

2022

IMPACT REPORT

A look at how AIDPH made a difference in advancing dental public health through science and education.



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“ Thank you for supporting AIDPH by investing in our mission and helping us to implement our values in education, research, and advocacy. ”

When I reflect on the work AIDPH has accomplished in 2022, one word resonates above all: gratitude. Gratitude to our leadership, gratitude to our funders, gratitude to our collaborators, and gratitude to our team. AIDPH experienced the biggest growth we've ever had this past year, extending our impact beyond what we thought possible. These successes are a direct reflection of our oral health network and the collective drive to passionately pursue a more equitable future for marginalized and underserved communities.

AIDPH strengthened and refined our signature educational programming, like our annual colloquium and continuing education offerings, while building the capacity of the oral health workforce by launching our Dental Public Health Leadership Academy. We leveraged our research expertise to create calls to action in five different publications focused on rural communities, veterans, the oral health workforce, and translational science. With the help of national oral health leaders, AIDPH hosted the first LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Week. Through this work, AIDPH challenged itself to deepen its commitment to core communities of focus while answering the call to prioritize a new focus area — people with disabilities.

Thank you for supporting AIDPH by investing in our mission and helping us to implement our values in education, research, and advocacy. As we close out 2022 and look ahead to our work in 2023, we invite our community to collaboratively invest in the vision of an equity-oriented oral health workforce prepared to lead.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive.

OUR STORY



The American Institute of Dental Public Health was founded by Dr. David Cappelli and Dr. Annaliese Cothron in 2015 through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Seeing gaps in organizational programming and the need to center health equity as a cornerstone of oral health education and training, AIDPH was established to pursue a mission of fostering professional excellence and advancing innovation in the education and practice of dental public health. Dr. Cothron serves as the Executive Director of AIDPH and Dr. Cappelli chairs the Board of Directors.

Our Mission:

Fostering professional excellence and advancing innovation in the education and practice of dental public health

Our Vision:

An equity-oriented oral health workforce prepared to lead

AIDPH is an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit and national public health institute dedicated to oral health equity. We offer educational training for oral health professionals, support student growth and career development in dental public health, and serve as conveners of stature to facilitate systems change in the oral health community.

AIDPH believes that as oral health equity advocates and leaders it is our responsibility to address individual, institutional, and systemic barriers that keep communities from achieving optimal oral health across the lifespan. When marginalized communities can access dental care from providers who look like them, understand their needs, and support their culture, their oral health and overall health significantly improves. We advocate for oral health workforce diversity using the lens of our core values to galvanize students, public health professionals, policymakers, and thought leaders to invest in health equity.

MEET OUR BOARD

AIDPH is guided by a team of established oral health leaders dedicated to advancing health equity through creative programming, experiential learning, and innovative collaboration. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the board of directors serves as both governance and fiduciary agents for AIDPH.



David Cappelli, DMD, MPH, PhD (he/him)
Co-Founder & Chair

Dr. Cappelli is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine. He received his MPH and DMD from the University of Pittsburgh.



Raul Garcia, DMD, MMedSc, FACD (he/him)
Treasurer

Raul I. Garcia is Professor and Chair, Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine.



Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH (he/him)
Secretary

Caswell A. Evans, Jr. is currently the Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Sciences at the University of Illinois, Chicago College of Dentistry; he is also a faculty member in the UIC School of Public Health.



Jeffrey Chaffin, DDS, MPH, MBA, MHA (he/him)

Dr. Chaffin is the Vice-President and Dental Director for Delta Dental of Iowa. He manages scientific and clinical aspects of oral health policy for Delta Dental of Iowa commercial and Government programs.



Candice Chen, MD, MPH (she/her)

Dr. Chen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, focused on health workforce, primary care, and health professions and graduate medical education research and policy.



Steve Geiermann, DDS, MPH (he/him)

Dr. Steve Geiermann, a retired Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service, serves as the Senior Manager addressing access, community oral health infrastructure and capacity within the American Dental Association.



Andrea Hight, MS (she/her)

After graduating from dental school in Australia where she grew up, Andrea practiced dentistry for the Tasmanian Health Department before marrying an American on a trip to the US.



Joshua Houston, MTS, JD (he/him)

Joshua Houston is an attorney and registered lobbyist with 15 years of experience in legislative and regulatory affairs. He currently serves as General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for Texas Impact/Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy.



