



## TRIBAL DENTAL THERAPY FORUM

# Implementing the New Arizona Dental Therapy Law

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# NATIVE HEALTH

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- **Mission:** NATIVE HEALTH provides holistic, patient-centered, culturally sensitive health and wellness services.
- **Vision:** Healthy People in Healthy Communities.
- **Values:** In the tradition of our people, NATIVE HEALTH continues to carry the core values that help strengthen individuals and families by providing services in an atmosphere of hospitality and respect for the dignity of each person involved in the caring and healing process and is further characterized by professional excellence.



# NATIVE HEALTH

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- NATIVE HEALTH started in 1978 as a small community nursing program. The agency has grown over its forty year history to offer a full array of health care and social services throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.
- Dental:
  - 1999 - Dental services initiated
  - 2016 - Dental Clinic opens at NHW Community Health Center



# Main Location – Central and Indian School Road

<https://www.nativehealthphoenix.org/>



# Oral Health Outreach Programs



## Arizona Department of Health Services

- ***Healthy Smile Healthy Life***
- Year three
- Target location – Urban Phoenix (21 zip codes)
- Target populations – NA/AN Latino/Hispanic children 0 - 17 years old and their caregivers, pregnant women and new mothers

## Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation

- ***Native Kids Dental Health Improvement Program***
- Year one of three
- Target location – Maricopa County
- Target populations – NA/AN, Latino/Hispanic and other underserved children 0 - 17 years old and their caregivers, pregnant women and new mothers



# Out Reach Program Services

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- Dental screenings
- Fluoride varnish applications
- Oral health education
  - Children
  - Caregivers
  - Pregnant Women
  - New Mothers
- Oral health “goodie” bags
  - Toothbrush / Toothpaste / Floss
  - Timer
  - Rack card
- Referrals
  - NATIVE HEALTH / FQHC
  - AHCCCS
  - Home Visiting / Health Start
  - Wellness Warriors



# Events

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## External / Outreach

- NA School Parent Meetings
- Native American Connections
- Pow Wows



## Internal / NATIVE HEALTH

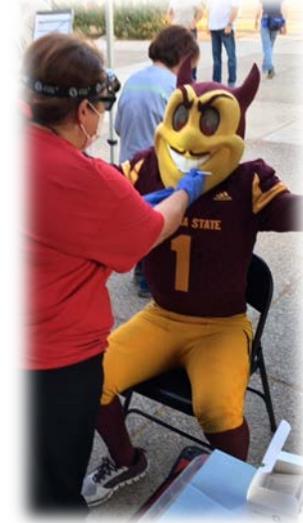
- Home Visiting Program
- Health Start
- WIC
- Read It & Eat
- Raising a Reader
- Wellness Warriors



# Successes

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- Events - 200+ yearly
- Children screened - 3,000+ yearly
- Impacted lives – 4,500+ yearly



# Oral Health Disparities

Native Americans suffer from the poorest oral health of any population in the United States, with staggering rates of untreated tooth decay among children and untreated decay and gum disease among adults.

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Preschool-aged Native American children had **four times** more cases of untreated tooth decay than white children—43 percent compared with 11 percent.

Native Americans ages 35 to 44:

- 68% had untreated decay in 1999, the most recent year for which nationwide data are available.
- This is more than twice the 2011 rate of 27 percent among all adults in the U.S.
- Forty-three percent of Native Americans in this age group had both untreated decay and periodontal disease.

The U.S. Indian Health Service spent an average of only \$99 per person on dental care in 2009, compared with average per capita spending of \$272 nationwide

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/06/the-oral-health-crisis-among-native-americans>



# Challenges

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## Funding

- Supplies
- Grants

## Staffing

- **NATIVE HEALTH**
- Volunteers

## Closing the loop on referrals

- Tracking
- Noncompliance

## Events

- Weather
- Attendees
- Venue



# Dental Health Aide Therapists Expand Access to Oral health Care

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Since 2004, Alaska Native tribal governments have used midlevel dental providers to provide dental care needs in their communities.

Dental health aide therapists (DHATs) provide preventive and routine restorative care, such as filling cavities and performing uncomplicated extractions.

DHATs train for two years and can work in the same location as their supervising dentist or in remote locations, with supervision and consultation provided by the dentist using telehealth technology.

This provides for continuity of care and oral health education in rural villages, often DHATs' home communities.

More than 40,000 Alaska Native people living in 81 previously unserved or underserved rural communities have regular access to dental care due to the addition of DHATs to dentists' teams.

No malpractice claims have ever been filed against a DHAT.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2015/06/the-oral-health-crisis-among-native-americans>

*Thank you!*

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# Resources

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- <http://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/tobacco-chronic-disease/health-disparities/index.php#healthy-smile>
  - ADHS Oral Health Data Profile
  - Rack Cards
- <http://smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/buildcontent.aspx?tut=555&pagekey=62948&receipt=0>
  - *Smiles for Life* - A National Oral Health Curriculum
- <https://smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/buildcontent.aspx?pagekey=101639&lastpagekey=101555&userkey=13760158&sessionkey=4064612&tut=555&customerkey=84&custsitegroupkey=0>
  - *Smiles for Life* - Front Line Health Worker Curriculum / Oral Health Resources

