

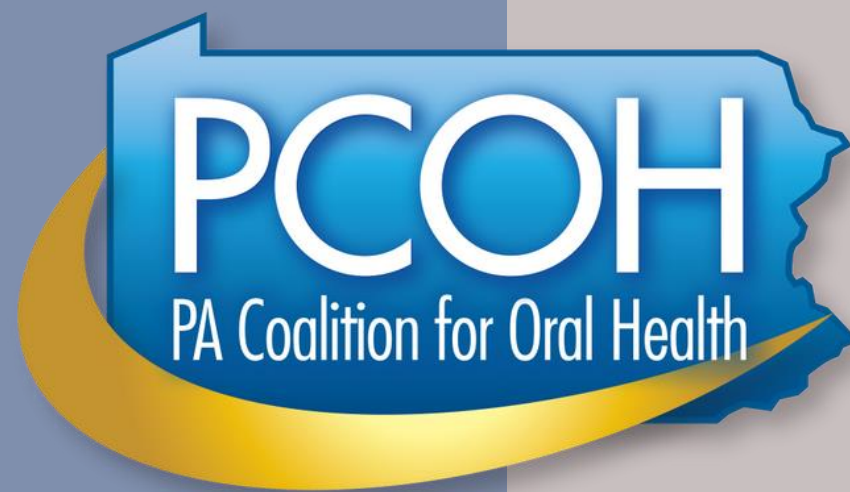
**Welcome!**

***2022 WEBINAR SERIES***  
***"SPECIAL TOPICS IN RURAL HEALTH"***



**Sponsored by Representative Kathy L. Rapp  
and Senator Michele Brooks**

**Coordinated by the  
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association**



# ORAL HEALTH ACCESS AND WORKFORCE: WHY IS RURAL SUCH A PROBLEM?

AUGUST 3, 2022

Helen Hawkey  
Executive Director, PCOH

# Coalition Priorities



Supporting  
Pennsylvania oral  
workforce development



Advancing and  
advocating for oral health  
policy and infrastructure  
across all systems

