



# Dental Therapists

*Creating new jobs for Kansans*

## Research on mid-level oral health practitioners

Mid-level dental practitioners have a long global history, and their work has been the focus of significant research. The following is a list of major studies on the subject and their findings.

## Dental therapists provide safe and effective care

- Wetterhall, S., Bader, JD., Burrus, BB., Lee, JY., Shugars, DA. "Evaluation of the Dental Health Aide Therapist Workforce Model in Alaska." RTI International. 2010. RTI Project Number 0211727.000.001.
- Bolin KA. Assessment of treatment provided by dental health aide therapists in Alaska: a pilot study." Journal of the American Dental Association. 2008; 139:1530-1535.
- Nash DA, Friedman JW, Kardos TB, Kardos RL, Schwarz E, Satur J, Berg DG, Nasruddin J, Davenport EG, Nagel RJ. "Dental therapists: a global perspective." International Dental Journal. 2008; 58:61-70.
- Fiset, L. A Report on Quality Assessment of Primary Care Provided by Dental Therapists to Alaska Natives (Seattle, WA: University of Washington School of Dentistry, 2005).
- Lobene R, Kerr A. The Forsyth Experiment: An Alternative System for Dental Care (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979).
- Abrose ER, Hord AB, Simpson WJ. A Quality Evaluation of Specific Dental Services Provided by the Saskatchewan Dental Plan. (Regina, Canada: Province of Saskatchewan Department of Health, 1976).
- Abramowitz J, Berg LE. "A four-year study of the utilization of dental assistants with expanded functions." Journal of the American Dental Association. 1973; 87:623-635.
- Brearley LJ, Rosenblum FN. "Two-year evaluation of auxiliaries trained in expanded duties." Journal of the American Dental Association. 1972; 84:600-610.
- Hammons PE, Jamison HC, Wilson LL. "Quality of service provided by dental therapists in an experimental program at the University of Alabama." Journal of the American Dental Association. 1971; 82:1060-1066
- Lotzkar S, Johnson DW, Thompson, MB. "Experimental program in expanded functions for dental assistants: Phase 3 experiment with dental teams." Journal of the American Dental Association. 1971; 82:1067-1081.

## Areas where dental therapists have practiced for decades report a sharp decline in permanent tooth loss

- Nash DA, Friedman JW, Kardos TB, Kardos RL, Schwarz E, Satur J, Berg DG, Nasruddin J, Davenport EG, Nagel RJ. "Dental therapists: a global perspective." International Dental Journal. 2008; 58:61-70.
- Miller CE. "Access to care for people with special needs: Role of alternative providers and practice settings." Journal of the California Dental Association. 2005; 33, no.9:715-721.
- Nash DA, Nagel RJ. "Confronting oral health disparities among American Indian/Alaska Native children: The pediatric oral health therapist." American Journal of Public Health. 2005; 95, no.8: 1325-1329.
- Mertz E, Anderson G, Grumbach K, O'Neil E. "Evaluation Strategies to Recruit Oral Health Care Providers to Underserved Areas of California." (San Francisco, CA: Center for California Health Workforce Studies, 2004).
- Dental therapists can reduce costs and increase net income when incorporated into a dentist's practice. Pew Center on the States, "It Takes A Team: How New Dental Providers Can Benefit Patients and Practices," [http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/State\\_policy/Report\\_It\\_Takes\\_a\\_Team\\_final.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/State_policy/Report_It_Takes_a_Team_final.pdf) (December, 2010).
- Lobene R, Kerr A. The Forsyth Experiment: An Alternative System for Dental Care (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1979).
- Abramowitz J, Berg LE. "A four-year study of the utilization of dental assistants with expanded functions." Journal of the American Dental Association. 1973; 87:623-635.