

# Closing the Gap on Dental HPSAs

HRSA - Louisiana Oral Health Workforce Grant Project

Louisiana Rural Health Association

Baton Rouge, LA

October 30, 2018

# Grant Purpose

In 2016, Over 84% of Louisiana is designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) Twenty-six of the designated Dental HPSAs have a HPSA scores between 15 and 26. The most current HPSA dental assessments identify a state-wide shortage of 276 dentists to serve a population of over 1.8 million.

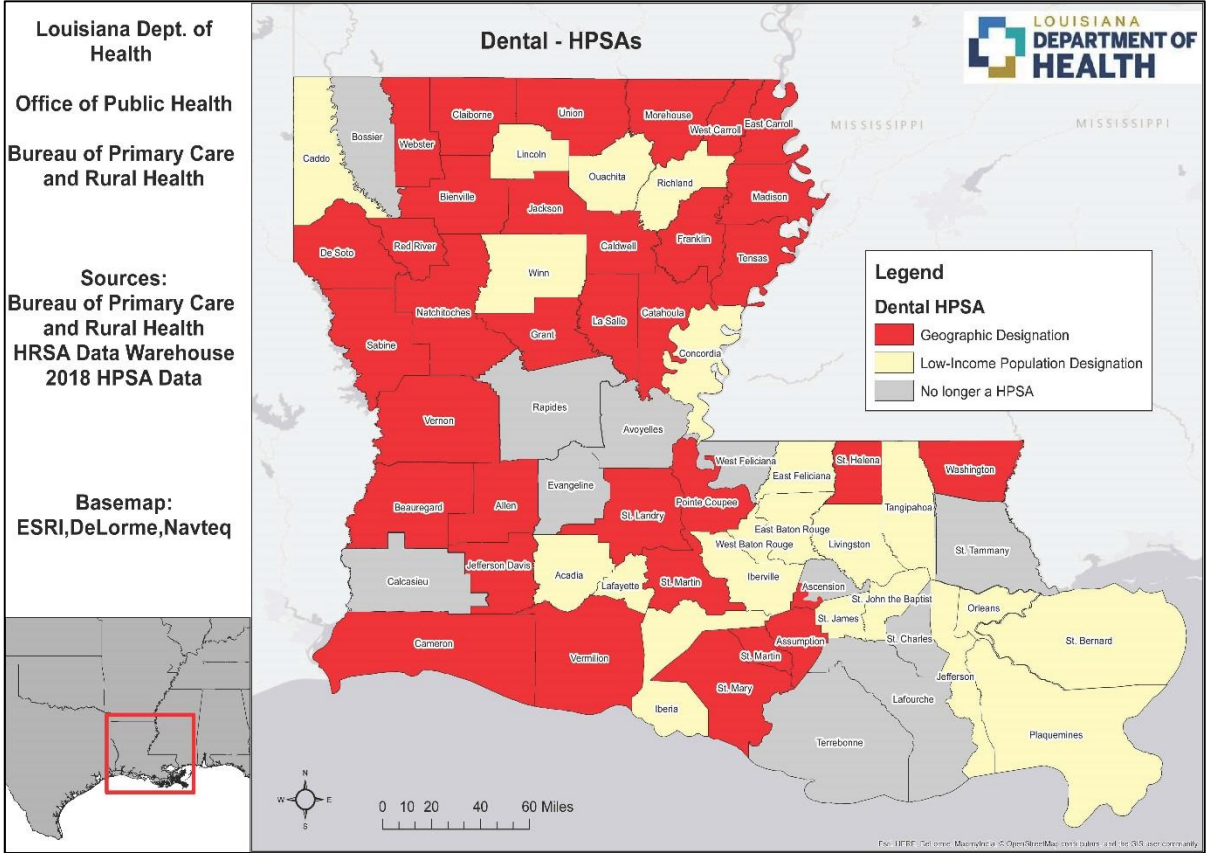
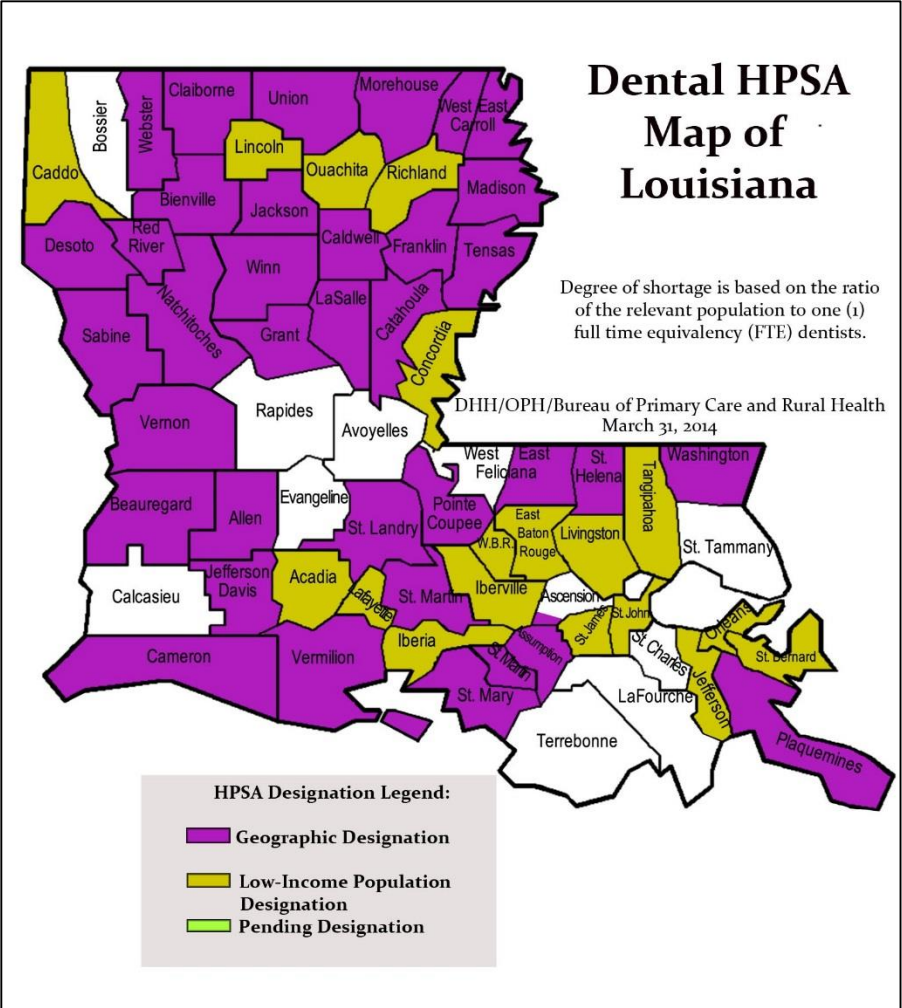
The mission of the Louisiana project is to increase patient access to high quality integrated oral health services in dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). The Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health (BPCRHR) will collaborate with key partners to conduct this work.