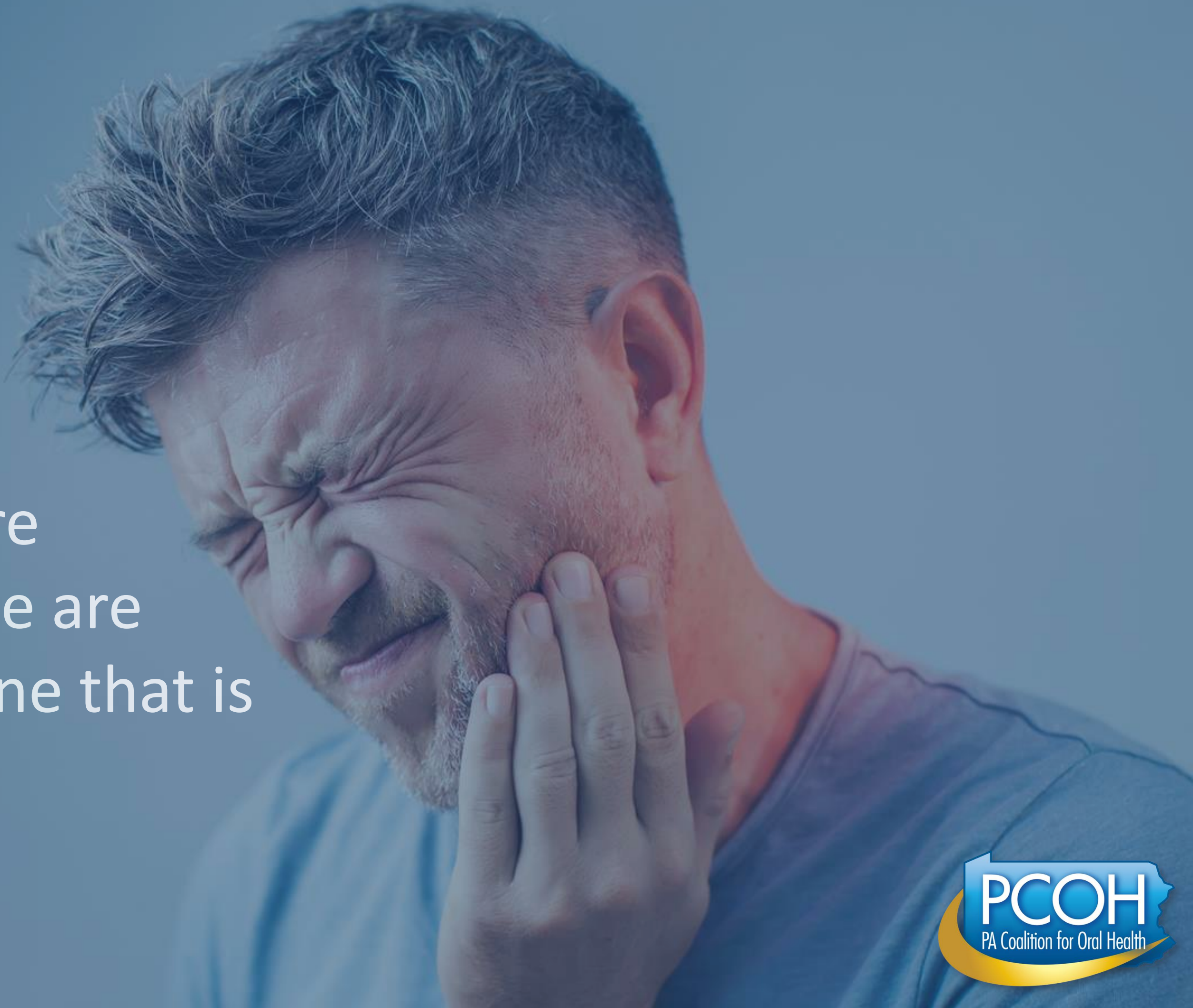


Improving oral health  
for Pennsylvania's most  
vulnerable populations



Advocating for  
community water  
fluoridation



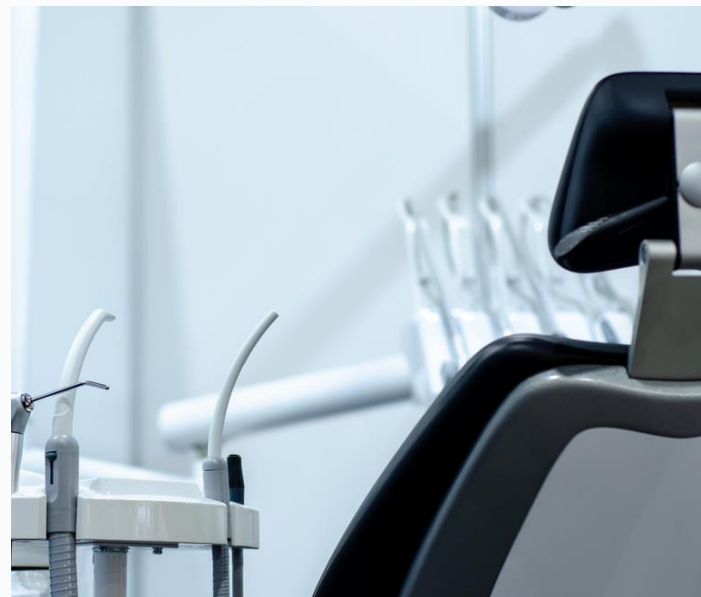
A close-up photograph of a man with short, dark, slightly messy hair and a light beard. He is grimacing in pain, with his eyes squeezed shut and his mouth slightly open. He is holding his right hand against his jawline, just below his ear. The background is a solid, muted blue. The overall tone of the image is somber and emphasizes physical discomfort.

"Some tortures are physical, and some are mental, but the one that is both is dental."

Ogden Nash

# Current Concerns

Dental provider numbers are decreasing; dental health professional shortage areas are rampant in rural counties



Individuals living in rural areas are struggling to access care, even in dental safety net clinics

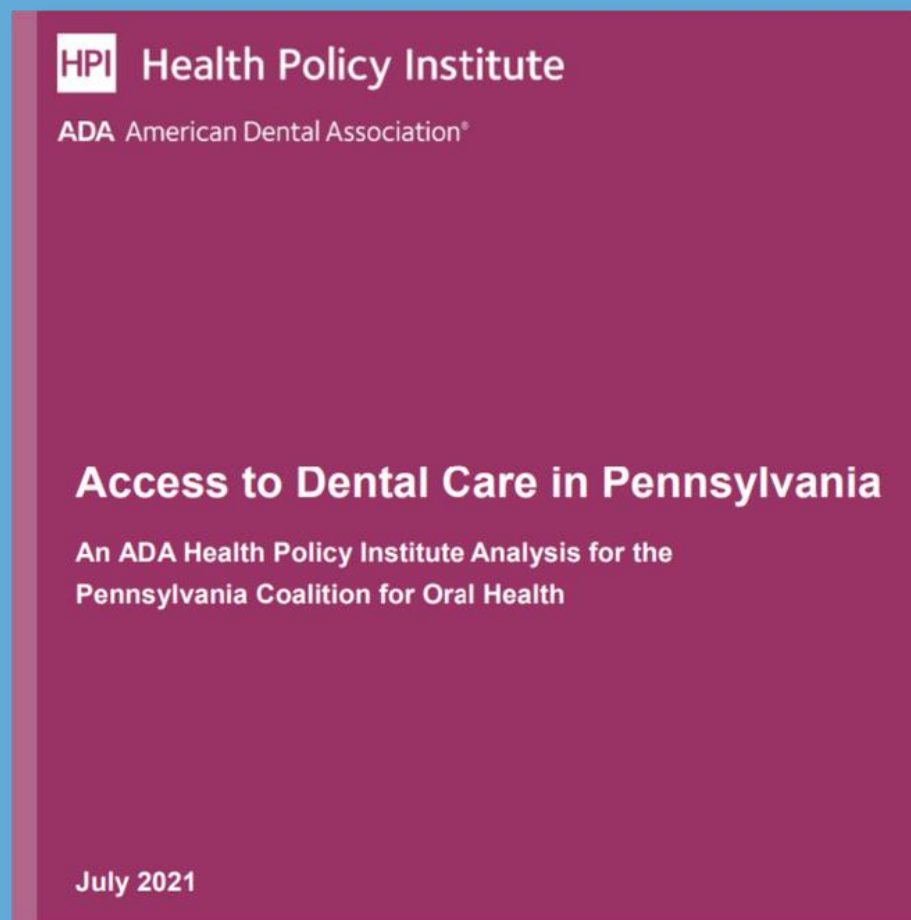


Rural areas are being disproportionately affected financially by these problems.



