

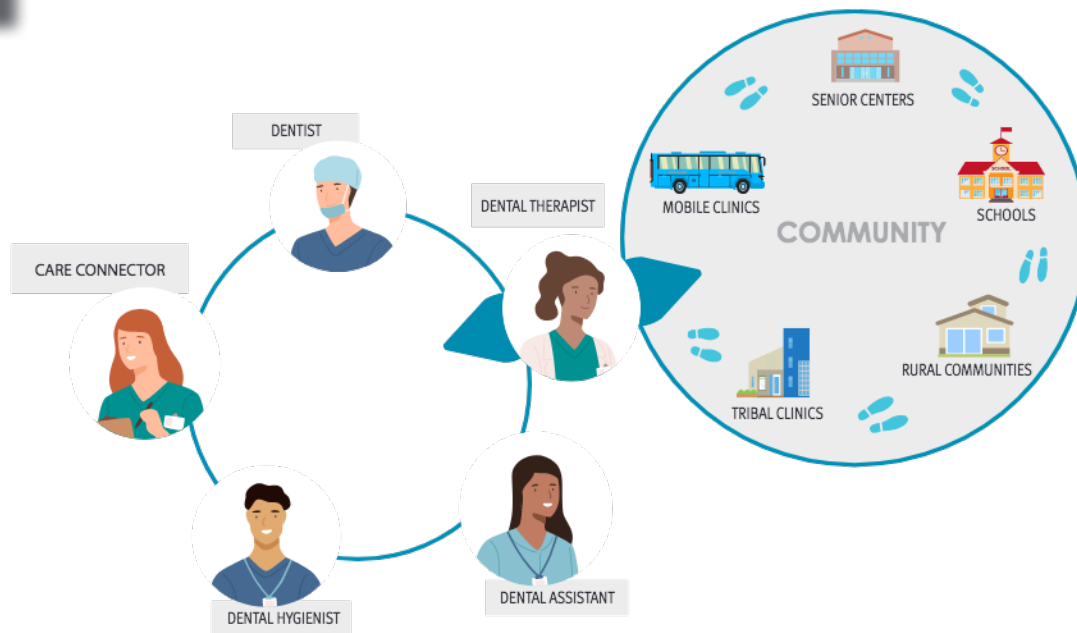
DENTAL THERAPY MATTERS

Increases Access. Expands the Team. Promotes Economic Development.



DENTAL THERAPIST

Highly trained dental care professional equipped to perform routine and preventive services working as part of the dental care team, similar to the role of a physician assistant in medicine.



INCREASES ACCESS TO CARE

More than 58 million Americans are unable to receive dental care in the communities in which they live, a reality that has been exacerbated by the onset of the global pandemic. In addition to private practice, dental therapists are able to increase access to care by providing local care through schools, senior centers, mobile clinics, rural community clinics and Tribal clinics, among others, under the off-site supervision of a dentist. Dental therapists have made it possible to decrease travel and wait times for patients.



EXPANDS THE DENTAL CARE TEAM

Dental therapists expand the dental care team. Working under the supervision of a dentist, the care dental therapists provide complements dental hygienists and dental assistants, including oral health education and common dental procedures such as filling cavities and extracting already loose teeth. Dental therapists bring new capacity and flexibility to the dental care team. By focusing on preventive and routine services, they free up dentists to provide more complex care and services to their patients.



PROMOTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH

Hiring dental therapists is a cost-effective way for dentists to grow their practices. With a dental therapist on the team, dentists are able to perform more advanced procedures, serve more patients and earn additional revenue. Dental therapy leads to job creation and business growth. The role of a dental therapist provides an opportunity for a local high school graduate to attain a specialized degree and a good paying job, while also allowing them to live and work in their own community.