

EXPANDING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE IN TEXAS



70% OF TEXANS THINK DSOS ARE A GOOD IDEA *

THE TEXAS DENTAL CARE CRISIS

According to Kaiser Family Foundation's State Health Facts, Texas ranks near the bottom in access to dental care. Texas has the second most Dental Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in the US, behind California.

Texas ranks
44th *in the US*
in dentists per
resident

Texas ranks
50th *in the US*
in dentists
needed

4.9 million
Texans
or 1 in 9
live in a Dental
Care HPSA

45% *of Texas*
counties
are classified as
a dental health
professional
shortage area

Lack of preventative dental care can lead to serious health problems and high medical costs later in life. If nothing is done to address this crisis, millions of Texans are at risk and increased healthcare costs are likely.

ONE SOLUTION: THE DSO MODEL

For decades, dental support organizations (DSOs) have provided non-clinical administrative support services to Texas dentists. By freeing dentists from these administrative tasks, DSOs enable the dentists they support to deliver high-quality, cost-effective dental care to more Texans – including much needed care to under-served, low income children and families.

DSOs help Texas dentists expand access to care in many ways:

- Patients in **every Texas county** are served by DSO-supported dentists
- Dental practices supported by Texas DSOs had more than **2.3 million** patient visits last year
- DSO-supported dental practices are able to charge lower fees and accept more insurance plans than non-DSO supported dental offices
- DSO-supported dental practices regularly give back to Texas communities through charity care and free care days

DSOs also help Texas dentists provide better quality patient care:

- DSO business services make it possible for dentists to spend **more time with their patients**
- DSO-supported dentists are able to operate more cost effectively, offer more appointment times and accept more insurance plans
- DSOs help dentists offer a better patient experience by investing in modern technologies, equipment, offices and resources

**As reported in a recent poll by Baseline & Associates.*