



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Collect Dental Practitioner Data
A.8439 (Woerner)/ S.9215 (Stavisky)
May 2, 2024

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) supports A.8439 (Woerner)/S.9215 (Stavisky) to require dental practitioners to submit data on dental care access as part of their triennial registration.

The Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS) is the statewide primary care association representing all federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), also known as community health centers (CHCs). CHCs serve more than 2.3 million New Yorkers at nearly 900 sites each year. Among CHC patients: 89% live below 200% of the Federal poverty level, 68% are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC), 28% speak limited or no English, 12% are uninsured, more than 4% are unhoused, and 68% are enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, or are dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid.

According to 2024 KFF data, New York has 155 dental health professional shortage area designations affecting more than 5.3 million people, with only about 16.7% of dental care needs being met.¹ An estimated 9 million New Yorkers are enrolled in a public health plan and an estimated 1.2 million are uninsured.² Yet, only 19% of dentists in New York participate in Medicaid.³ This is further exacerbated by the growing dental workforce shortage and the increasing demand for dental care. This shows a serious lack of attainable oral care in New York, especially for underserved communities, but does not paint a complete picture of access.

Poor oral health has serious implications on an individual's overall health and well-being, including higher risks of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.⁴ Standardizing the collection of data for dental practices to include location and type of setting, whether a practice is accepting new patients, the number of pediatric and adult Medicaid patients seen, and other relevant information is an important step towards ensuring a robust statewide oral health program.⁵ By requiring dentists to report on the location and settings of their dental practices and on the number of Medicaid patients they serve when they renew their licenses, the New York State Department of Health will be able to develop and implement policies targeting underserved communities to increase access to dental care.

CHCANYS urges the New York State Legislature to pass A.8439 (Woerner)/S.9215 (Stavisky) to collect data from dental practitioners during their triennial registration to establish an accurate landscape of New York's access to dental care. Doing so will enable the Department of Health to develop recommendations to increase prevention efforts, early detection, and management of dental disease throughout New York.

With questions, please contact Marie Mongeon, Vice President of Policy, at mmongeon@chcanys.org.

¹ <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/dental-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas>

² <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/health-insurance-coverage-in-new-york-state.pdf>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9274318/>

⁴ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31560644/>

⁵ https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/funded_programs/infrastructure/assessment.htm