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**

628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-9500

# DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS



# Louisiana Rural Areas

Rural Parishes (Yellow) and Urban (Turquoise Blue) as Designated by the Federal Office of Management and Budget



# Grant Objectives

1. To assist in the development and implementation of the Dental Rural Scholars Program at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry to prepare dental students for practice in a community-based integrated primary care and dental environment in rural HPSAs.
2. To implement a new initiative to recruit and place dental providers in high need Dental HPSAs.
3. To conduct a dental needs assessment to assist the State in preparing for future oral health workforce needs in coordination with the Office of Public Health, Performance Improvement Unit, State Oral Health Program, and partner organizations.

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**

628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-9500





# **Dental Rural Scholars Track Program**

## **LSU Health New Orleans – School of Dentistry**

**Closing the Gap on Dental HPSAs**  
**HRSA - Louisiana Oral Health Workforce Grant Project**

# Dental Education / Entry into Practice

- ▶ Expensive and Intense
  - For general practice, no residency required – students graduate and directly enter practice
  - A very full schedule – approximately 25 hours weekly in class/lab/clinic
    - ◆ Short summer breaks – 3 to 4 weeks maximum
- ▶ LSU estimated 4 year cost \$ 174,837.55 (2017-2018)
  - Tuition = \$28,418.00 annual
    - ◆ Non-resident is \$33,953.50 annually additional
- ▶ Average student loan debt – US - \$275,000
- ▶ Average student loan debt LSU - \$175,000

# LSU School of Dentistry (LSUSD)

## Dental Rural Scholars Track (DRST)

- ▶ HRSA Oral Health Workforce Expansion program grant awarded to LDH
- ▶ LSUSOD received seed funding to support first 2 years



# DRST - Program Benefits

- ▶ Tuition Waiver
- ▶ Rural Rotation in Community Based Setting
- ▶ Interprofessional Education Experience
- ▶ Networking Opportunities

# DRST - Program Requirements

- ▶ Louisiana Residents Only
- ▶ Work for public, private or non-profit
- ▶ Rural Dental HPSA
- ▶ One year service for one year tuition waived
- ▶ Full time or half time doubling service
- ▶ Accept Medicaid and offer sliding fee >200% poverty level
- ▶ No other service obligations

# DRST - Implementation

- ▶ Modeled on Medical School Rural Scholars Program
- ▶ Important differences in the impact/operation
- ▶ DRST Standardized Application
- ▶ Scholarship/Commitment Contract
- ▶ Recalibration Training
- ▶ Adjunct Faculty
- ▶ Pre and Post Rotation Evaluations

