Prophylaxis

CareQuest
Institute for Oral Health

AAOM
The American Academy of Oral Medicine

Webinar
Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Dental Care: Practical Guidance for Premedication Decisions

Thursday
June 25, 2026
 7-8 p.m. ET

1 CE Credit

Moderator
Jalsri J. Thoppay, BDS, Ms, MBA, DABOM, MSHA, EdD (c)
American Academy of Oral Medicine

Presenter
Molly L. Paras, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Presenter
Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA
Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Mayo Clinic

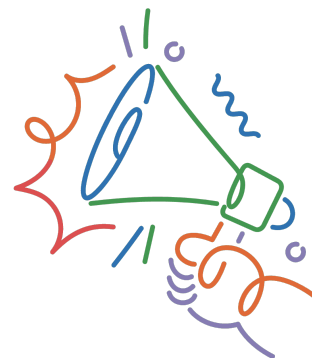
Join CareQuest Institute and the American Academy of Oral Medicine on June 25 for a continuing education webinar focused on antibiotic prophylaxis in dental care. As patient health histories become increasingly complex, dental providers must navigate evolving recommendations while balancing patient safety and evidence-based practice.

Through real-world clinical scenarios, expert speakers will discuss patient risk assessment, premedication decisions, antibiotic stewardship, and interdisciplinary collaboration to support safe and effective care.

Thursday, June 25, 2026 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET
Earn 1 Free CE Credit

[Register Here](#)

Job Openings



Position:
Dental Therapist

Center for Family Health

Location: Jackson, Michigan

Salary: \$110,000–\$120,000 annually

Center for Family Health is seeking a Dental Therapist to join its integrated oral health team and help expand access to care for patients of all ages. The successful candidate will work alongside dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants to provide high-quality, patient-centered care.

Highlights:

- Competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) eligibility
- Continuing education and professional development opportunities
- Collaborative, mission-driven work environment
- 403(b) retirement plan with employer match

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a CODA-accredited dental therapy program
- Active Michigan Dental Therapy License

More information and application details can be found [here](#)

Position:

Dental Therapist (ADT or DT)

Apple Tree Dental

Location: Hawley, Minnesota

Compensation: \$55–\$80 per hour

Apple Tree Dental is seeking a Dental Therapist (ADT or DT) to provide preventive, restorative, and therapeutic dental care to children and adults under the general supervision of a dentist. This position offers the opportunity to improve access to oral healthcare in a variety of community-based settings, including clinics, nursing homes, group homes, and Head Start centers.

Highlights:

- Flexible scheduling options
- Competitive hourly compensation
- Community-focused, patient-centered care
- Collaborative interdisciplinary team environment
- Opportunities for professional development and community engagement

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Dental Therapy or Advanced Dental Therapy
- Active Minnesota Dental Therapy License
- Current CPR/BLS certification

More information and application details can be found [here](#)

Policy and Advocacy Updates



Coverage Matters: New Research Links Medicaid Losses to Worse Oral Health

A recent study published in [JAMA Network Open](#) found that reductions in pediatric Medicaid coverage could have significant consequences for children's oral health. Researchers projected that coverage losses could lead to nearly 96,000 additional cases of tooth decay, more than 7,300 emergency department visits for dental conditions, and approximately \$86.5 million in added healthcare costs over the next decade.

The findings reinforce the critical role Medicaid plays in supporting preventive dental care and reducing oral health disparities among children, particularly those in underserved communities.

[Read More About the Study](#)



