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# OHA Dental Program Update

**Senate Healthcare Committee**

**January 18, 2022**

Dana Hargunani, Chief Medical Officer

Nathan Roberts, Medicaid Programs Unit Manager, Health Services Division

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# What we will cover

- Update regarding OHA's Dental Director position
- OHA's learnings from complaints and feedback received from our Ombuds and other source
- The uneven availability of dental providers across the state

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OHA Dental Program Update

# **DENTAL DIRECTOR POSITION**

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# Leadership is Crucial

- The Dental Director is a critical leadership position for the Oregon and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This position leads or directs all oral health work across the agency in compliance with federal and state laws
- The Dental Director sets and oversees oral health care priorities through close work with the OHA Director and other OHA leadership
- Serves as a liaison between OHA and Oregon's oral health community and represents OHA as the subject matter expert for oral health care for the State of Oregon

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# Position Updates

- In preparation to recruit a new Dental Director, we took time for an initial internal process to assess how we will best position a future Dental Director for success and impact
- Based on this assessment and key priority areas, we have made the following modifications in preparation for a new recruitment:
  - The Dental Director will continue to provide overall oral health leadership strategic direction for the agency, including but not limited to our work across Medicaid, public health programs and health policy & analytics
  - The Dental Director position will move to our Health Systems Division as a leadership position within the Medicaid Section
- We have received positive feedback about these changes from community partners

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OHA Dental Program Update

# **LEARNINGS FROM COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK**

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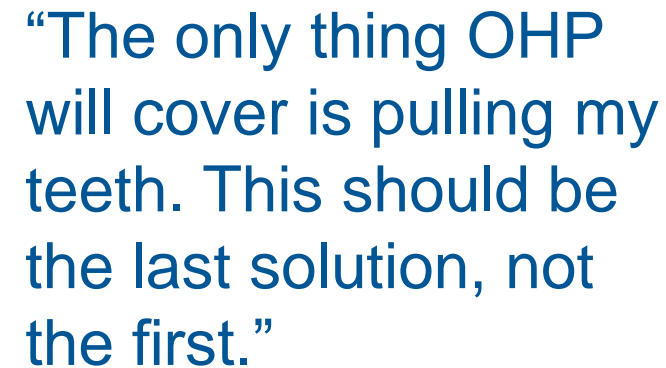
# Oregonians have Expressed Frustration

Despite having a good Oral Health benefit, OHA is struggling to find dentists to serve OHP members.

Half of the Oral Health complaints OHA receives are related to access:

- Unable to be seen in a timely manner.
- Provider not available to give necessary care.
- Plan unresponsive, not available, difficult to contact.

OHP Member Quote:



“The only thing OHP will cover is pulling my teeth. This should be the last solution, not the first.”

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OHA Dental Program Update

# **UNEVEN AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL PROVIDERS**



# Who are Oregon's Oral Health Providers?

- Oregon licenses four types of Oral Health providers.
  - Dentist (DMD/DDS)
  - Dental Therapist
  - Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH)
  - Dental Hygienist
- Unlicensed dental assistants are also an important part of the workforce
- Oregon's oral health providers are less racially and ethnically diverse than the general population.



# How many Oral Health Providers in Oregon?

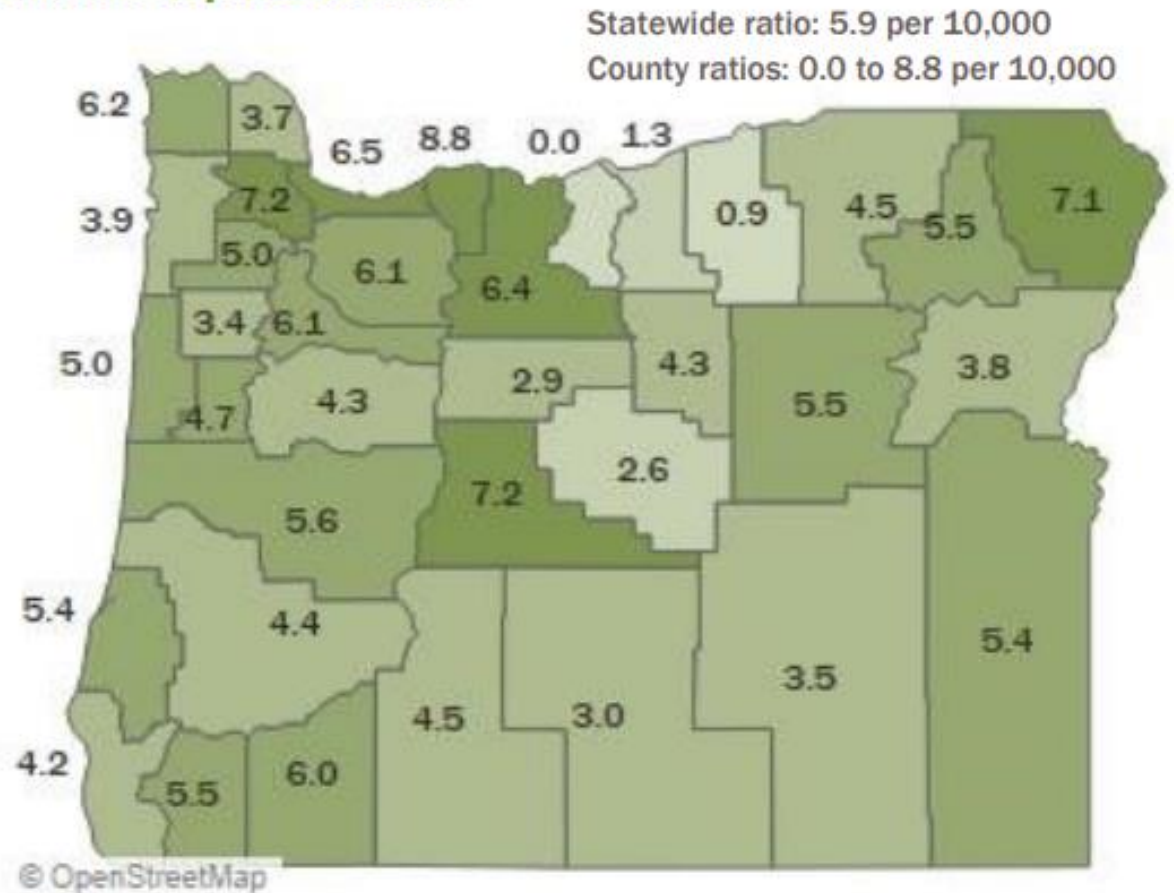
- OHA estimates there are 2,040 dentists and 466 expanded practice dental hygienists actively practicing in Oregon.\*
- Approximately 40% of Oregon dentists accept Medicaid patients.
  - A quarter of those comprising most of the Medicaid claims