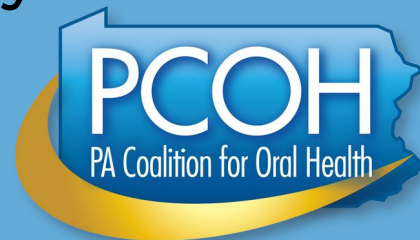


# Collaborative Analysis of Pennsylvania Dentist Supply with the ADA's Health Policy Institute in 2021

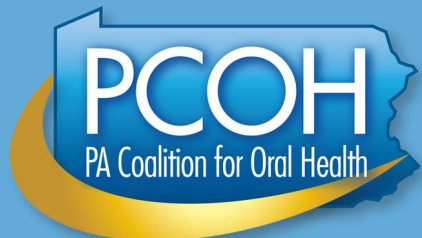
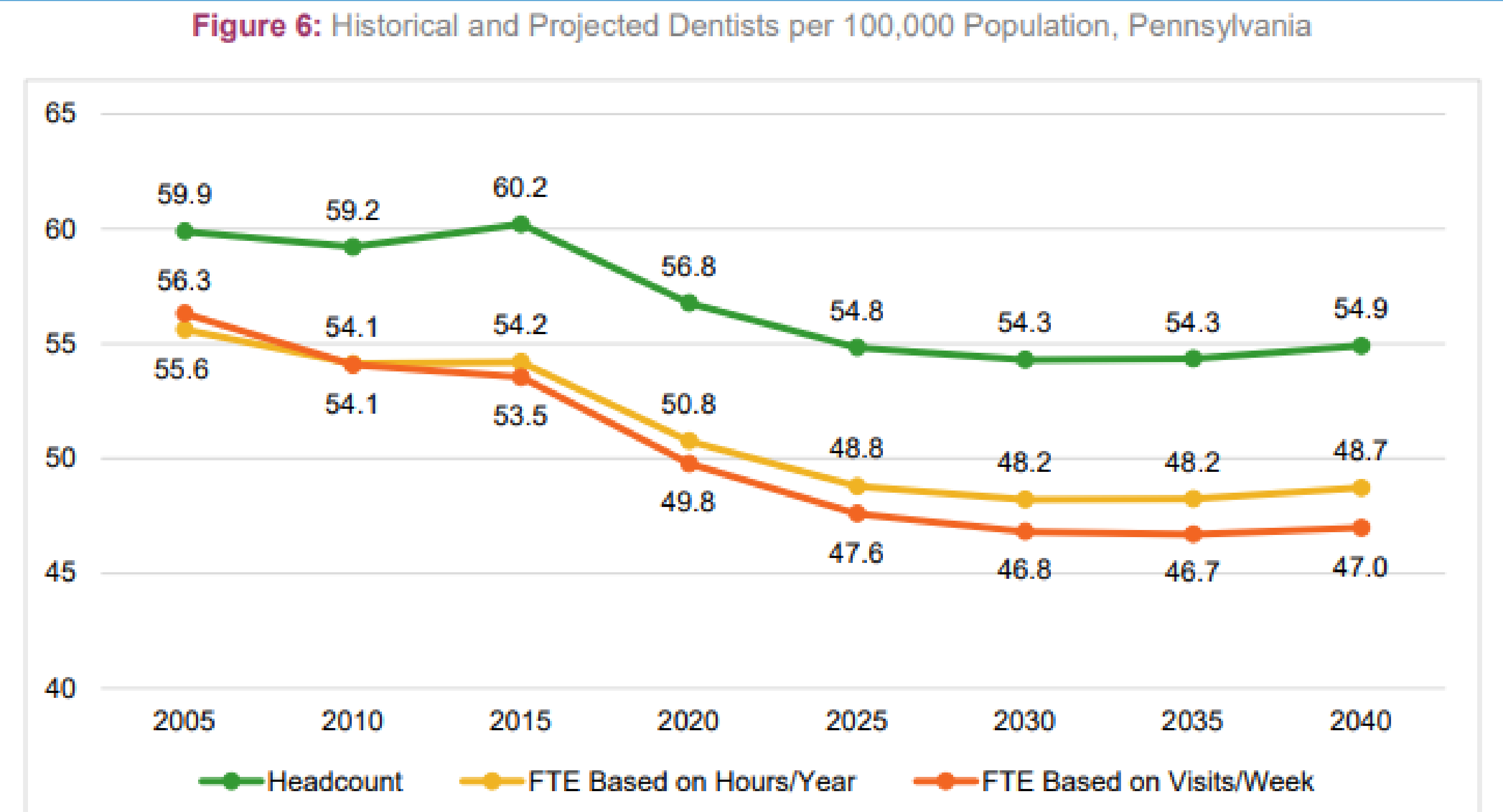


Available on our website  
for download in the  
Resources tab

- The supply of dentists in Pennsylvania is projected to decrease on a per capita basis through 2030 and then stabilize through 2040.
- Pennsylvania is expected to gain slightly more than it loses. This slight gain will NOT keep pace with the state's projected population growth.
- The female share of the workforce is projected to increase from about 1/3 in 2020 to just over 1/2 in 2040. This could have important implications for access to care as female dentists, all else equal, are more likely to practice in DSOs, less likely to be practice owners, and more likely to be Medicaid providers.
- In other words, male dentists in Pennsylvania make up larger percentages of rural dentists. Given that male dentists are less likely to participate in Medicaid, Medicaid enrollees in rural counties would be affected by this finding



# Collaborative Analysis of Pennsylvania Dentist Supply with the ADA's Health Policy Institute in 2021



Partially funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T12HP27539: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government."

