Early Impacts of Dental Therapy in Minnesota
Dental Therapy is now the law in MN.
- 42 licensed dental therapists
- 6 licensed advanced dental therapists
Early Impacts of Dental Therapists in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Board of Dentistry
Report to the Minnesota Legislature 2014

February 2014
Complaints

Impact

What are they doing?

- Improve Quality
- Reduce Costs
- Expand Access

University of Minnesota
Health Professional Shortage Areas
Low Income Dental HPSA Designations

Dental Therapy Employment Sites

19 different counties!

Data Source:
Minnesota Department of Health
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
State DD HPSA May 2014

MDH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
(July 2014)
Practice settings of Minnesota dental therapists (N=32)

- Community-based clinic/FQHC: 47%
- Private practice: 22%
- Hospital/health system: 13%
- Unknown: 19%
4 complaints – 2 resolved, 2 pending
84% of DT patients enrolled in public programs
Wait times for appointment, with DT vs. pre-DT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>This appointment (n=1,274)</th>
<th>Prior appointment (n=1,206)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 1 week</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1 week and 1 month</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 month or longer</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For 32 patients, this was their first dental appointment, so “prior appointment” question did not apply.
Travel times for appointment, with dental therapist vs. pre-dental therapist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Duration</th>
<th>This Appointment (n=1,361)</th>
<th>Prior Appointment (n=1,180)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 30 minutes</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 minutes but less than 1 hour</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One hour or more</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reason for dental visit (n=1,373)

- **Dental emergency (pain, etc.)**: 11%
- **Routine check-up**: 32%
- **Fillings**: 44%
- **Other**: 12%
Increased Dental Team Productivity

Decreased Personnel Costs

Improved Patient Satisfaction
JOIN THE TEAM

We’re Hiring
“Bummer of a birthmark, Hal.”