



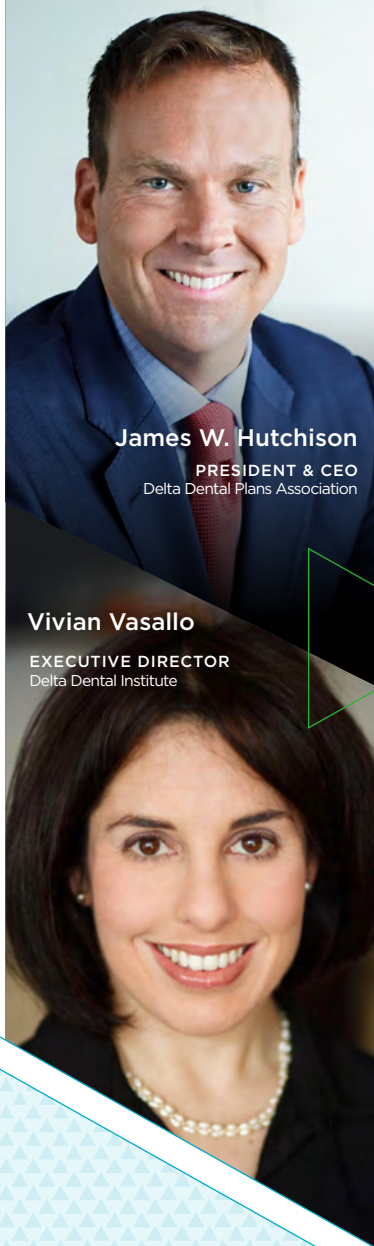
Our mission:  
**your health**

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



# What's inside

- 3 Foreword from our leaders
- 4 Our impact
- 6 Expanding access to care
- 8 Advancing health equity
- 10 Building resilient communities
- 12 Innovating for a healthier tomorrow
- 14 References



# Foreword from our leaders

As the nation's largest provider of dental benefits, serving more than 89 million Americans across all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, Delta Dental is excited to share the meaningful impact of our work to expand access to oral health care, advance health equity, build resilient communities, and innovate for a healthier tomorrow.

We know that oral health is a critical, yet often overlooked, component of overall health and wellness. In fact, research shows that good oral health has a positive impact on everything from a person's heart health to their mental well-being to their ability to work or attend school.<sup>1</sup>

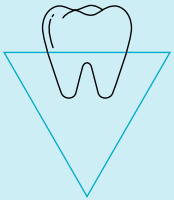
That's why, as the nation's leading oral health philanthropist, we care deeply about elevating the importance of oral and overall health in

communities across the country. We're proud that in 2022 Delta Dental invested nearly \$109 million in programs, research, and advocacy that impacted over 20 million lives, and our team members volunteered more than 24,000 hours to community service programs.

And while there will always be more work to do, in this report we take a moment to recognize the hard work of our colleagues, partners, and fellow travelers on the journey toward a healthier and more equitable tomorrow. We hope you are inspired by their tremendous efforts, and we invite you to learn more about our story and join in our ongoing commitment to elevate oral health for all.