# DRST Rural Rotation

RKM of Clinton, Louisiana

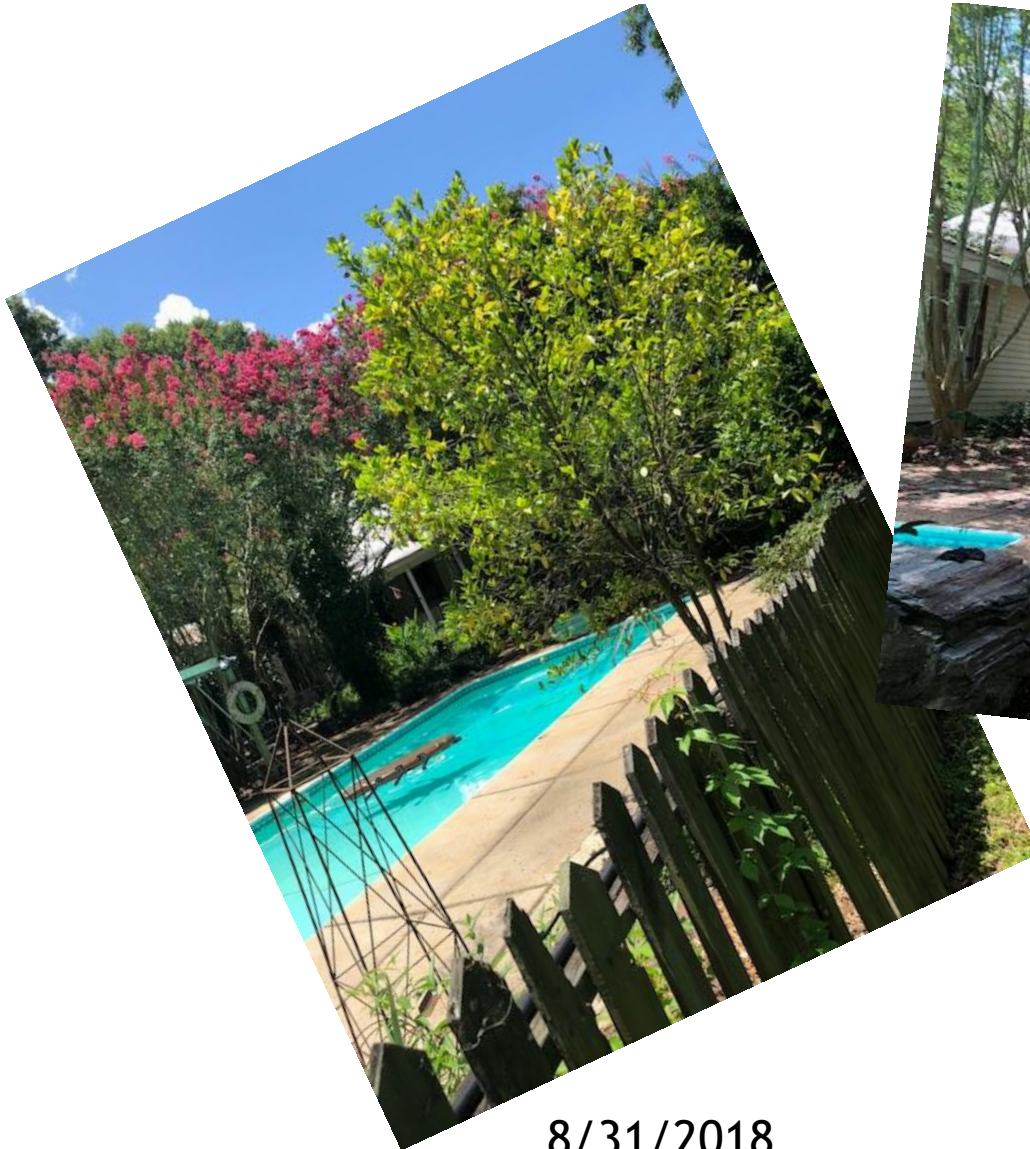
► 2 week rotation

► FQHC





# WILD FLOWER INN



**THAT'S RURAL!**

8/31/2018

# Rural Rotation Site Feedback

- ▶ Lodging
- ▶ Rotation expectations MOU between LSUSD
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> week cuts production in ½
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> day is used for orientation
- ▶ Rotation site would like longer rotation



# Scholar Feedback

- ▶ Most Valuable Learning Experiences
  - Dentist teaching skills (“easy to apply to practicing dentistry”)
  - Interaction with the team of health care professionals
  - Learning of available resources to help patients overcome barriers

# Scholar Feedback Cont'd

## More Confident after Rotation

- ▶ Comparing oral health care services in rural underserved communities and other healthcare settings
- ▶ Comparing common oral health problems seen by dental providers in rural medically underserved areas and elsewhere
- ▶ Demonstrating sensitivity to human interactions on providing healthcare

# Scholar Feedback Cont'd

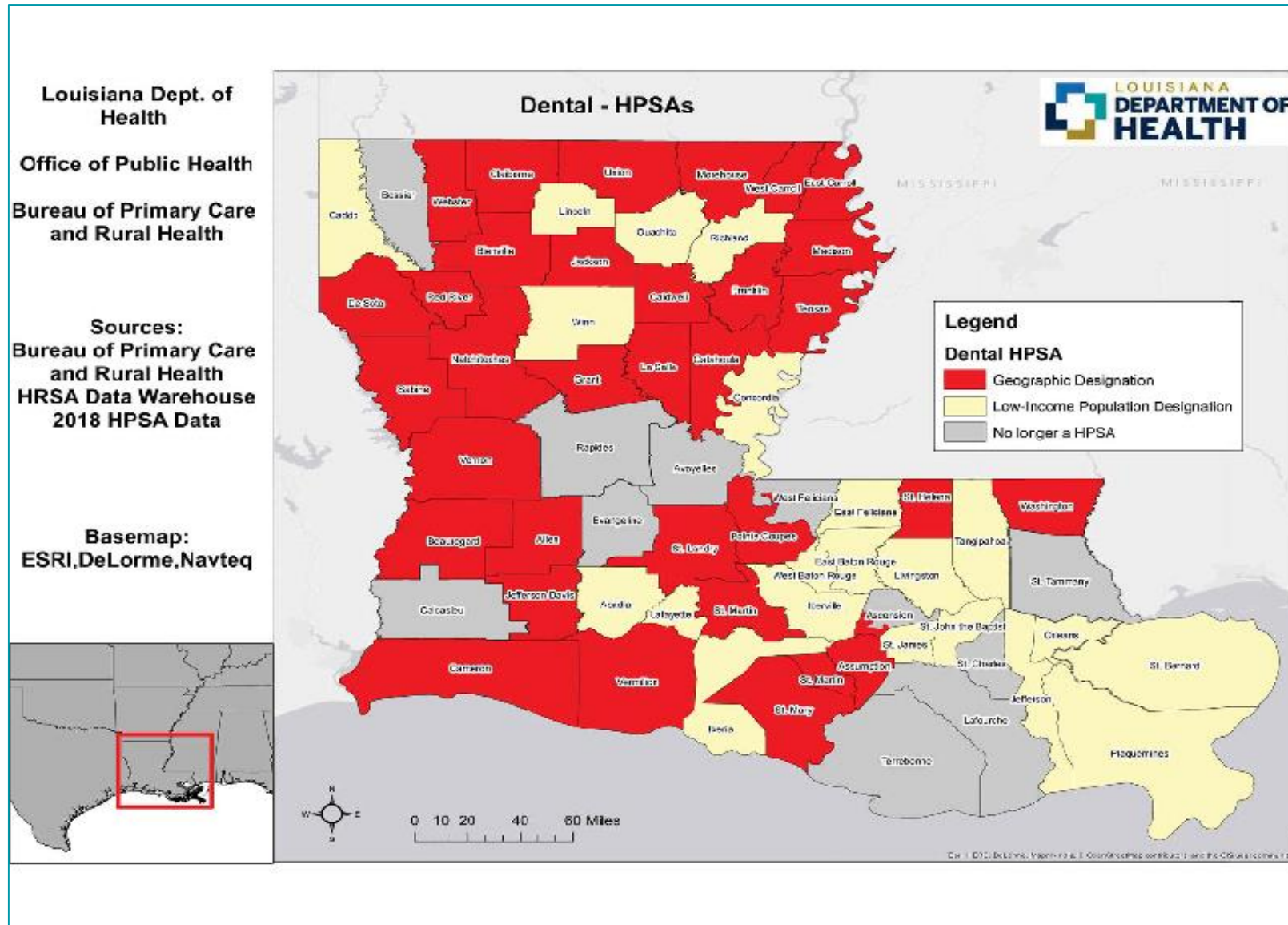
- ▶ Demonstrating culturally appropriate interactions with patients and others
- ▶ Addressing how environmental factors influence healthcare

