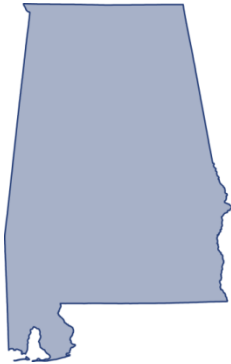


# Alabama & The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$9,315,320**

Number of Institutions Funded: **1 (University of Alabama at Birmingham)**

Number of Grants Awarded: **21**

Number of Congressional Districts: **1**

## Improving Alabama's Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) continues to serve as the headquarters for the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (NDPBRN). NDPBRN is a research network comprised of more than 4,600 dentists and hygienists, practicing clinicians and academic scientists focusing on dental clinical research. The NDPBRN works to support research in dental practices in order to translate research findings into a clinical setting and improve patient outcomes. The overall goal of the collaborative effort will improve the efficiency and efficacy of clinical dental care. Total funding for this initiative is \$66.8 million over seven years.
- Dental caries (tooth decay) is the most prevalent infectious disease affecting the American public. Biofilm formation is crucial for the pathogenesis of dental caries caused by cariogenic bacterium *Streptococcus mutans*. Researchers at UAB are working collaboratively to characterize small molecules that specifically inhibit and disperse cariogenic biofilms. Development of the selective small molecules offers a new opportunity to designing effective therapies combating and preventing tooth decay and will revolutionize the current treatment options. A multidisciplinary research team among chemists, animal model experts, microbiologists and dentist scientists are participating in this research goal.

