

AADOCR, ADEA and Friends of NIDCR 2024 Advocacy Day

U.S. Senate Asks

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research urge Congress to prioritize funding for dental, oral, and craniofacial research and essential oral health programs.

We call on members of the U.S. Senate to support the following oral health priorities:

1. Pass an FY 2025 budget with adequate resources for oral health with funding levels of at least:
 - **\$51.3 billion** for the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
 - **\$559 million** for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
 - **\$46 million** for **HRSA Title VII Oral Health Training Programs**
 - **\$36 million** for the **CDC Division of Oral Health**

The research and oral health programs supported by these federal agencies enhance the knowledge base of oral health professionals, researchers, and dental faculty members with the goal of improving dental clinical practices, preparing the dental workforce, closing the gap in oral health disparities, and addressing numerous public health challenges.

2. Cosponsor the **Action for Dental Health Act (S. 2891)**, bipartisan legislation that addresses dental workforce shortages and enhances access to dental care by funding workforce training, expanding dental services to underserved areas, and supporting oral health education initiatives.

The **American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research** (AADOCR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research.

The **American Dental Education Association** (ADEA) is The Voice of Dental Education. Our mission is to lead and support the health professions community in preparing future-ready oral health professionals. Our members include all 82 U.S. and Canadian dental schools, more than 800 allied and advanced dental education programs, more than 55 corporations and approximately 15,000 individuals. Our activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty and leadership development, meetings, news, and publications, including the esteemed Journal of Dental Education®.

The **Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research** (FNIDCR) is a broad-based coalition of academic and research institutions, professional associations, and foundations that champion NIDCR, the world's largest institution dedicated exclusively to research to improve dental, oral and craniofacial health. With programmatic activities operated out of AADOCR, FNIDCR helps represent the interests of patients, researchers, educators, clinicians and students and the value they find in NIDCR and its critical research.

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U.S. House of Representatives Asks

The American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research urge Congress to prioritize funding for dental, oral, and craniofacial research and essential oral health programs.

We call on members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support the following oral health priorities:

1. Pass an FY 2025 budget with adequate resources for oral health with funding levels of at least:
 - **\$51.3 billion** for the National Institutes of Health (**NIH**)
 - **\$559 million** for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (**NIDCR**)
 - **\$46 million** for general and pediatric dental residency programs under **HRSA Title VII**
 - **\$36 million** for the **CDC Division of Oral Health**

The research and oral health programs supported by these federal agencies enhance the knowledge base of health professionals, researchers, and dental faculty members with the goal of improving dental clinical practices, preparing the dental workforce, closing the gap in oral health disparities, and addressing numerous public health challenges.

2. Cosponsor **H.Res.1078**, a resolution **recognizing NIDCR's 75th anniversary** and its critical role in improving the dental, oral, and craniofacial health of the United States through research, training, and the dissemination of health information.

The **American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research** (AADOCR) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to drive dental, oral, and craniofacial research to advance health and well-being. AADOOCR represents the individual scientists, clinician-scientists, dental professionals, and students based in academic, government, non-profit and private-sector institutions who share our mission. AADOOCR is the largest division of the International Association for Dental Research.

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2024 AADOCR/ADEA/FNIDCR Advocacy Day Congressional Visit Talking Points

**This document is intended to serve as a guide for your congressional visits. You are not expected to recite all of these talking points. Instead, we encourage you to use the examples as prompts to make the case for increased federal funding for dental, oral, and craniofacial research and incorporate your own first-hand experiences.*

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you for taking the time to talk with us today.
- My name is [REDACTED] and I'm representing the [choose one] [American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research] OR [American Dental Education Association] OR [Friends of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research].
- I live in [CITY/STATE], and [if applicable], I am a constituent of [LEGISLATOR NAME].
- I am a [PROFESSION] at [INSTITUTION], where I [brief description of your research/studies].

FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS: NIH, NIDCR, HRSA Title VII, CDC Division of Oral Health

- We are grateful to Congress for its longstanding bipartisan support and investment in federal research at the NIH, which has allowed the agency to advance biomedical innovation.
- We hope Congress will return to regular order this year and **pass a full-year government spending bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 by Sept. 30 to avoid the need for disruptive continuing resolutions (CRs).**
- For FY 2025, we ask that your boss support adequate resources for oral health research and training programs, and the entire federal research and science enterprise. Our chief funding asks are for NIH, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), HRSA's Title VII Oral Health Training Programs, and CDC's Division of Oral Health.
- Specifically, we are asking for at least **\$51.3 billion for NIH**, a proportional **\$559 million for NIDCR**; at least **\$46 million for HRSA's Title VII Oral Health Training Programs**, and at least **\$36 million for CDC's Division of Oral Health**.
- The \$51.3 billion figure for NIH represents a 9% increase over the enacted FY 2024 program level (\$47.08 B), which would allow NIH's budget to keep pace with biomedical inflation and continue making tangible progress against a wide range of diseases and conditions. This federal investment would also ensure that America remains a world leader in medical research.

BACKGROUND: NIDCR (Also see NIDCR talking points document)

- NIDCR is the largest oral health research organization in the world, providing the scientific knowledge and evidence base for clinical decision-making by 200,000 U.S. dental practitioners.
- NIDCR advances fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease, and translates those findings into prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies that improve the overall health of all Americans.
- NIDCR addresses public health challenges including dental caries, periodontal disease, and craniofacial birth defects, and related public health issues, such as dental and orofacial pain and opioid use, temporomandibular disorders (TMDs), oral cancers, and health disparities.
- [Share your personal story; how NIDCR has advanced your career or your field of study.]

**2024 AADOCR/ADEA/FNIDCR Advocacy Day
Congressional Visit Talking Points**

BACKGROUND: HRSA ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS (Also see HRSA talking points document)

- HRSA's Oral Health Training Programs increase the number of dentists and dental hygienists in the workforce by providing training to students and residents in general, pediatric, public health dentistry and dental hygiene.
- The programs play a key role in delivering primary oral health care services, particularly in rural and other underserved communities where there are severe dental provider supply shortages. There are now 6,826 dental HPSAs (Health Professional Shortage Areas) in the U.S. covering 58 million people. Nearly 10,000 additional dental practitioners are needed to meet this need.
- HRSA provides grants for pre-doctoral education and post-doctoral training programs for dentists and hygienists. Its Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program helps attract and retain dental faculty through loan repayment and continuing education opportunities.

BACKGROUND: CDC DIVISION OF ORAL HEALTH

- CDC's Division of Oral Health (DOH) supports state health departments to help reduce cavities and oral disease among vulnerable populations. It invests in oral health promotion interventions like school-based dental sealants and water fluoridation programs, and has developed infection prevention and control guidelines for dental settings.
- The Division has helped reduce health disparities through evidence-based community preventive interventions that also provide access to clinical preventive services. The CDC's investment in state health agencies has helped significantly reduce the incidence of oral disease in underserved communities.
- While CDC funding supports every state health department for many health conditions (cancer; diabetes; tobacco control programs), it only has the resources to fund oral disease prevention programs in 20 states and territories, leaving 30 states without the resources needed to meet the oral health needs of vulnerable populations.

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT (SENATE ONLY)

- Finally, we request your boss's **support and co-sponsorship of the *Action for Dental Health Act* (S. 2891)** to address dental workforce shortages and enhance access to dental care by funding workforce training, expanding dental services to underserved areas, and supporting oral health education initiatives.
- Action for Dental Health (ADH) is a crucial oral health workforce grant program at HRSA, which is set to expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The ADH program directs federal funds through the states to local organizations that help meet the oral health needs of underserved populations.
- ADH directs its efforts at dental disease prevention through improved oral health education, reduction of geographic and language barriers, and improved access to care, with the goal of decreasing oral health disparities in vulnerable communities.
- In March, the U.S. House passed the companion bill, H.R. 3843, by a vote of 391-32.
- The lead sponsors of S. 2891 are Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ted Budd (R-NC). You can reach out to those offices if your boss is interested in cosponsoring this important bill.