# RKM



8/31/2018

# Dental Need in Louisiana

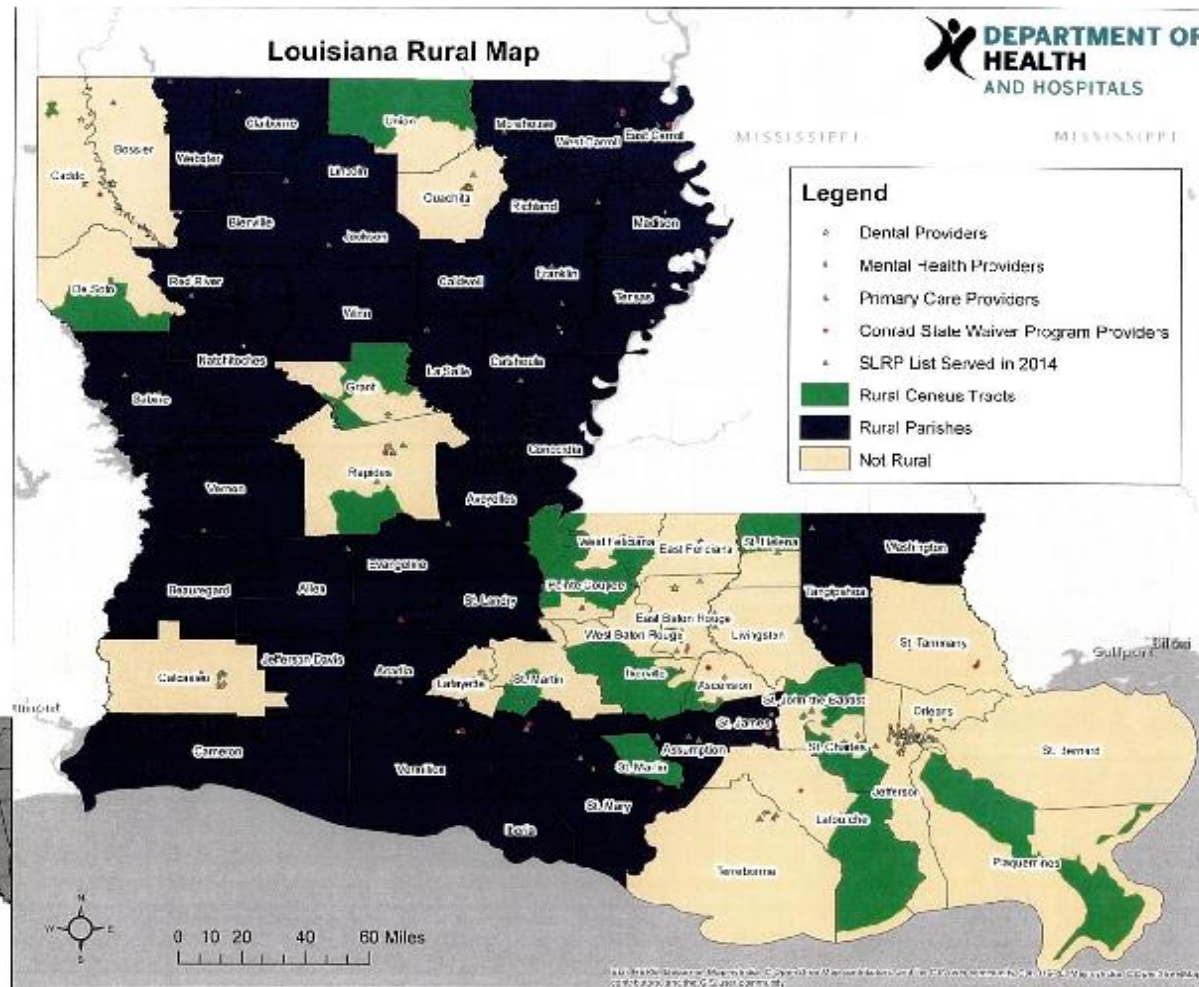
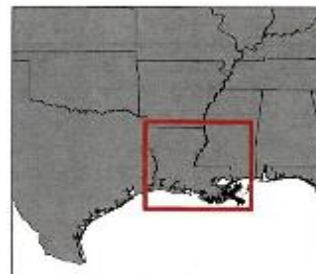




Louisiana Dept. of  
Health and Hospitals,  
Office of Public Health  
Center for Population  
Health Informatics.

Sources:  
HRSA DataWarehouse  
Bureau of Family Health  
2010 Census Data  
2007-14 NHSC Data

Basemap:  
ESRI, DeLorme, Navteq



8/31/2018



# LSU School of Dentistry's Program

- ▶ Presently one D4 and one D3 student
  - 2017 George Will Rolfe, III
    - ◆ Tuition Waiver years D3 and D4
    - ◆ Hometown - Haughton
  - 2018 Anna Roberts
    - ◆ Tuition Waiver years D3 and D4
    - ◆ Hometown - Ferriday
- ▶ Goal was to add yearly until
  - one (or two) D1, D2, D3, D4 enrolled
- ▶ Loss of grant has severe impact
- ▶ (We have increased our class size by 10 per class)
- ▶ Our “strict” class scheduling has an additional impact rural rotation as well
  - Compared to other LSUHSC institutions

[illegible]

# LSU School of Dentistry's Program

- ▶ Have actively sought funding to support at the anticipated grant ending
  - Goal of \$1,000,000 or more, matching funds through state scholarship programs
- ▶ Partnered with RKM (FQHC) in Clinton, LA
  - D3 and D4 clinical rotations (hands on)
- ▶ Will facilitate rotations with other FQHCs
  - Subject to our educational schedule
- ▶ Anticipate rotating with RKM as well

# DENTAL PRACTICE MODELS LUNCH-n-LEARN



8/31/2018

# Future Rotation Sites

- ▶ 22 Rural FQHCs requesting to be rotation site
  - Completed Clinic Site Assessment
  - Completed Site Data Codes Procedures Count
- ▶ Challenges
  - Cost
  - Location
  - Practice Models



## ANNA ROBERTS - 2018 DRST SCHOLAR



8/31/2018



# DRST Questions and Answers

**Gayla Strahan, Program Manager**  
**Southeast Louisiana AHEC**  
**985-345-1119**  
[gayla.strahan@selahec.org](mailto:gayla.strahan@selahec.org)

[www.lsusd.lsuhscc.edu](http://www.lsusd.lsuhscc.edu)