# Our impact

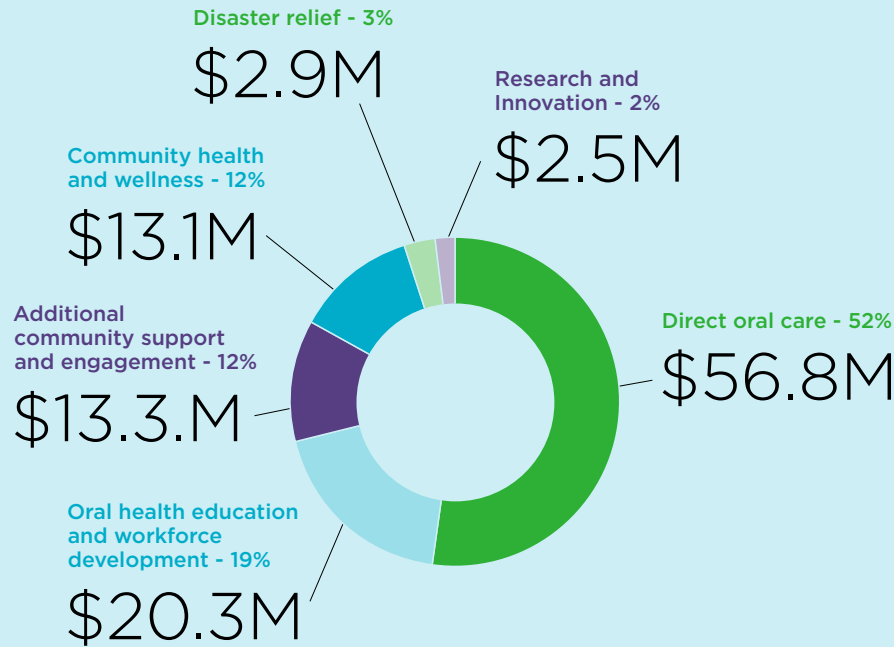
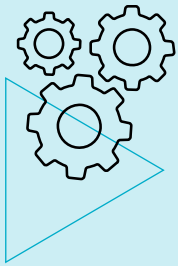
Elevating health  
and wellness



For nearly 70 years, Delta Dental has worked to advance the oral and overall health of all Americans. Through our national network of Delta Dental companies, we provide local support in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. We elevate health and wellness by expanding access to care, advancing health equity, building resilient communities, and innovating for a healthier tomorrow.



# By the numbers



Note: The data in this report is gathered from an annual survey conducted by Delta Dental Plans Association of all Delta Dental companies and their foundations, and covers the time period 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2022. Dollar amounts correspond to funds disbursed within that time period. Employee matching grants are included in the giving total. Lives impacted is defined as individuals in attendance at an activity/event and receiving educational information or who benefit from the program in the form of direct care or assistance.



20.4M

Lives impacted



\$108.9M

Invested



24,000

Hours volunteered

# Expanding access to care



**At Delta Dental, our mission is to advance the health and wellness of all those we serve and the communities where we live, work, and play.**

In 2022, 8.2 million people achieved better oral health through our dental treatment and prevention programs. We remain steadfast in our commitment to expanding access to oral health care for all.

**\$45.3M** in dental treatment

**Protecting the health of our communities:**

In 2022, we impacted nearly four million lives through community water fluoridation projects and school sealant programs, which reduce cavities and keep teeth healthy and strong. We also supported more than 750 programs that provide oral health care to children and adults in low-income and underserved communities

at low or no cost, offered advanced dental services at community health centers, and administered free oral health screenings.

**Inclusive care for patients in need:**

As many as one in four U.S. adults have some type of disability.<sup>2</sup> Adults and children with complex medical conditions can face additional barriers to receiving oral health care, needing longer and more frequent dental appointments, and the dental team requires specific training to treat these individuals. Delta Dental provides comprehensive coverage for patients with physical and intellectual disabilities and, in partnership with Penn Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, supports free continuing education and professional development courses for providers on treating patients with disabilities. Insights gained by program participants help them better serve the many patients with complex care needs.

**\$11.5M** In dental prevention

Community water fluoridation  
\$2,073,843



School sealant programs  
\$2,549,601



Other dental prevention  
\$6,873,695



**Advocating for broader dental coverage:**

Without access to oral health care, many people put off dental visits, leading to untreated and often preventable oral diseases that send more than two million people to the emergency room each year.<sup>3</sup> Delta Dental advocates for policies that increase access to care to help create long-term change in our communities. Last year, we supported policies to expand dental benefits in Medicaid for more than 100,000 adults in New Hampshire<sup>4</sup>, to secure \$825,000 in additional state funding for fluoridation pilot programs in Missouri<sup>5</sup>, and to improve access to dental care for children in Rhode Island.<sup>6</sup> We also advocated for the passage of the Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act in Congress.<sup>7</sup> We are proud to lead efforts for more equitable and accessible oral health care for all.