Alan Morgan, MPA (he/him)

Recognized as among the top 100 most influential people in healthcare by Modern Healthcare Magazine, Alan Morgan serves as Chief Executive Officer for the National Rural Health Association.



Darien Weatherspoon, DDS, MPH (he/him)

Dr. Weatherspoon is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) and a Clinical Assistant Professor at University of Maryland School of Dentistry.



Karen West, DMD, MPH (she/her)

Karen P. West, Professor and Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine (UNLV SDM), has been selected as the next President and CEO of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA).

MEET OUR CORPORATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

AIDPH's Corporate Leadership Council (CLC) members are business, organization, and association leaders and executives within the dental public health space. CLC members generously donate their time, secure financial support, and share their business acumen to advise AIDPH on resource development.



Brant Herman (he/him)

Brant Herman is the CEO and Founder of MouthWatch™ LLC, a leader in innovative teledentistry solutions, digital case presentation tools, and intraoral imaging devices.



Saket Agrawal, MBA (he/him)

Saket Agrawal is the CEO of OFFOR Health, a company connecting healthcare professionals and patients in local communities. OFFOR Health's mission is to increase access to quality and timely healthcare for all.



Eric Shirley, MBA (he/him)

Eric Shirley is the Senior Vice President of Business Development at Patterson Dental, a company partnering with dental practices of all sizes to provide expertise, products, technologies, and services needed to grow productive, modern practices.



Michael Monopoli, DMD, MPH, MS (he/him)

Michael Monopoli serves as Vice President of Grant Strategy for CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, a nonprofit committed to building a future in which equitable systems promote excellent health.

OUR GOALS

AIDPH's goals reflect our commitment to advance oral health equity and disrupt systems that perpetuate disparity. These goals direct us along the journey to a future where dental public health education and practice are innovative, impactful, and inspiring. In all that we do, we work to:

- 1.** **Educate** an equity-oriented current and future oral health workforce.
 - 2.** **Accelerate** the dissemination of dental public health scholarship and best practices.
 - 3.** **Prepare** future oral health leaders to support the needs of underserved communities.
 - 4.** **Develop** and support impactful research that drives oral health innovation.
 - 5.** **Build** the capacity of the dental public health infrastructure through thought leadership and creative programming.
- 

2022 ROADMAP

AIDPH's vision is an equity-oriented oral health workforce prepared to lead. Every year, we look at where we are and where we want to be, understanding that the journey towards our destination must be intentional and planned. In 2022, we chose the following action areas to guide our direction and effort.



WE EDUCATED AN EQUITY-ORIENTED CURRENT AND FUTURE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE.

LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Week

In partnership with 11 organizations, the first-ever LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Week brought awareness of queer people and their oral health needs and concerns to the broader dental and public health communities. In just one day, forty organizations and/or individuals signed an oral health equity pledge to support the LGBTQIA+ community. The campaign also told the stories on social media from a provider perspective of this community's experience with dental care while offering resources and educational materials through a featured webinar on inclusivity.

The Pledge:

1. We will educate ourselves and share resources on the oral health needs of LGBTQIA+ people.
2. We will promote safe, supportive, and inclusive care environments for LGBTQIA+ people.
3. We will advocate for LGBTQIA+ communities to have equitable access to whole-person health care, including oral health care.
4. We will amplify LGBTQIA+ leaders and reflect the voices of LGBTQIA+ people in our work.



Give Veterans a Smile

AIDPH participated in the ADA's Give Veterans a Smile Summit to discuss delivery and access to care for veterans across the country. The day and a half summit provided an opportunity for thought leaders to share best practices to overcome challenges in providing oral health care to veterans. Participants stressed the importance of collaboration between providers, advocacy organizations, and veteran programs during the summit.

National Day of Racial Healing

In partnership with AAPHD, the APHA oral health section, and OPEN we hosted an oral health community workshop as part of this day in January. Dr. Eleanor Fleming and Dr. Julie Reynolds discussed the systemic racism that impedes oral health equity, and highlighted opportunities to address disparities in health policy to the 169 professionals who registered for this event.

How to bring an equity lens to our work

- Who do we invite into the room, onto our research teams, into offices/classrooms? Who are our partners?
- Do we share power?
- Are we an ally to others?
- Do we create opportunities for others?
- Are we propagating disparities or addressing root causes?
- How we know our privileges and use them wisely?