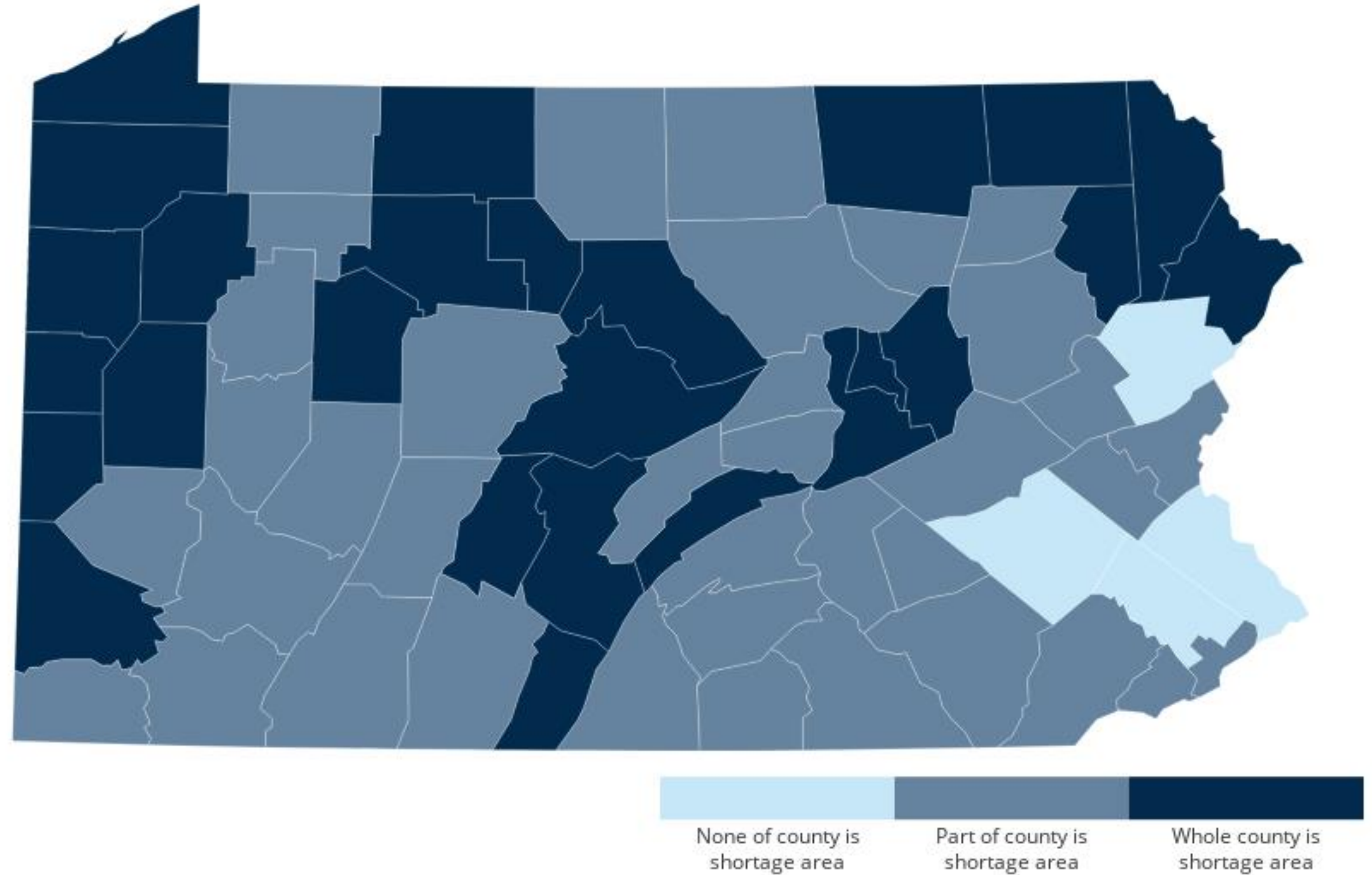
159

Dental Health  
Professional  
Shortage Areas  
(March 31, 2022)

337

Dentists to Meet  
the Need

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Dental Care, by County, 2022 - Pennsylvania







# 3.4 million

Pennsylvanians living in rural areas

## DENTAL PERSPECTIVE

61 : 100,000 ratio in urban PA counties

31 : 100,000 ratio in rural PA counties

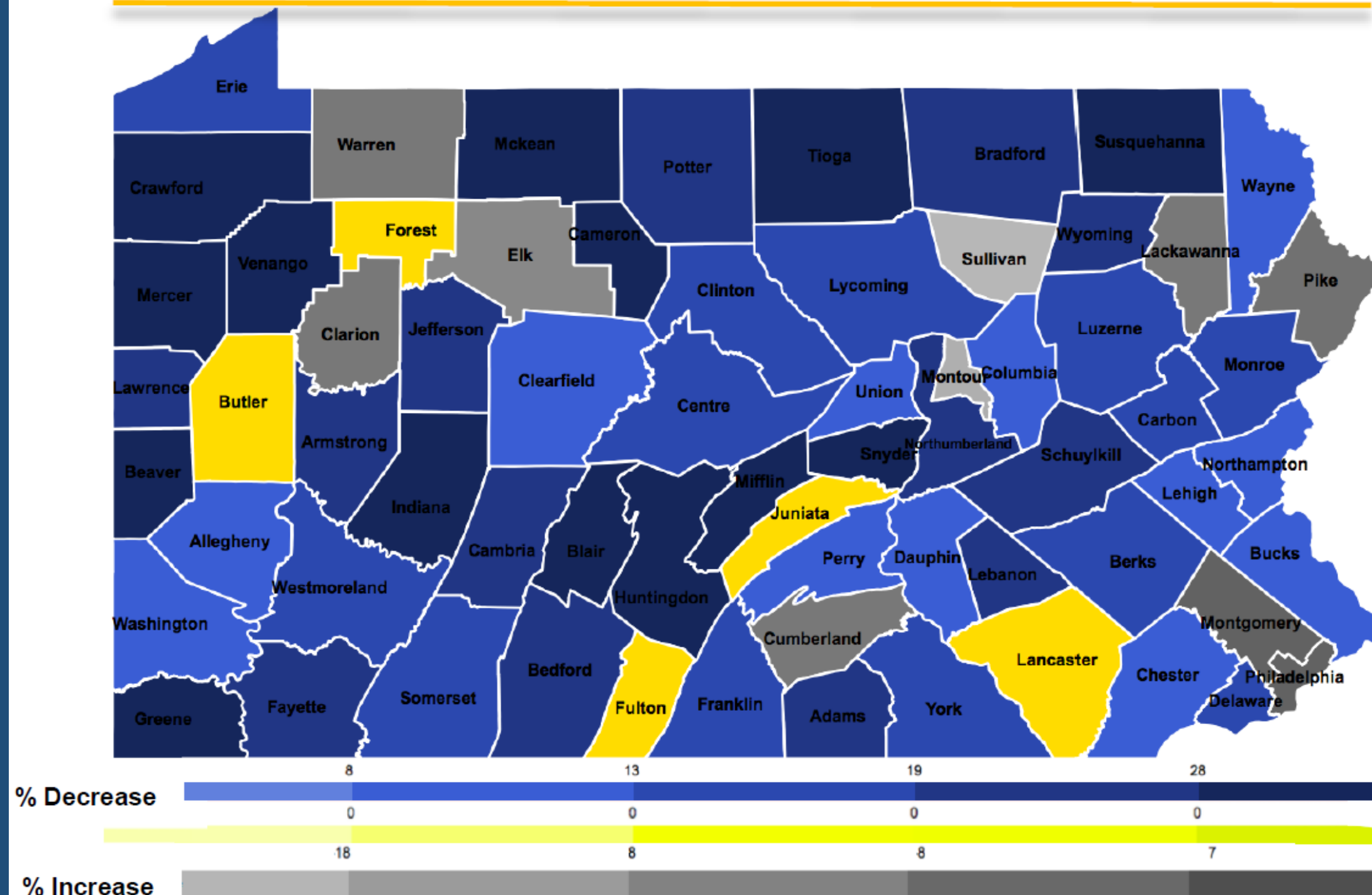
20 : 100,000 ratio in 4 rural counties



# Access to Oral Health Workforce Report

Released July 26, 2022

Figure 2: Percentage Change in Active Licensed Dentists from 2015 to 2021\*



*\*Rural counties may demonstrate an increase in providers, as viewed in gray highlight, however many of these increases represent only 1-5 new providers and still demonstrate poor dentist to population ratios.*

Full report, Executive Summary, and Regional Assessments can be found at [www.paoralhealth.org](http://www.paoralhealth.org)



# Key Findings in Rural

- Pennsylvania lost 216 rural dentists from 2015 to 2021, resulting in a 14.0% decrease in licensed dentist providers.
- This corresponds to a loss of approximately \$73,440,000 in labor income for rural counties and approximately 1,080 direct and 432 indirect FTE jobs in Pennsylvania's rural counties.

