



HB 111: Dental Hygiene Advanced Practice Permit

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Why is HB 111 Important?

43% of low-income Alaskans have difficulty biting and chewing¹.

Low-income families in Alaska don't regularly seek oral health care due to **cost, access, or trouble finding a provider**¹.

62% of Alaskan elementary students have a high tooth decay rate².

Pain is the top oral health problem for young adults and low-income adults in America³.

¹American Dental Association Health Policy Institute 2015: [“Oral Health and Well-Being in the Alaska”](#)

²Alaska Department of Health & Social Services 2012-2016: [“Alaska Oral Health Plan”](#)

³American Dental Association Health Policy Institute 2015: [“Oral Health and Well-Being in the United States”](#)

Why is HB 111 Important?

- ✓ Dental diseases disproportionately affect our state's most vulnerable people
- ✓ Dental hygienists are the front line for **preventative dental care** and education about the critical link between oral health and overall, well being
- ✓ **HB 111 increases access to oral health care for underserved populations:**
 - Children
 - Seniors
 - Alaskans with disabilities
 - Alaskans in correctional facilities

What Does HB 111 Do?

- ✓ HB 111 creates an **advanced practice permit**.
- ✓ This permit allows experienced, licensed dental hygienists to work independently to the full scope of their credentials and professional experience when they are caring for underserved Alaskans.

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSA) in Alaska

In 2020 there were 659 licensed dental hygienists in Alaska

Geographic DHPSAs (e.g. Aleutians East Borough, North Slope Borough, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area)

Alaskan Native Tribal Populations (e.g. SEARHC/Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital, Norton Sound Health Corporation Outpatient Primary Care, Kana Clinic Native Village of Karluk, . Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, Eklutna Health Clinic, Upper Tanana Health Center, Dena' Nena' Henash)

Correctional Facilities (e.g. Lemon Creek Correctional Facility, Yukon Kuskokwim Correctional Facility, Anvil Mountain Correctional Facility)

Federally Qualified Health Centers (e.g. Bethel Family Clinic, Mat-Su Health Services,, Southeast Alaska Region Health Consortium)

Questions?