

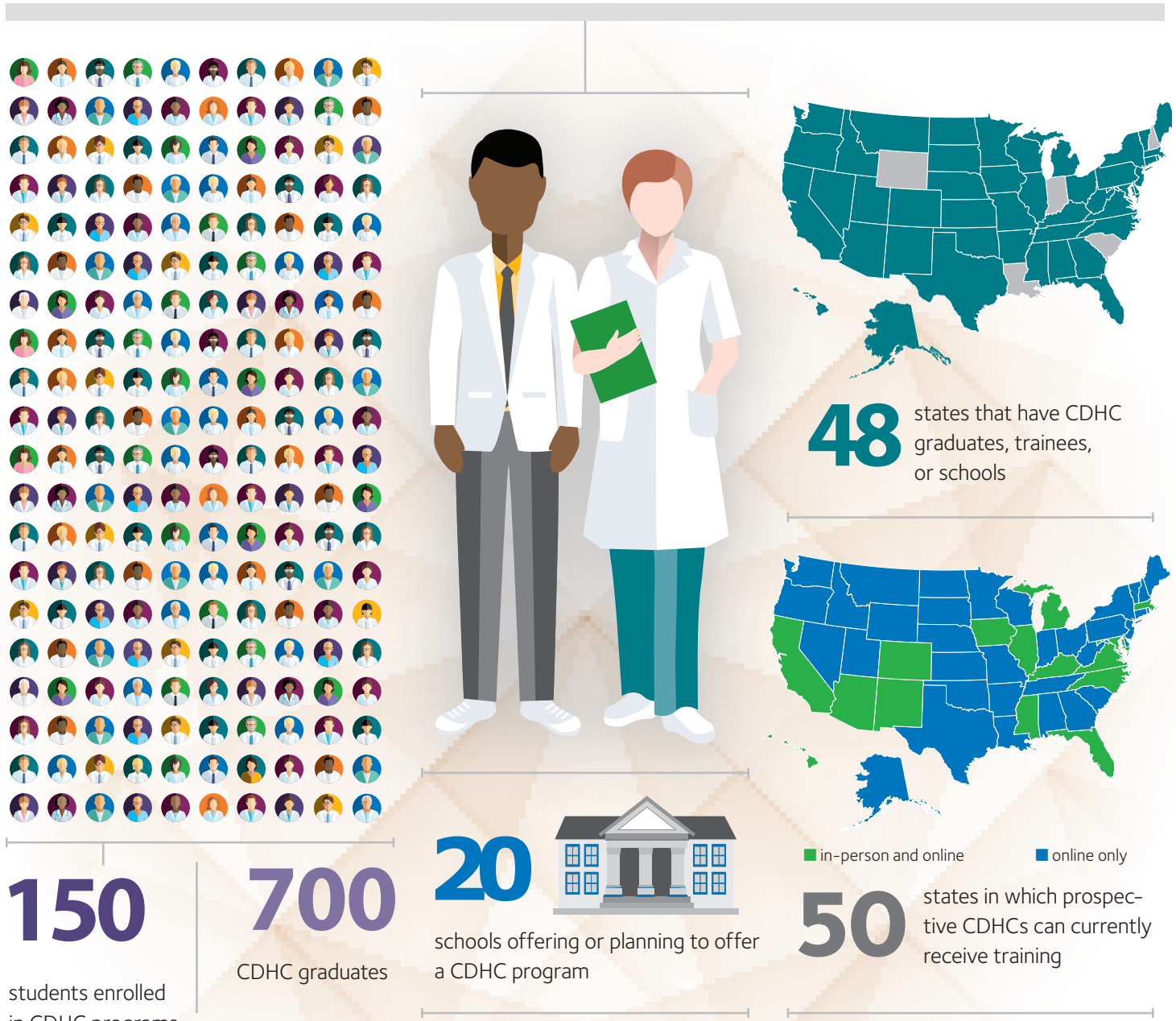
Community Dental Health Coordinators Provide Solutions Now

Action for
DENTALHEALTH 

ADA American Dental Association®

What is a Community Dental Health Coordinator?

CDHCs are community health workers with dental skills, and they are members of the dental team. They focus on case management, navigation, oral health education and promotion, motivational interviewing and community mapping. Their expertise links patients into available, but underutilized, dental care.



CDHCs Increase Access and Improve Patient Outcomes NOW

- In New Mexico, a CDHC working with diabetes patients in a tribal community health center successfully eliminated missed appointments among her patients.
- In Arizona, a CDHC working in a single-dentist practice doubled the clinic's patient base and increased access to care in this remote, rural location.
- In Green Bay, Wisconsin, a CDHC working in 30 schools provided 1,200 screenings, 1,300 cleanings, and more than 2,000 sealants for children.

"CDHCs ... improve patient health beyond drilling and filling."

Calvin Hoops, CDHC

CDHCs Work

"After completing the Community Dental Health Coordinator course, it became evident to me that an important role of the CDHC is to identify resources within their community to guide and assist patients in connecting the dots of oral health care to total well-being. The **CDHC is not only a patient advocate, but a seeker of solutions to advance public health initiatives**, which address social disparities to access oral health care".

Marie Jones-Bridges,
C.D.A., R.D.H., B.S.

"Great program.

Could be used by a large group practice, a large health advocacy entity or multiple dental practices."

Dr. Chuck Seleen, Director,
Vermont Dental Care Program

"I have seen firsthand the great need for the role of a dental navigator, such as a CDHC, and **truly believe it can improve the quality of life** for individuals and communities as a whole."

Jenna Linden, R.D.H., C.D.H.C.

"I have devoted a lot of my time to our partnership with a local FQHC that does not provide dental. They contract with us to provide preventive oral care for their patients. **Just being in their center once a week has created 300% growth in the number of patients** coming from them. My goal as a CDHC with the SMILE ON 60+ team is to reach seniors that are missing out on basic oral healthcare by going to where they are and **letting them know that they matter, their oral health matters, and there is a way to access the care**".

Lindsay Baker, R.D.A., C.D.H.C.

"Until you have a CDHC, you don't realize **how much potential it** has for the clinic, it can relieve you of the burdensome follow up specialty medical and dental care can sometimes cause."

Dr. Richard Huot, Former Interim
Dental Director, Treasure Coast
Community Health Center

"As a dental hygienist, **my skills have improved** since training as a CDHC. I am more aware of the reasons behind a patient not showing up for their dental appointment. **I have a better connection with my community** by becoming more involved in my community's needs. I am also **a resource for our community** if someone has a dental question, needs dental assistance, or education. The members of my community know they can contact me with any dental issue."

Lori Wood, R.D.H., C.D.H.C.