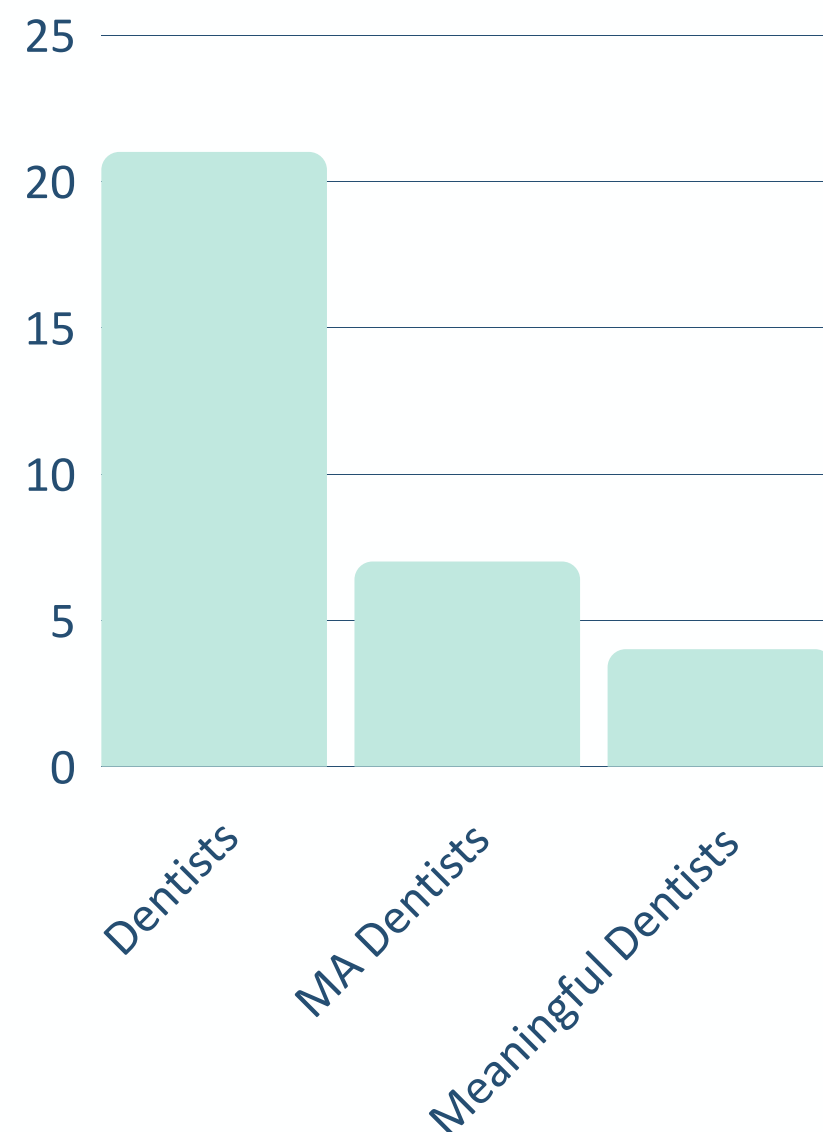


# Rural County Dental Providers

## Bradford County

Individuals  
enrolled in  
Medicaid  
Managed Care:  
12,549

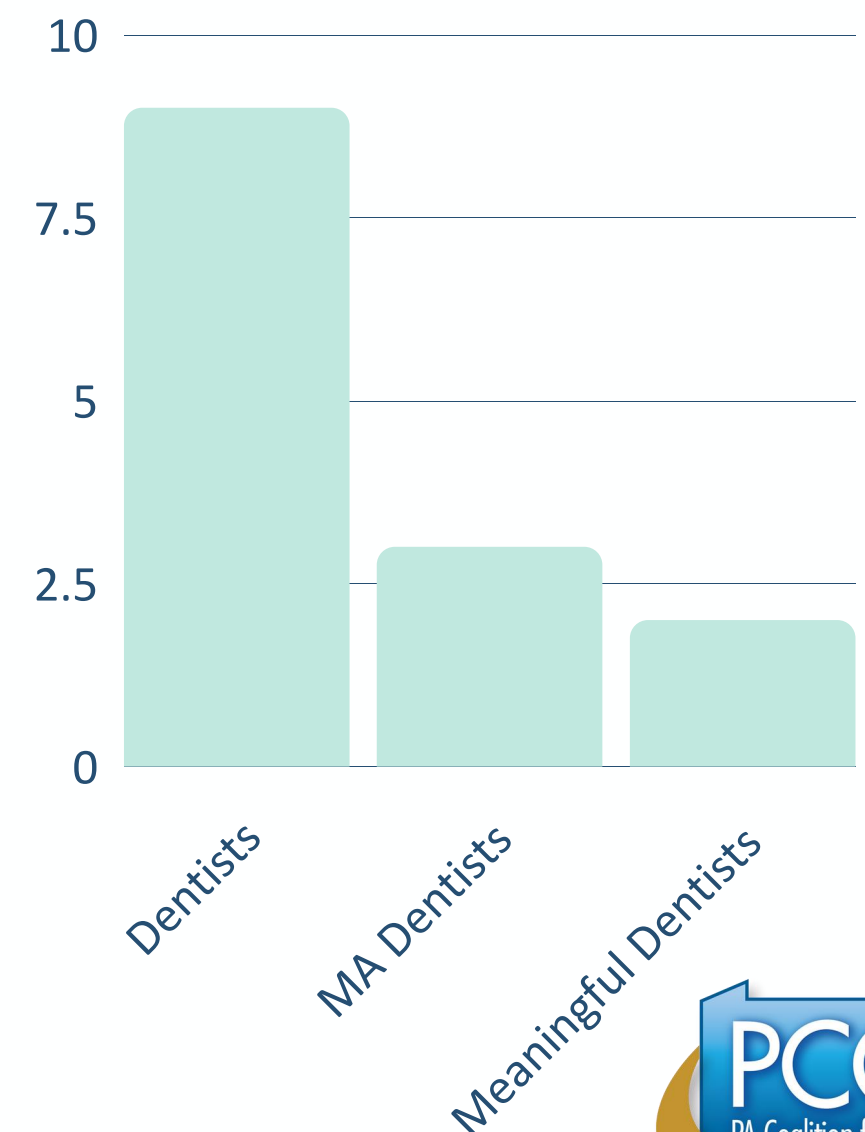
Total Population:  
60,323



## McKean County

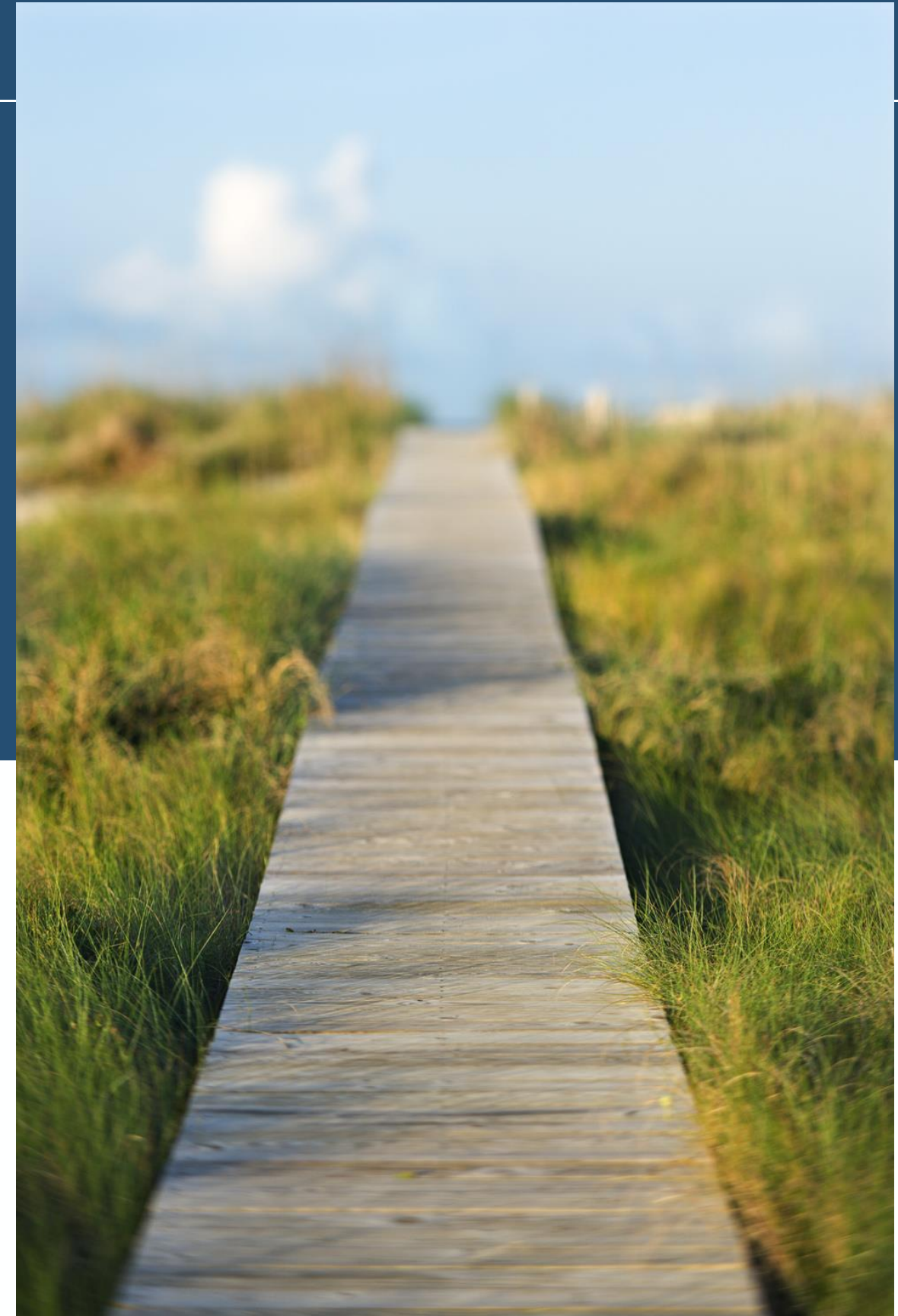
Individuals  
enrolled in  
Medicaid  
Managed Care:  
9,066

Total Population:  
40,625



# Access to Dental Care

- Rural areas have fewer providers and more transportation issues.
- Teledentistry is much harder to access due to broadband issues.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a dentist who participates with insurance, particularly Medicaid



# The Dental Safety Net

- FQHCs
  - 90% of FQHCs provide dental services
  - FQHC-based dental sites are available in approximately half of Pennsylvania's rural counties
- RHCs
  - Medical-Dental Integration was piloted in 9 RHCs in 2016
  - 13 RHCs are currently integrating oral health into their primary care practice and 7 RHCs provide some dental services on-site
- Free Clinics
  - 37 Free and Charitable Clinics in the state (decrease from 63 pre-COVID)
  - 8 are in rural counties
  - At least 17 are offering some form of dental services
- School Oral Health Programs
  - All schools must have a Mandated Dental Program (dental screenings in K/1, 3rd and 7th Grades) or a Dental Hygiene Services Program (education, screenings and preventive services)
  - 30+ School-Based Health Centers



