



# Workforce and Access to Care Issues in the SPA Program

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# Overview



- Research Findings
- Native American Initiative
- Shared Learning

# Research Findings



- **Workforce Research Topics**

- Scope
- Supervision
- Mid-levels
  - DHAT
  - ADHP
- Others Workforce
  - CDHC
  - Other

3 Years, 10 States	
2006	Alaska
2007	South Carolina Arizona
2007 - 2008	Minnesota
2008	Wyoming
2008 - 2009	Georgia
2009	New Hampshire Washington Oregon Connecticut

# Research Findings



- **General**

- Cost/lack of insurance driving concerns about access
- Few, if any, believe there is a shortage of dentists – but there may be a distribution problem
- Believe some dental procedures aren't complex
- Managed care, nurse practitioner modes, relationship to hygienist – have reduced concerns about mid-levels
- There is a general willingness to experiment with change – even knowing there are risks
- Dentists can still win hearts and minds as the leading professional authority

# Research Findings



- **Access**

- Access concerns – which are real and widespread – are based on cost, not number of dentists
- In terms of access solutions “something beats nothing” virtually every time
- Dentists can still assert professional authority – but not without a proactive agenda
- First mover, multi-pronged solutions work best – improved Medicaid, charitable care, Dentists as Doctors, and Coordination

# Research Findings



- **Workforce**

- Strong willingness to expand the workforce based on belief it will lead to lower cost options
- Less willingness to choose one option over another – more willing to experiment
- Expanded workforce debates break on two lines: scope and supervision
- Scope is the tougher fight – public unaware of complexity of basic dentistry
- Supervision – with dentist at the head of the team – our strongest suit

# Native American Initiative



- **Native American Oral Healthcare Project**

- Began dialogue with tribal leaders and key stakeholders in AZ and NM, leading to stronger relationships between dental associations and tribes
- Goal: identify access to care solutions in tribal communities
- Began to replicate successful model in Dakotas

- **Next Steps**

- Create interactive website for project
- Move forward in examining feasibility of an economic impact study
- Begin meetings with Native American leaders in the Dakotas

# Shared Learning



- **Legislative Bank**
  - Resources on range of affirmative access solutions
  - Facilitates information sharing between states
  - Current focus on access to care solutions

**American Dental Association**  
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

BANK OF LEGISLATIVE  
**SOLUTIONS**

# Shared Learning



- **Dentists as Doctors**
  - Easily implementable initiatives
  - Strengthen the perception of dentists
  - Toolkit
- **Case Studies**
  - In-depth look at successful strategies/campaigns
  - Focus areas:
    - Medicaid
      - Participation
      - Funding
    - Access to care



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