DRST application-<http://www.lsusd.lsuhscc.edu/RuralTrackScholarship.html>

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**  
628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802  
(225) 342-9500



# Dental Recruitment Project

Closing the Gap on Dental HPSAs  
HRSA - Louisiana Oral Health Workforce Grant Project

# OBJECTIVES

- To expand oral health access to all residents located in Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)
- To provide recruitment and retention assistance to dental providers in Dental HPSAs



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## NATIONWIDE RECRUITMENT OUTREACH

- Louisiana Licensed Dentists
- 3RNet - National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network
- HRSA - National Health Service Corps





# RECRUITMENT OUTREACH at LSU School of Dentistry



Job Fair - September 2017



Lunch & Learn Session - March 2018



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## DENTAL PROVIDERS OUTREACH

- MCNA DENTAL (Managed Care of North America) - key in identifying Medicaid providers
- Louisiana FQHCs - (Federally Qualified Health Care) Providers





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## OUTCOMES

- 21 DENTISTS RECRUITED
- 5 CONTRACTS OFFERED
- 3 CONTRACTS CONFIRMED



# LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES

- Challenged to recruit dentists to serve most rural communities
- Lengthy process in obtaining Louisiana dental license
- Limited interest from private providers to offer sliding fee scale



# Recruitment Questions and Answers

Trudy Bell Wickham, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health  
(225) 772-5321

**Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals**

628 North 4th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-9500

## Dental Needs Assessment

In order to understand the challenges and successes related to oral health in Louisiana and trying to identify how the entire health and health care community can more effectively address oral health needs, the BPCRH engaged state oral health providers in an assessment process and collected data by way of dental needs assessment.

## **Credits & Acknowledgements**

The Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations and individuals for their participation in workgroups and planning efforts. This assessment would not have been possible without their input and efforts.

Louisiana Department of Health  
Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health  
Office of Public Health Leadership and Staff  
Medicaid  
Well-Ahead Louisiana  
Louisiana Oral Health Coalition  
Louisiana Emergency Response Network  
Louisiana Fluoridation Advisory Board

Louisiana Public Health Institute  
American Dental Association  
Louisiana Dental Association  
Louisiana Dental Hygienist Association



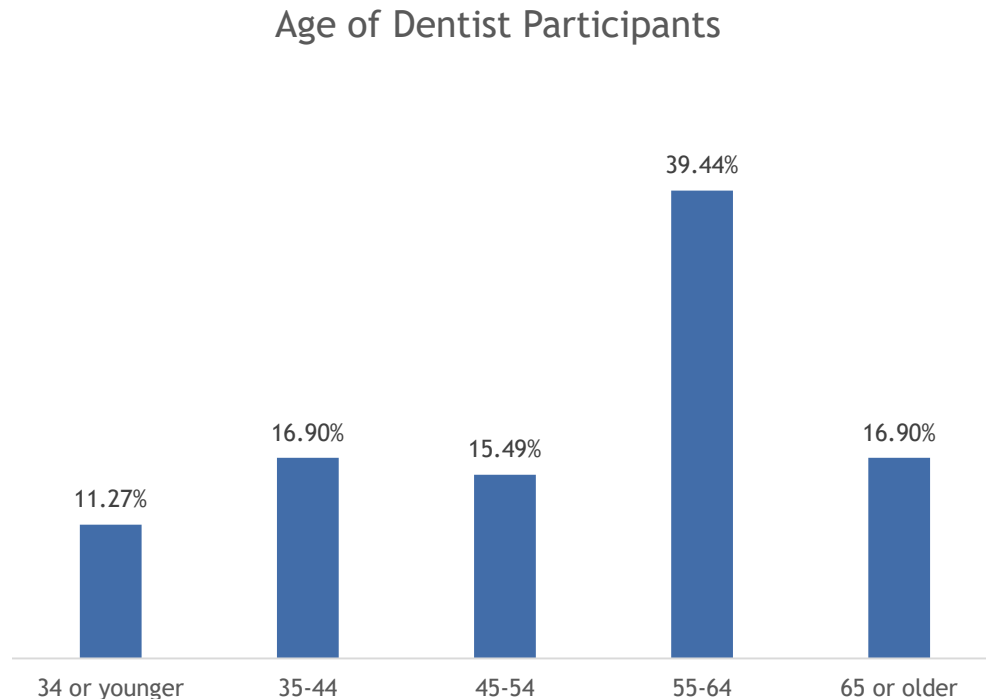
# Key Findings

- From the perspective of participants, there is no shortage of dentists serving those seeking access to oral health care.
- Many people choose not to go to the dentist or feel they cannot afford it, especially preventative care.
- At both the patient and the provider level, Medicaid reimbursements, both the rate and the paperwork, act as barriers to accessing care, as well as lack of providers accepting Medicaid.
- Children's oral health has been improving and the number of children seeing a dentist is increasing, but Louisiana children are still below the national averages.
- Most providers defend the benefits of fluoridated water. There is a lot of misinformation about fluoridation shared with the public.
- There is need for better education about the need for and importance of preventative dental care, particularly in adults.
- Providing underserved populations access to appropriate dental care is a complex problem. From the limited findings, training more dentists alone to address a "shortage" in HPSA zones will not be effective. A trusted patient-provider relationship is a strong factor in improving patients seeking preventative care, as well as patients making preventative oral health a priority, quality of workforce, financial factors, and other environmental factors.

## Assessment Results: Provider Interviews and Survey Results

The LPHI supported and analyzed results of a workforce assessment survey and individual phone interviews. The target participants was the oral health work force including both dentists and other health providers that may encounter patients with oral health issues.

For this assessment, 282 dentists participated in surveys. 57 of the 64 parishes are represented in this sample. 78% of the sample received their DDS, DMD, or equivalent in Louisiana.