*"Without data, you're just another person with an opinion."*

-W. Edwards Deming



Priorities :

- Access, Prevention, Education
- Oral Health Workforce
- Infrastructure Improvement

Advisory Committee of 33 Individuals/Organizations  
900+ Oral Health Stakeholders  
22 Measurable Outcomes

# Pennsylvania's Oral Health Plan



# Dental Pipeline

Pennsylvania has 3-full time dental schools, all in urban areas of the state

6,765 applications, 651 In-state applications (9.6%)

353 Total enrollees, 125 In-state enrollees (35.4%)

University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University

## HRSA-Funded Programs\*

### Undergraduate and Dental Students

Dental public health book study

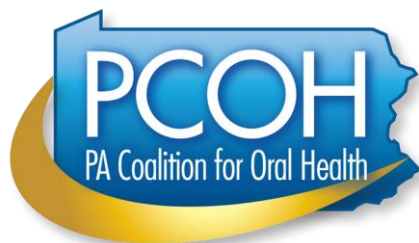
"Teeth: The Story of Beauty, Inequality, and the Struggle for Oral Health in America" by Mary Otto

### High School Students

Health Occupations Students of America

Area Health Education Centers

\*Funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T12HP27539: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government



# Sources of Loan Repayment

## Pennsylvania Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (LRP)

Offers dentists the opportunity to apply for up to \$100,000 for full-time service and \$50,000 half-time services in eligible sites, both for two-year terms.

Dental hygienists can apply for up to \$60,000 full-time and \$30,000 half-time, also for two years of service in eligible sites.