**2024 AADOCR/ADEA/FNIDCR Advocacy Day
Congressional Visit Talking Points**

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING NIDCR'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY (HOUSE ONLY)

- Finally, we request your boss's **co-sponsorship of House Resolution 1078**, which recognizes NIDCR's 75th anniversary and its critical role in improving America's dental, oral, and craniofacial health through biomedical and behavioral research, training, and the dissemination of health information.
- The resolution, sponsored by dentist Representative Brian Babin (R-TX), commends the Institute for its leadership in pioneering epidemiological and preventive research that helped eradicate the nation's epidemic of rampant tooth decay.
- The resolution is endorsed by ADA, AADOCR and ADEA. A bipartisan Senate companion resolution (S. Res. 605), sponsored by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Mike Braun (R-IN), passed the Senate by unanimous consent on March 20, 2024.
- Please reach out to Rep. Babin's office if your boss is willing to cosponsor the resolution.

CONCLUSION

- Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us today. AADOCR and ADEA staff will be following up with your office on these important issues.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Mission

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) aims to advance fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease, and translate these findings into prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies that improve overall health for all individuals and communities across the lifespan.

In carrying out this mission, NIDCR addresses public health challenges including caries, periodontal disease, and craniofacial birth defects, as well as related public health issues, such as dental and orofacial pain and opioid use, temporomandibular disorders (TMDs), oral cancers, and health disparities within its mission areas.

Key Facts

- Founded in 1948, NIDCR is the largest funder of oral health research in the world.
- In 2022, dental care in the U.S. cost a total of ~\$165 billion.
- In FY 2023, 63% of all NIH's funding to dental schools came from NIDCR.
- NIDCR supports 82% of NIH awardees who have dental or oral health-related degrees.
- NIDCR-supported research provides scientific knowledge underlying the oral health care practices of ~200,000 U.S. dental practitioners.
- This year, NIDCR celebrates 75 years of supporting scientific advancements, dramatically improving oral and overall health.

NIDCR's High Profile Initiatives

- ***Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Tissue Regeneration Consortium (DOCTRC)***: Supports the early development of products to repair or restore craniofacial muscles, bones, and other tissues lost to illness or injury. Currently, 20 interdisciplinary projects are being supported. Most projects have received feedback from the FDA and 95% have patents issued or pending applications.
- ***National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)***: Engages dental practitioners to conduct research that improves oral health care. Launched in 2005, the PBRN has enrolled over 75,000 participants and completed 56 studies. Data from these projects are available at no cost to researchers. Examples of studies include:
 - Using an mHealth app to assess pain after dental surgery
 - Providing nicotine replacement therapy in dental practices
 - Creating a dental implant registry
 - Analyzing aerosols generated in dental settings to inform infection prevention strategies
 - Informing evidence-based guidelines for use of antibiotics to treat periodontitis
- ***TMD Collaborative for Improving Patient-Centered Translational Research (TMD IMPACT)***: Aims to improve clinical care for people with TMDs, a set of complex, painful, and poorly understood conditions of the joint and surrounding tissues. TMDs affect 5-10% of the U.S. population and are twice as common in women. NIDCR funded nine TMD IMPACT projects, which will develop new partnerships, infrastructure, and capabilities needed to fulfill the goals of the collaborative. This will lay the groundwork for new patient-centered approaches to drive translational and implementation research that improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of TMDs. Goals also include the reduction of sex-based disparities and expanding educational and outreach programs for dental and medical health professionals and TMD patients.
- ***Advancing Head and Neck Cancer Early Detection Research (AHEAD)***: Aims to improve early detection of head and neck cancers, including HPV-associated cancers. Head and neck cancers are the sixth most common type of cancer worldwide. More than 65,000 people are diagnosed with the cancers in the U.S. each year. Projects are investigating techniques such as high-resolution imaging and tailored biomarkers.