“One of the barriers preventing people with disabilities from receiving appropriate oral health care is lack of provider training. Through hands-on guidance and exposure to patients with disabilities, we hope clinicians will see more patients with disabilities, expanding access and improving oral health.”

Dr. Miriam Robbins

DIRECTOR  
Penn Dental Medicine's Care Center  
for Persons with Disabilities

# Advancing health equity



## We know that not everyone has access to high-quality oral health care.

Historically underrepresented groups experience higher rates of preventable oral health problems like cavities, tooth loss, and gum disease, leading to poorer overall health outcomes.<sup>8</sup> That's why we advance health equity through oral health education, close gaps to care in our communities, and invest in diversifying the oral health workforce.

### Reducing disparities through education:

Learning good oral health habits early in life is associated with better oral and overall health outcomes<sup>9</sup>, yet young people in underserved communities are not always exposed to oral health education. In 2022, Delta Dental championed oral health education programs that reached 11.6 million people. We partnered with local PBS stations across the country to educate children about oral

health, and spearheaded oral hygiene public awareness campaigns in several states including Colorado, Illinois, and Kentucky.

## Oral health education and dental workforce training programs



### 11.6M

People reached through oral health education programs



### \$7.5M

Invested to shape the oral health workforce



**Closing gaps in dental care:** Veterans, older adults, and those in rural communities often face unique health challenges and barriers to accessing oral health care. Last year, Delta Dental partnered with the Dental Lifeline Network to help veterans receive nearly \$10 million in dental services.<sup>10</sup> We worked with community-based coalitions through the [Senior Oral Health Program](#) to improve access and equity in the oral health care and treatment that older adults receive.<sup>11</sup> And our mobile dental programs — like the SmileMobiles that travel around rural South Dakota and Washington state — delivered essential oral health services to those in underserved communities and hard-to-reach areas.

**Diversifying the oral health workforce:** Research shows that racial and ethnic diversity among health professionals is linked to improved access to care, greater patient choice and satisfaction, and better patient-provider communication for patients from historically underrepresented groups.<sup>12</sup> Despite making up more than 30% of the U.S. population, less than 10% of dentists are Black or Hispanic.<sup>13</sup>

In 2022, Delta Dental invested over \$7.5 million to shape the next generation of the oral health workforce so it better reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We sponsored dental workforce training and education programs and funded scholarships and grants for dental, dental assistant, and dental hygienist students who come from traditionally underrepresented communities.

“The ‘Healthy Smile Learning’ website is a great resource to have discussions about the importance of oral health in an educational setting. What a great way to integrate life skills into the curriculum!”

Marissa Will

3RD GRADE TEACHER  
Desert View Academy, Yuma, AZ



# Building resilient communities



## As the nation's leading oral health philanthropist, we know we're stronger when we're supporting one another and working together.

That's why, in 2022, employees from across the Delta Dental companies volunteered over 24,000 hours to support their communities — preparing meals for home-bound seniors, sorting toys for kids' holiday gifts, cleaning up local parks and trails, and volunteering at animal shelters. Locally and nationally, we provide critical aid to those we serve so that our communities remain strong, vibrant, and resilient.

**Supporting children's futures:** By championing efforts to introduce children to healthy habits early, we can create a lifetime of good oral health. Our volunteers serve as mentors and role models to kids and teens where they live, and we join with community groups around the nation to support their missions. Last year, Delta Dental funded programs to enhance children's education and well-being by supporting online

learning tools for public school students, youth development and enrichment programs, and children's mental health services.

**Responding in times of crisis:** In 2022, natural disasters continued to change the face of our communities. In these moments, Delta Dental's impact goes beyond just health — because it's hard to focus on your oral health while you are struggling to get back on your feet following a severe weather event. Last year we distributed \$2.9 million toward disaster relief and related activities, largely through our long-term partnership with the American Red Cross. We sponsored blood drives, donated meals, and continued to provide COVID-19 relief and humanitarian aid.