## National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment

All Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are automatically eligible sites.

RHCs can qualify if they offer a sliding fee schedule.

Successful applicants receive up to \$50,000 for two years of full-time service and up to \$25,000 for part-time service.

## For Current Students

The NHSC's Students-to-Service (S2S) program for fourth-year dental students.

The NHSC Scholarship program is available to students committed to primary care and accepted to or enrolled in an U.S. school training dentists.



# Primary Care Loan Repayment Program

## PA State Loan Repayment Program Distribution

50% to primary care providers, 25% to dental providers, and 25% to mental health providers; each is ranked separately.

For the dental providers, their 25% is allocated to the top scoring dental providers downward.

## Dental Applications

For 2021, 33 of 226 applications were from dental providers. The average has been 17% of applications.

## Dental Awardees

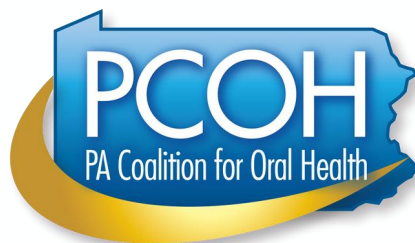
In 2021, there were 15 awards to dental providers.

Maximum award for dental hygienists is \$60,000.

Maximum award for dentists is \$100,000.

More hygienists have started to apply which makes the money stretch further.