# Where are Oregon's Oral Health Providers Located?

- Statewide OHA estimates 5.9 Oral Health providers per 10,000 Oregonians.
- The average in urban areas is 5.8 and in both rural and frontier areas is 3.2.
- The fewest providers are in Sherman, Gilliam and Marrow counties.

## Oral health professionals



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OHA Dental Program Update

# **OHA'S WORK ON THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE, ACCESS CHALLENGES**

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# Workforce Development Programs

Oregon's oral health providers are eligible for several workforce development programs including:

- Loan forgiveness
- Loan repayment programs
- Tax credits

To date, 53 dentists and 11 expanded practice dental hygienists in Oregon have participated.

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# PHD Dental Pilot Project Program

- Provides a mechanism whereby innovative methods in the delivery of oral health care and expansion of scope of practice can be tested before changes in licensing laws are made in Oregon.
- Dental pilot projects test emerging and expanding workforce models that aim to improve health equity and increase oral health access for underserved populations.
- OHA is responsible for monitoring approved pilot projects to ensure patient safety and to ascertain the progress of each project in meeting its stated objectives and complying with program statutes and rules.

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# Current Dental Pilot Projects

- **#100 Oregon Tribes Dental Health Aide Therapist**
  - Sponsor: Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board
  - End Date: 5/31/2023 or when trainees become licensed dental therapists
  
- **#300 Dental Therapist Project: Dental Hygiene Model**
  - Sponsor: Willamette Dental & Pacific University
  - End Date: 12/31/2024 or when trainees become licensed dental therapists

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# Completed Dental Pilot Projects

- #200 Training Dental Hygienists to Place Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITRs)
  - Sponsor: OHSU School of Dentistry
  - End Date: 9/30/2021
- SB 1550 passed during the 2020 legislative session allowing expanded practice dental hygienists (EPHDs) to perform ITRs after diagnosis by a dentist, which can be done by telehealth.



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# Dental Therapy

- SB 1549 passed during the 2020 legislative session allowing dental therapy licensure in Oregon.
- Oregon Board of Dentistry rules for dental therapy licensure were effective July 1, 2022.
- There are currently 11 dental therapists licensed in Oregon.
- Licensees must complete a dental therapy training program as part of the OHA Dental Pilot Project Program, or a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).

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**THANK YOU AND QUESTIONS**

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# ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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OHA Dental Program Update

# **OVERVIEW OF OHP'S DENTAL BENEFIT**

# Oral Health is Critical to Overall Health

Lack of access to Oral Health care leads Oregonians to miss school and work and can have a negative impact on their overall well-being.

Untreated oral health conditions are associated with diabetes, heart disease, low birth weight babies, certain types of cancers.



# The OHP Oral Health Benefit

OHP offers an extensive Oral Health benefit including:

- Cleanings
- Dental check-ups and x-rays
- Fillings
- Dental crowns
- Root canals on molars and some other tooth root procedures
- Some gum or oral surgery
- Some types of dentures and partials
- Tooth removal
- 24-hour emergency dental care





# OHP's Oral Health Delivery System

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- CCOs and the FFS program cover oral health
- Veteran and COFA dental programs fill gaps
  - New 2023 dental only benefits delivered by OHP
- All OHP benefit packages include oral health except CWM emergency
  - Regular Medicaid
  - CHIP
  - ACA expansion
  - Healthier Oregon (formerly Cover All People)