► **282** Dentists Participated

► **39** in HPSA high need parishes

► **164** in HPSA low-income

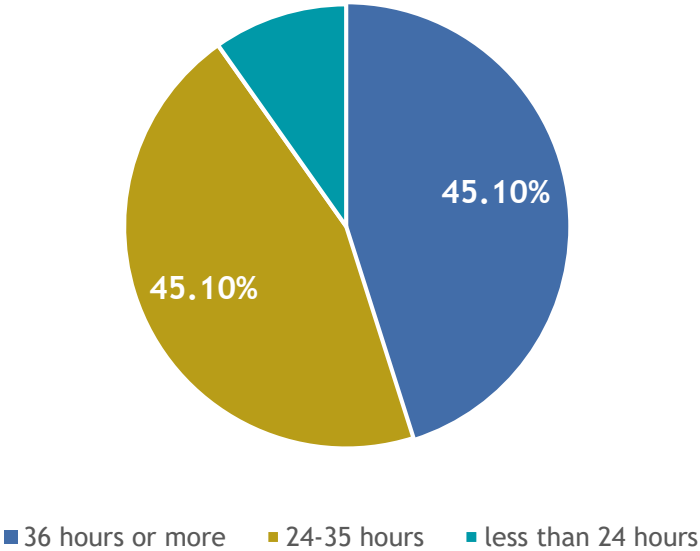
► **79** in parishes without shortage

► **6** Dentists interviewed

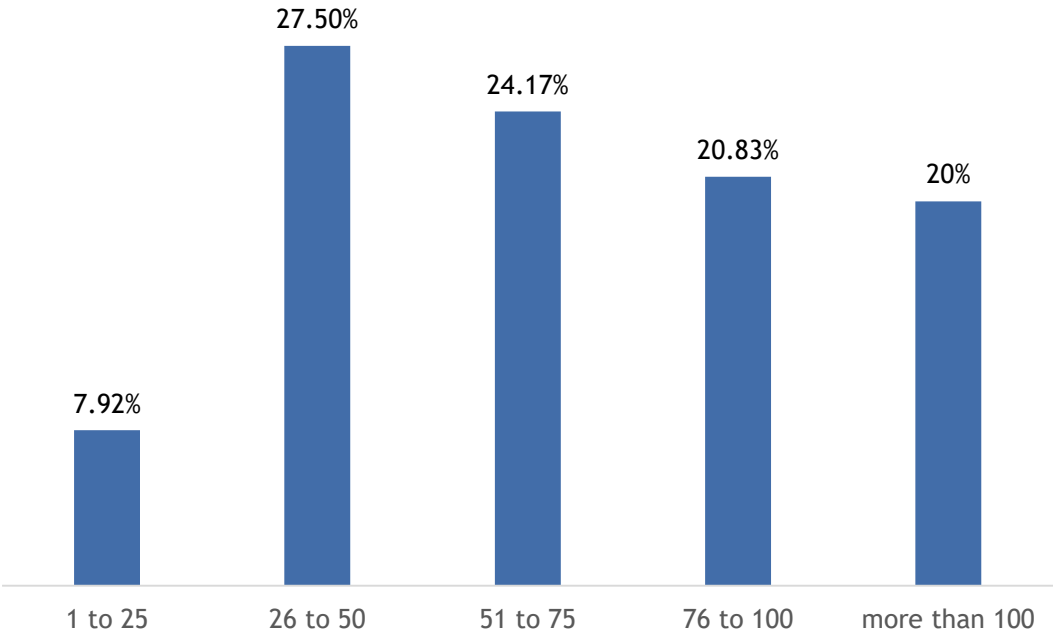
# Work Week

Of the dentists surveyed, just over half (55%) worked less than 36 hours a week, which was a personal preference for the majority (65.8%) of respondents. Many are also planning to reduce their hours in the next 5-10 years, primarily due personal preference.

Currently, how many hours do you practice clinical dentistry in a week?



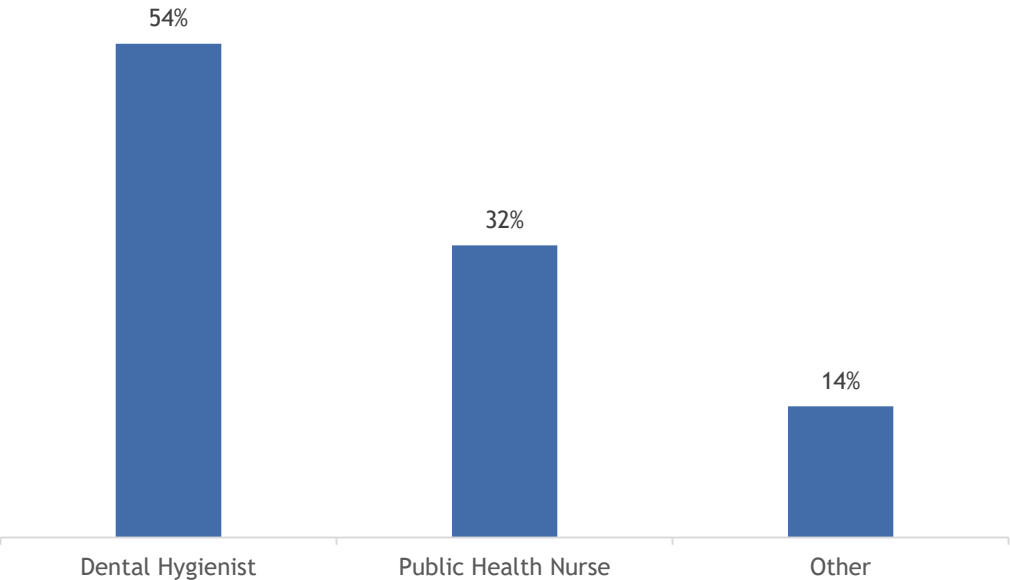
How many patients do you see in a week?



## Demographics (Non-Dentists)

There were 137 non-dentist participants representing all but 17 parishes. Proportionally non- HPSA Parishes were a smaller percentage of the participants than for dentists. In addition, 46% of respondents described their practice as primarily rural.

What type of other providers participated in the survey?