There are currently 22 dental providers participating in the LRP

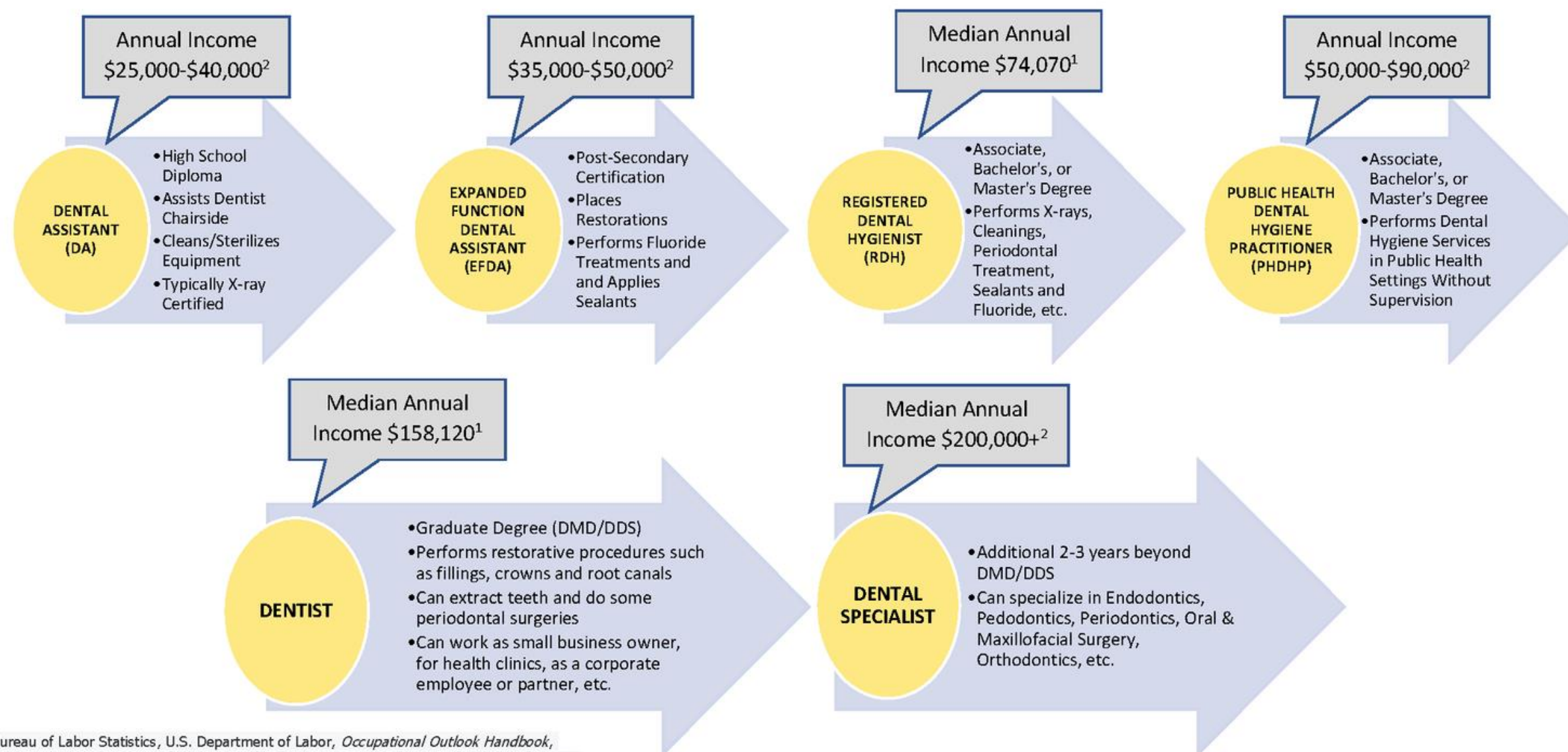


# Dental Pipeline Materials



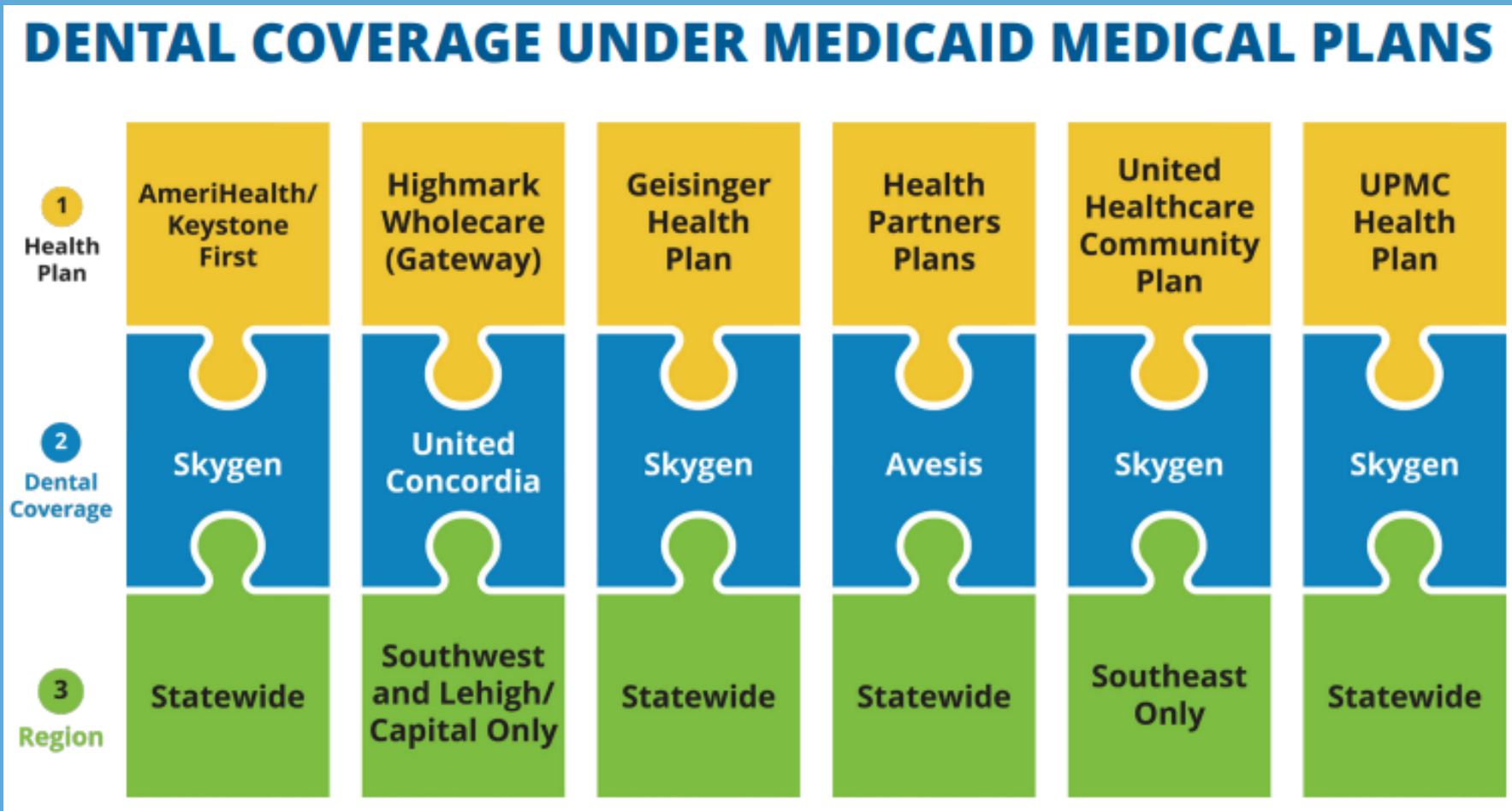
## Clinical Dental Careers Pathway

Working in oral health is rewarding for many reasons. There are many options available to fit an individual's personality and career goals. You can help people achieve health and wellness while maintaining a flexible work schedule and choose an educational path that suits your lifestyle. In Pennsylvania, the need for dental providers is growing, particularly in public health settings and rural areas.



<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm> (visited May 17, 2018).

<sup>2</sup>Information not widely available through Dept of Labor for PA-specific positions

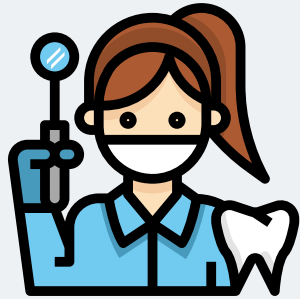


- Step 1: Enroll in DHS Office of Medical Assistance Programs (MAID #/PROMISE)
- Step 2: Identify the Managed Care Organizations that service your region of the state.
- Step 3: Get credentialed with each of the plans (no universal system).

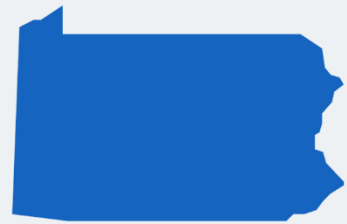
[paoralhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Best-Practices-Dental-Provider-Enrollment.pdf](http://paoralhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Best-Practices-Dental-Provider-Enrollment.pdf)



# Bright Spots and Areas for Change



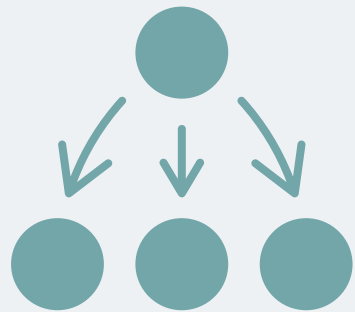
Public Health Dental  
Hygiene Practitioners



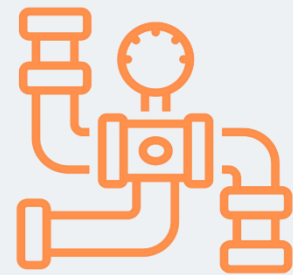
In-State Admissions



Teledentistry



Expanded Function  
Dental Assistants



Pipeline



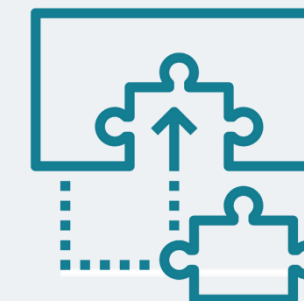
Residency Programs



Community Health  
Workers



Foreign-trained  
dentists



New Provider Types



Thank  
You

## Questions and Discussion

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[www.paoralhealth.org](http://www.paoralhealth.org)

724-972-7242

# **Mark your Calendars for Upcoming “SPECIAL TOPICS IN RURAL HEALTH” Webinars!**

**Wednesday, August 3, 2022**

**9:00 am-10:00 am**

**Oral Health Access and Workforce: Why is Rural Such a Problem?**

Helen Hawkey, Executive Director, PA Coalition for Oral Health, Delmont, PA

**Wednesday, August 17, 2022**

**10:00 am-11:00 am**

**Transforming Rural Health Care in Pennsylvania through Innovation in Payment and Service**

Gary Zegiestowsky, Chief Executive Officer and Janice Walters, Chief Operating Officer, Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center, Harrisburg, PA

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

**9:00 am-10:00 am**

**Cultivating Rural Health Professionals: How We Can Grow Our Own in Pennsylvania**

Ben Fredrick, MD, Professor of Family & Community Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine and Program Director, Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center (PA AHEC), Hershey, PA