NIDCR's Impactful Stories and Latest Advances

- **Deciphering the code to the human face:** Each year in the U.S., about 3% of infants are born with birth defects. About half involve the face or skull. NIDCR-supported researchers are investigating the genetic and environmental causes of these dental, oral, and craniofacial anomalies and are working to find therapies and prevention strategies.
- **Opioid alternatives and pain research:** Partnering with the Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative®, to address oral complications caused by medications used to treat opioid use disorders. Through the **Restoring Joint Health and Function to Reduce Pain (RE-JOIN) Consortium**, which is part of the NIH HEAL Initiative®, NIDCR supports interdisciplinary studies of sensory nerves in the TMD joint and seeks new ways to relieve pain and restore joint health.
- **Reducing health disparities:** Supporting researchers working to reduce caries-related disparities and increase prevention efforts for vulnerable populations using multi-level approaches, such as targeted text messages that aim to improve oral health behaviors among underserved children. NIDCR funded a pivotal Phase III clinical trial demonstrating that an inexpensive, painless, and easy-to-apply topical liquid, silver diamine fluoride (SDF), can stop progression of tooth decay in young children. Studies suggest that the silver in SDF kills cavity-causing microbes and helps stop destruction of teeth, while the fluoride helps rebuild and strengthen teeth.
- **Restoring salivary function – potential relief for Sjögren's patients:** Salivary glands can be disrupted by genetic diseases, certain medications, radiation treatment for head and neck cancers, and autoimmune disorders, like Sjögren's disease. Insufficient saliva can cause burning sensations in the mouth, persistent oral ulcers, and increased risk of tooth decay and infection. NIDCR researchers successfully used a gene therapy approach to restore salivary function in animals and in a pilot study in humans. The therapy is currently being tested in a Phase I clinical trial and results are expected in 2024.
- **New hope for a rare disorder:** Fragile bones, dark patches on the skin, and early puberty are indications of fibrous dysplasia or McCune-Albright syndrome, a rare disorder of the skeleton, skin, and endocrine system that can be painful and disabling. A recent NIDCR clinical trial demonstrated a medication, denosumab, improved the quality and strength of participants' bones. NIDCR researchers also developed a diagnostic blood test that is less invasive and better at predicting disease severity than existing methods.
- **Health information:** NIDCR's website contains information, tips, and links to resources on more than two dozen health topics (available in English and Spanish) to help patients make informed decisions.

How NIDCR Strengthens the Future Oral Health Workforce

- **Patient-oriented clinical research experiences in dental schools:** The **Practice-based Research Integrating Multidisciplinary Experiences in Dental Schools (PRIMED)** initiative provides dental students and faculty with opportunities focused on developing clinical research skills, mentoring, and institutional collaboration. This complements the National Dental PBRN, which provides similar opportunities for dentists.
- **Fostering early-stage researchers' career development:** focusing on populations underrepresented in the U.S. biomedical research enterprise by:
 - Promoting the transition to independent research careers through the **NIDCR Mentored Career Development Award to Promote Diversity in the Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research Workforce**.
 - Sponsors a three-year **Dental Public Health Fellowship Research program**. Includes an accredited 1-year full-time residency in Dental Public Health followed by a 2-year full-time postdoctoral fellowship with a strong focus on oral health research.
 - Training, mentoring, and networking opportunities provided by the **NIDCR Mentoring Networks to Promote a Diverse Dental and Craniofacial Research Workforce** initiative.
- **Partnerships with private and professional organizations:** NIDCR is working with various groups (including American Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, and American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research) to foster an interest in science, oral health, and oral health disparities among students in grades K-12.

HRSA Title VII Oral Health Training & Workforce Programs

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for dentists is projected to grow 6% from 2021 to 2031 and for dental hygienists the demand is projected to grow by 9% from 2021 to 2031.

Significant unmet need exists for dental care, especially in vulnerable and underserved populations. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimates that 70 million Americans live in the 7,323 dental shortage areas nationwide, requiring 11,957 additional practitioners to meet the need.

The Oral Health Training Programs are helping to fix the dental access gap:

- In Academic Year (AY) 2022-2023:
 - 4,399 pre-doctoral students, including hygiene students, were educated in oral healthcare as a result of HRSA Oral Health Training grants.
 - 4,152 dental residents and fellows received training. Of those who participated in training: 881 were in underserved communities, 705 were in primary care settings, and 460 were in rural areas.
- In Academic Year (AY) 2021 -2022:
 - 100 faculty received financial support award totaling \$2.1 million. 39% were from an underrepresented minority background, 29% were from a disadvantaged background and 15% were from a rural background.
 - 276 dental faculty received loan repayment, relieving \$3.7 million in debt. HRSA estimates that without dental faculty programs, dental faculty vacancies could have grown by 113% during AYs 2016 through 2021; instead, they grew by 78%.
 - Each of the above programs help increase the number of dentists and dental hygienists in the workforce.