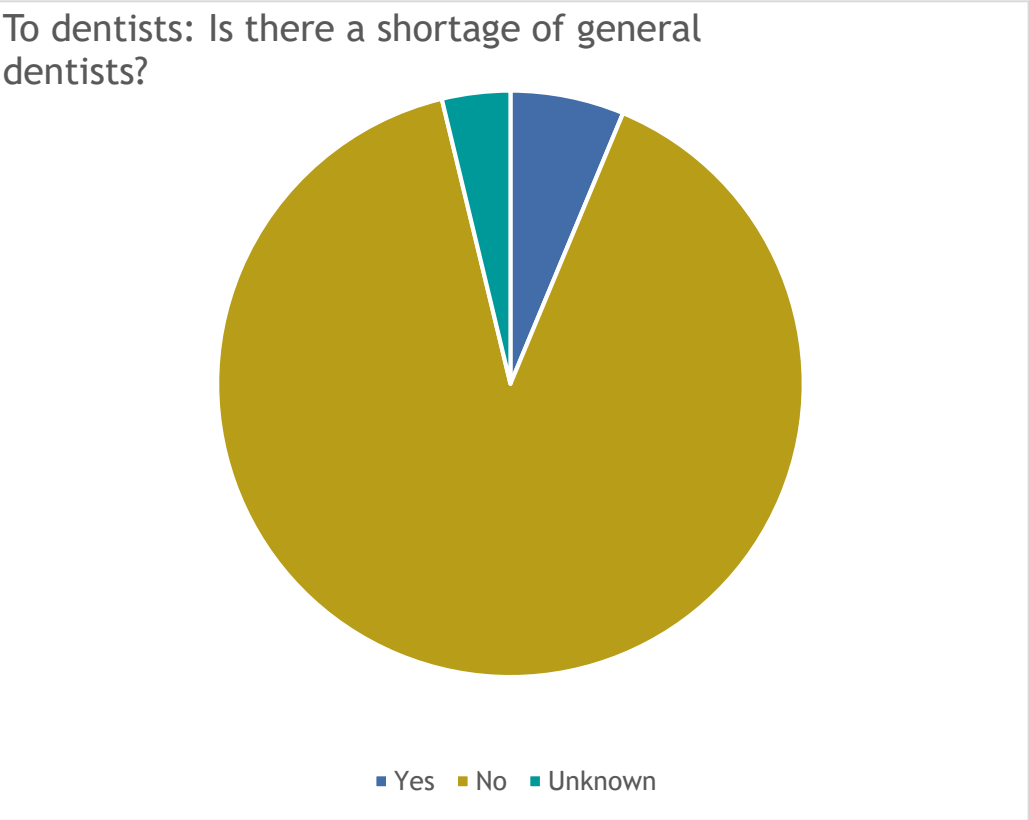
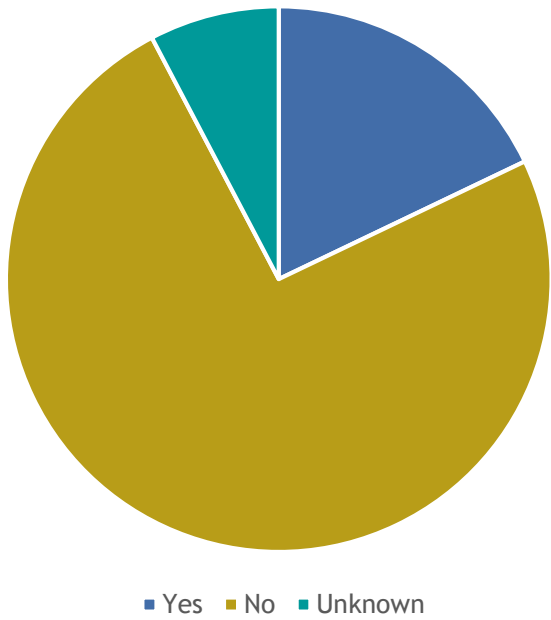
- ▶ **137** Non-Dentists Participated
- ▶ **40** in HPSA high need parishes
- ▶ **79** in HPSA low-income
- ▶ **18** in parishes without shortage
- ▶ **11** Non-Dentists interviewed



# Assessment Findings - Current Workforce “Shortage”

The large majority of both dentists and non-dentists felt that there is **no shortage** of dentists. When conducting interviews, all respondents maintained this sentiment, one adding, *“It’s not a shortage issue; it’s a geographic spread issue.”* Another stated, *“There’s no shortage. There are enough dentists per capita...(or at least a) sufficient number...the worst Louisiana could do is pump out a bunch of dentists that are potentially poor quality like they did in the 70s”.*

To non dentists: Is there a shortage of general dentists?

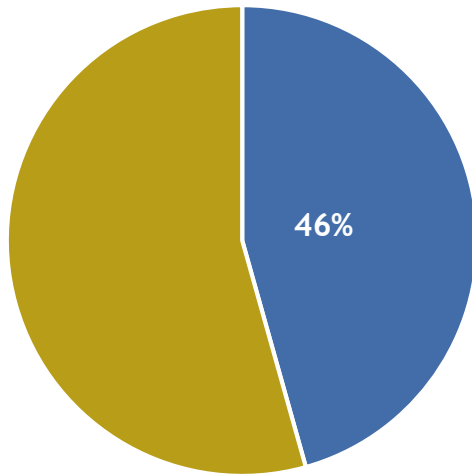




## Leaving Dentistry

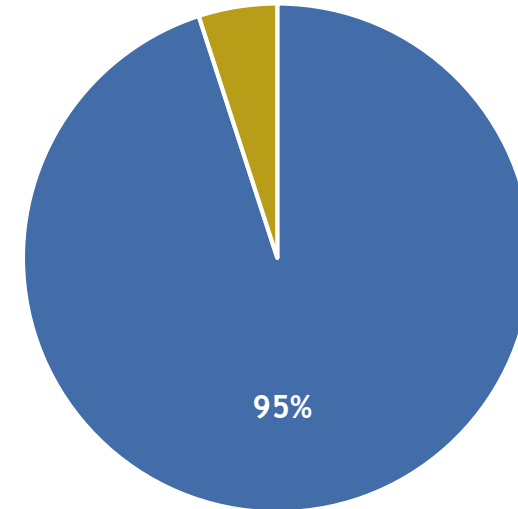
The survey asked dentists if they planned to leave dentistry in the next 5-10 years. While the survey sample does skew older than the general dentist population, there is a significant number of dentists who do plan to leave the field in the next 5-10 years and this is overwhelmingly due to retirement.

Do you plan to leave dentistry in the next 5-10 years?



■ Yes ■ No

Why do you plan on leaving clinical dentistry?