## Employee engagement



24,000  
hours volunteered

**Investing in a healthier planet:** It is our responsibility to care for the world in which we live, just as we care for the health and wellness of our communities. Delta Dental invests in sustainable options for oral health that promote Earth-conscious habits and reduce waste, from distributing biodegradable bamboo toothbrushes in Colorado to handing out reusable water bottles in Oregon. Access to clean water is critical to optimal oral health, so we have installed water filtration systems in schools and filtered water bottle filling stations in community parks and office spaces in several states including Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

**\$26.1M** invested in community support and engagement

Disaster relief  
\$2,939,745



Additional community support and engagement  
\$10,138,411



Community health and wellness  
\$13,065,215



“I usually look for volunteer opportunities that align with my passion. Most importantly, I see volunteering as an opportunity with a two-way street — you are helping others while others are helping you genuinely grow.”

**Giselle Rodriguez**

SENIOR PROFESSIONAL  
RELATIONS SPECIALIST  
Northeast Delta Dental

# Innovating for a healthier tomorrow



**At Delta Dental, we are inspired to create solutions that will advance the future of oral and overall health care.**

We use research and technology to promote evidence-based models of care for our patients and are focused on serving the changing health care needs in our communities.

**Identifying new solutions through research:** We are working with some of the leading experts in oral health care to find new and novel solutions to more effectively deliver equitable dental care. Last year, the Delta Dental Institute announced the [Oral Health Equity Research Award](#) with the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research<sup>14</sup>, to fund research that advances oral health equity and improves oral health literacy for underserved populations.

**Advancing patient-centered care:** Many people with poor oral health face barriers because dental care is separate from other health services. That's why we are investigating care delivery models that improve health outcomes. In 2022, the Delta Dental Institute sponsored [research](#) from the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine<sup>15</sup>, which found that increased communication and coordination between medical and dental providers improves outcomes, particularly among vulnerable populations. Informed by this research, in 2022 we invested \$2.2 million in medical-dental integration efforts to reduce barriers to care and increase positive health outcomes.

**Investing in technology to improve care:**

As telehealth, teledentistry, and medical-dental integration have become more common, we are making investments in advanced technology and equipment, along with specialized training to best use these innovations to improve both oral and overall health outcomes. We're proud that last year we were able to collaborate with the American Heart Association in Hawaii to address hypertension by distributing automatic blood pressure machines to underserved dental clinics, to implement a statewide health information technology system in Iowa, and to integrate several Colorado health centers' systems for electronic dental records and electronic health records to advance patient-centered care.

**Medical-dental integration**

**\$2.2M**  
Invested



**301,805**  
Lives impacted

“In a medical-dental integration model, streamlined communication and collaboration among the entire care team is critical to adapting to specific situations that may help increase access to oral health screenings, diagnosis, and referral of patients for chronic disease management.”

**Dr. Tamanna Tiwari**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Department of Community Dentistry and  
Population Health, University of Colorado  
School of Dental Medicine



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# Our mission: your health

2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

#### ABOUT THE DELTA DENTAL INSTITUTE

The Delta Dental Institute is dedicated to advancing oral health for all Americans in partnership with Delta Dental companies and dedicated partners across the country. With expertise rooted in Delta Dental's rich history of oral health leadership, we engage in and support oral health research, community outreach, and advocacy, striving to ensure that everyone understands the importance of oral health to overall health and has access to the care they need.

Visit [deltadentalinstitute.com](https://deltadentalinstitute.com) for more information.

#### ABOUT DELTA DENTAL PLANS ASSOCIATION

Based in Oak Brook, Illinois, Delta Dental Plans Association is the not-for-profit national association of the 39 independent Delta Dental companies. Through these companies, Delta Dental is the nation's largest dental benefits provider, covering more than 89 million Americans and offering the country's largest dental network with approximately 152,000 participating dentists. Over the last decade, Delta Dental companies and their foundations invested over \$1.9 billion to improve the oral and overall health of our communities.

#### DIVE DEEPER

For more information and stories about Delta Dental's community impact work across the country, visit [cir.deltadental.com](https://cir.deltadental.com)