Oral Health Workforce

Action for Dental Health Act (S. 2891)

Dental practices in America are facing a workforce problem that is limiting access to care. A recent American Dental Association survey of dentists found that one-third of dentists are actively recruiting dental hygienists and dental assistants, and 87% of dentists report that recruiting for these positions is extremely challenging. Dental practice staffing difficulties limit the number of patients dentists can see, posing an obstacle to access to dental care.

You can help address the oral health workforce shortage by supporting **S. 2891, the Action for Dental Health Act**, which was introduced by Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Ted Budd (R-NC). This legislation would reauthorize the Action for Dental Health (ADH) program for a five-year period, from 2024 to 2028. ADH directs federal funding to state and local organizations through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) oral health workforce grant program.

ADH has supported many state-based efforts to reduce dental disease, including:

- Strengthening and expanding the public/private safety net and bringing dental health education and disease prevention into underserved communities;
- Supporting workforce training and oral health programs with the goal of delivering care to people suffering from dental disease where better access to care is most needed; and
- Establishing dental homes, which decreases emergency department visits.

On March 7, 2024, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the companion bill, H.R. 3843, by a vote of 391-32. We urge you to join the efforts of your colleagues in the House to address the oral health needs of underserved populations, and support improvements in the dental workforce to support dental professionals where they are most needed.

Please cosponsor and support the Action for Dental Health Act (S. 2891).

H.Res.1078 – Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

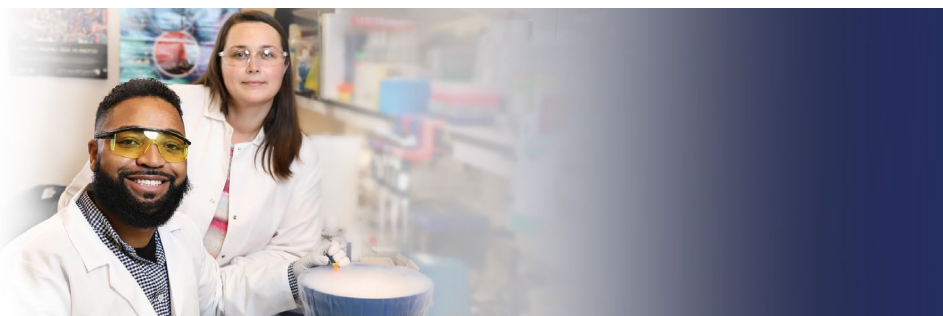
- Celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the NIDCR and its critical role in improving America’s dental, oral, and craniofacial health through biomedical and behavioral research, training, and the dissemination of health information
- Declares that the NIDCR is a “vital, venerable, and essential component” of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and America’s overall public health and science strategy
- Commends the Institute for fostering translational research across the biomedical sciences and its leadership in pioneering epidemiological and preventive research that helped eradicate the nation’s epidemic of rampant tooth decay
- Endorsed by the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR), American Dental Association (ADA), and American Dental Education Association (ADEA)
- Lead Sponsor: **Representative Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX)**
- Bipartisan Senate companion resolution (S. Res. 605), sponsored by Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN), passed Senate by unanimous consent on March 20, 2024

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

- Largest funder of oral health research in the world
- Supports scientists at all stages of their careers and funds cutting-edge research to create the scientific foundation for oral health policy and practice
- Funds research that provides the evidence base for clinical decision-making by over 300,000 U.S. dental professionals
- Invests nearly \$400 million to support biomedical research at universities, medical and dental schools, and small

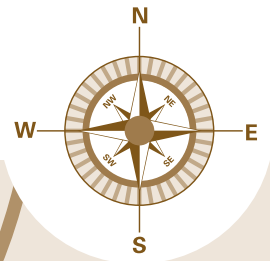
Celebrating the Past and
Charting the Future of
Dental, Oral, & Craniofacial
Research

Please cosponsor House Resolution 1078 recognizing NIDCR’s 75th anniversary.



U.S. CAPITOL

Visitor Center



Legend

	Accessible Entrance		Elevators
	Accessible Route		Parking
	Visitor Services Shuttle		Bus Pick-Up
	Circulator Bus Stop		Bus Drop-Off
			Metro Station

