



Let's bring  
dental therapy  
to New York!

Learn more:  
[nydentalthrapy.org](http://nydentalthrapy.org)

## THE PROBLEM

### Not all New Yorkers have access to oral health care.



Barriers including limited transportation, provider shortages, coverage gaps, and inflexible work schedules prevent many New Yorkers from getting the care they need. These barriers fall hardest on communities that have historically been underserved.

### New York has an uneven distribution of dental providers.



New York has the third greatest number of dentists per population of any state in the U.S. Yet, many areas of the state do not have a sufficient number of dentists to meet communities' needs. Uneven distribution is not accidental, but reflects decades of policy decisions about where resources are directed.

### Dental disease hurts more than our teeth.



The health of our mouths affects the health of our entire bodies and our ability to perform essential functions, like speaking, eating, working, studying, and sleeping.

*New York State Partnership for Dental Therapy is a statewide coalition committed to expanding access to oral health care by authorizing dental therapists to practice in New York.*

# Dental Therapy Advances Oral Health for Every New Yorker

## THE SOLUTION

**Dental therapy can help achieve oral health equity and advance racial and economic justice for all New Yorkers.**

### Dental therapists:

- Are **licensed professionals** who work under the supervision of a dentist to conduct routine dental procedures, like exams and fillings.
- Work as **part of a dentist-led team**, complementing the roles of dental hygienists and dental assistants.
- Receive training at programs that are **accredited by the same organization** that accredits education institutions for dentists and dental hygienists.
- **Practice in areas with chronic shortages of dental providers**, such as rural communities, Tribal lands, and low-income neighborhoods.
- **Provide care in clinics, dental offices, and non-traditional settings** — like schools, nursing homes, and community centers — bringing essential services directly to people who might otherwise go without.
- Have been **providing safe, high-quality care** in the U.S. for 20 years and internationally for more than 100 years.
- Are authorized to practice in **14 states and counting**.

# BENEFITS OF DENTAL THERAPY IN NEW YORK

Dental therapy is a proven, community-driven solution to expand access to quality, culturally relevant, and affordable oral health care.

## DENTAL THERAPY:

BRING CARE TO THE COMMUNITY



Where dental therapists practice, **patients wait less time** for appointments and travel shorter distances to reach care. Dental therapists bring care **into community settings** including schools, mobile clinics, and long-term care facilities.

BETTER CARE, BETTER OUTCOMES



Patients treated by dental therapists report **high satisfaction and greater knowledge** about their oral health. Early treatment and prevention through dental therapists helps people avoid more painful and costly problems down the road.

PROVIDERS WHO REFLECT THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE



Dental therapists are more likely to **come from the communities they serve**. When patients and providers share language, culture, and lived experience, **trust increases and health outcomes improve**.

A SMARTER USE OF RESOURCES



Employing a dental therapist **costs roughly one third to one half of employing a dentist**, allowing clinics to **serve more patients without increasing their budgets, and freeing up dentists to address serious conditions**. Dental therapists also reduce costly emergency room visits for problems that could have been treated earlier.

CREATE ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Because training programs are shorter and less expensive than dental school, **local colleges can build accessible workforce pipelines** that create good-paying jobs and keep talent rooted in the communities that need it most.

Oral health disparities in the United States are serious, not inevitable. The barriers that prevent people from getting care were created by policy decisions, and they can be changed by policy decisions. Dental therapists are a proven, practical step toward a system that works for everyone. The cost of inaction is measured in emergency room visits, missed school days, and lives shaped by preventable pain.

Get to know dental therapy at [nydentalthrapy.org](http://nydentalthrapy.org).