Dental Therapy Gains Momentum in Florida Despite Legislative Setback

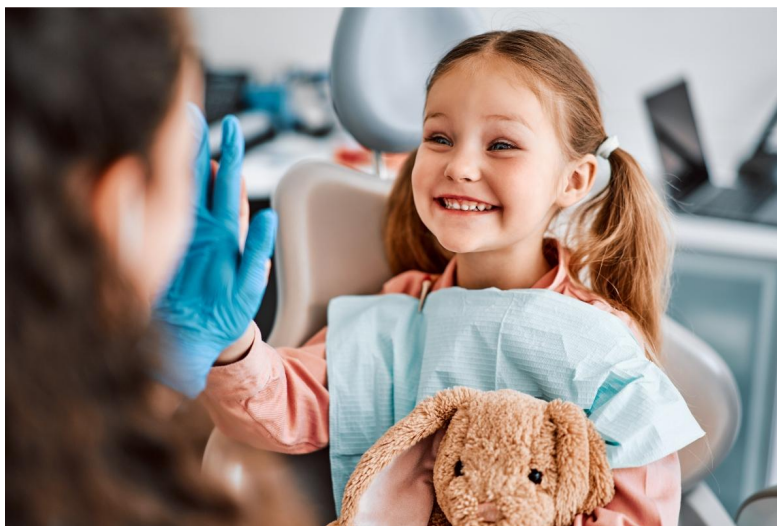
Florida lawmakers considered legislation in 2026 that would have authorized dental therapists to help address workforce shortages and expand access to oral healthcare. Although the bill passed the Florida House with bipartisan support (80–29), it ultimately did not advance through the Senate before the close of the legislative session.

The proposal would have established licensure requirements for dental therapists, created a Dental Therapy Council, and authorized Medicaid reimbursement for services provided under a collaborative management agreement with a supervising dentist.

While the bill did not become law, its strong legislative support reflects growing interest in dental therapy as a workforce solution and may lay the

groundwork for future efforts in Florida and other states.

[Learn More about the Florida Dental Therapy Legislation](#)



In the News



Dental Workforce Shortages Persist Nationwide

A new ADA Health Policy Institute report found that recruiting dental hygienists remains a significant challenge for dental practices nationwide, with more than 90% of dentists reporting difficulty filling open positions. As workforce shortages continue to affect access to care, ADTA encourages researchers and workforce analysts to recognize dental therapists as an important part of the oral health workforce. For more than two decades, dental therapists have helped expand access to care and strengthen dental teams in underserved communities.

[Read the Report](#)

Oral Health Awareness Reaches New Highs Across the U.S.



communities.

A new Delta Dental report found that 91% of U.S. adults view oral health as an important part of overall health, while 90% believe preventive dental visits are just as important as annual physical exams. Awareness was especially high among Gen Z, reflecting growing recognition of the connection between oral health and overall well-being. The findings also highlight the continued need to expand access to preventive care, particularly in rural

[Read the Report](#)

Momentum Builds for Dental Therapy in New York

Momentum for dental therapy continues to grow as advocates in New York launch a new statewide campaign highlighting the role dental therapists can play in expanding access to care. The initiative promotes dental therapy as a proven workforce solution that helps bring preventive and restorative services to underserved communities. With dental therapists now authorized in 14 states, the campaign reflects growing national interest in innovative approaches to improving access to oral health care and advancing health equity.

[Learn More About the New York Dental Therapy Campaign](#)

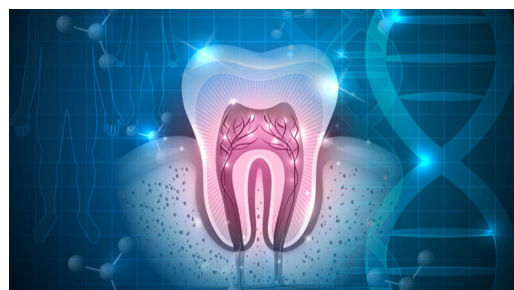
Fluoridation Debate Continues in Virginia

The Town of Broadway recently voted to discontinue community water fluoridation, becoming the third Shenandoah Valley community to do so in the past year. While discussions about fluoride continue nationwide, leading public health organizations—including the CDC, ADA, and AAP—continue to support community water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and equitable strategy for preventing tooth decay and improving oral health.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Could Tooth Regeneration Become Reality?

Researchers in Japan are reporting encouraging progress in the world's first human clinical trial of a tooth regeneration therapy designed to stimulate the growth of new teeth. While still experimental, early findings have been promising and raise the



possibility that regenerative treatments could one day provide an alternative to traditional tooth replacement options.

[Read the Full Story](#)



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