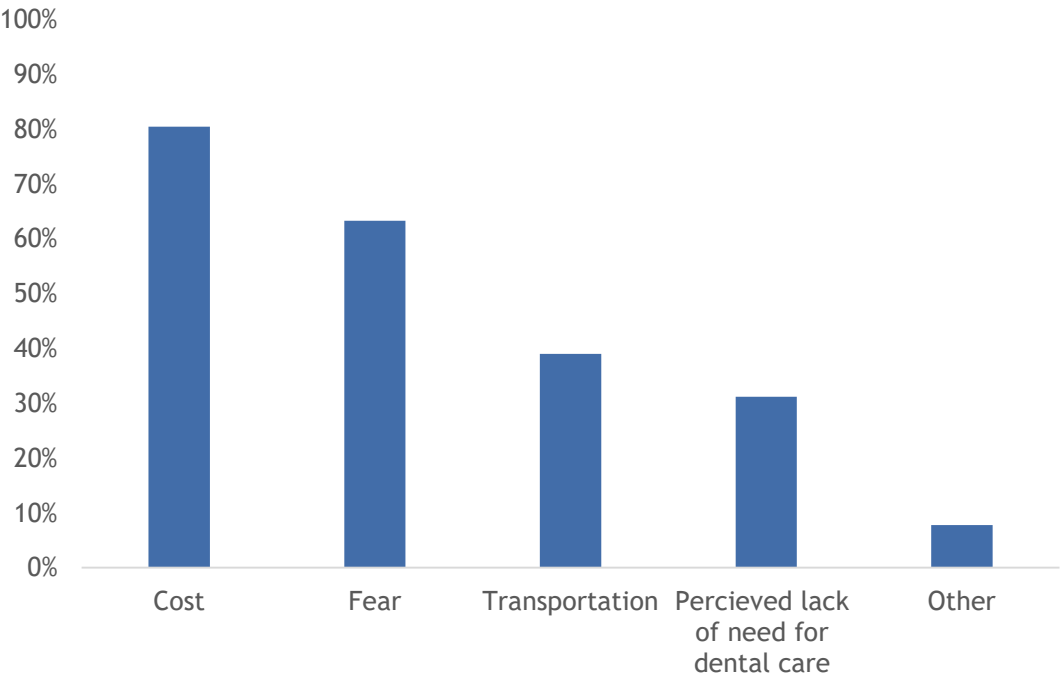


■ Retirement ■ Personal Preference

## Access to Care

Interview respondents reported fear, oral health knowledge, and cost as the contributing factors for not seeking oral health care. Some providers stated that patients often did not seek dental care due to fear, except in cases when oral pain becomes excessive.

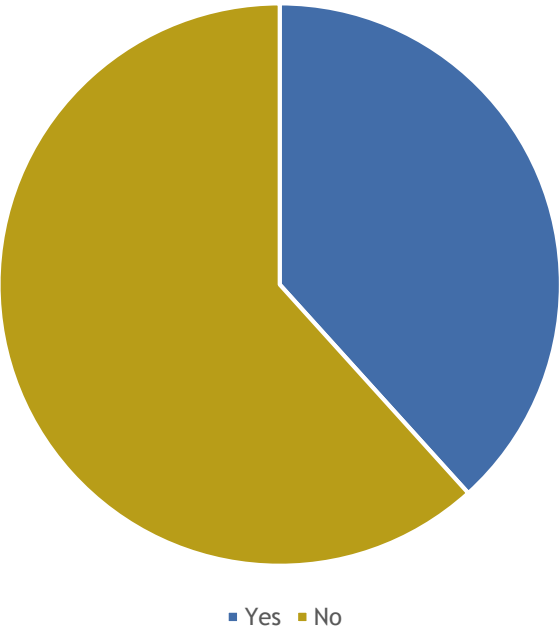
In your opinion, what are the main reasons people do not visit a dentist?



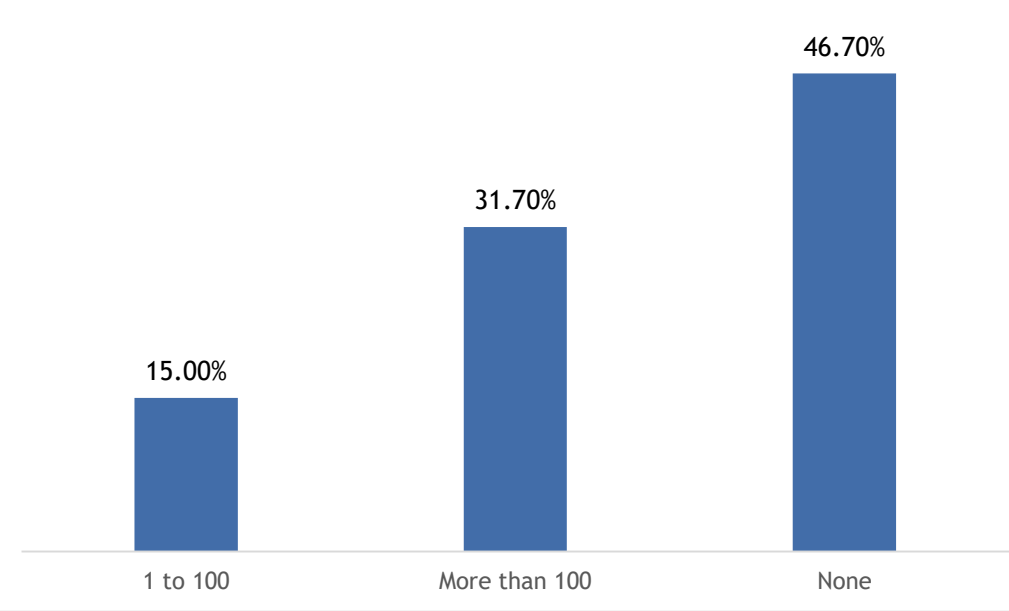
# Medicaid

One of the most important factors in both patient access and cost for un/underinsured is Medicaid policies. Medicaid can be critical for many patients to be able to afford care, but can present challenges for dental practices. Many practices choose not to accept Medicaid patients or see very few.

Are you accepting new Medicaid Patients?



Approximately how many patients with Medicaid did you see in your practice in the past 12 months?



Which of the following are the main reasons why you are not enrolled in Medicaid or are not seeing new Medicaid Patients?