2022 Colloquium Transforming Veteran Oral Health — Illuminating Equity and Sustaining Impact


AIDPH attracted more than 350 professionals to learn about innovative research and educational initiatives from nationally recognized speakers. Topics included exploring value-based care, medical/dental integration, and the role of rural health clinics in delivering veteran oral health. Session recordings can be viewed [here](#).

WE ACCELERATED THE DISSEMINATION OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP AND BEST PRACTICES.

In 2022, AIDPH released several research publications signifying its investment in scientific activity and professional engagement. Research topics were selected based on current and relevant issues facing the oral health field.

Veteran Dental Care Stimulates the Economy and Improves Overall Health

Insights from the American Institute of Dental Public Health and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health

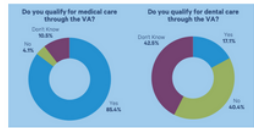


Across the board, veterans are more likely to experience worse oral health outcomes — higher rates of tooth decay, higher rates of gum disease, and an increased need for restorative dental care — compared to nonveterans. Only 15% of veterans are eligible for dental care through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), with roughly 20% of those utilizing this benefit. CareQuest Institute for Oral Health and the American Institute of Dental Public Health (AIDPH) recently released a white paper, *Veterans Oral Health: Expanding Access and Equity*, focused on solutions supporting veteran oral health, physical health, and economic security.

How Do Veterans Currently Access Dental Care?

Our data underscores two clear conclusions: many veterans do not understand the dental benefits available to them through the VHA, and veterans are not accessing dental care effectively.

Nearly half of veterans we surveyed did not know about, or understand, the dental benefits available to them through the VHA. AIDPH and CareQuest Institute surveyed over 2,000 veterans nationally in 2021 on their oral health. More than 80% of veterans said they "valued keeping their mouth healthy," but nearly half couldn't see a dentist in the past year largely due to cost and inability to find care, despite having oral pain or discomfort.



What prevented you from seeing a dentist?

- Cost: 66.5%
- No availability: 13.9%
- Couldn't find a dentist: 2.5%

44% of veterans experienced pain or discomfort in the last year but couldn't see a dentist.

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health | AIDPH AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Chronic Disease and Rurality Impacts Veteran Oral Health Outcomes: A Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Analysis



Annaliese Cochran, DMS, MS, MPH | Amber Shaver, DMD, MS | Sean Boynes, DMD, MS

Annaliese Cochran is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the American Institute of Dental Public Health. Amber Shaver is a bioethicist at the American Institute of Dental Public Health and is an instructor in the Psychology Department at Old Dominion University and Salem Community College. Sean Boynes is the President of Dental Medicine Consulting and the Science and Research Lead at the American Institute of Dental Public Health.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began in the early 1900s, near the end of World War One, offering benefits to veterans who were injured as a result of their military service. As wartime efforts continued, commensurate federal benefits and infrastructure to support veterans increased, eventually resulting in a comprehensive healthcare system, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).¹ Today, the VHA is the largest integrated healthcare system within the United States, with more than 1200 facilities providing services to approximately 9 million veterans.²

Veterans qualify for primary and specialty care through the VA according to priority groups³ designated by the US Congress under federal code Title 38 U.S.C. § 5117(b)(1).⁴ At present, VA facilities can treat veterans from all priority groups, but the types of care provided depend upon the associated priority group and service-connected disabilities. Veterans who qualify for dental care within the VA must do so through a service-connected disability or otherwise be totally disabled (100% disability rating).⁵ Under some conditions, veterans may also qualify for limited VA dental care, typically as a one-time ruled a medical necessity.⁶ According to the

most recently available data, only 1.4 million veterans (15%) qualify for comprehensive dental care under current congressional standards. In 2021, 535,000 eligible veterans received 3.9 million dental procedures during 1.4 million VA visits, showing that about one-third of veterans who are eligible for comprehensive care actually utilize this benefit.⁷ Taken together, data indicate more than 85% of veterans access care outside of the VA. Veteran care in the private sector is therefore influenced by cost, social determinants of health, and available access points, much like healthcare for most Americans.

¹ The Department of Veterans Affairs manages the Veterans Health Administration. For the purposes of this paper, the term "VA" is used to denote both the healthcare delivery system and benefits administration.

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OCTOBER 2022

AIDPH AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH




The Financial and Policy Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on U.S. Dental Care Workers

RESEARCH BRIEF

SUGGESTED CITATION:
Sean Boynes, Amber Shaver, Annaliese Cochran, Robert Natta, Helen Haskley, Annaliese Cochran. The Financial and Policy Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on U.S. Dental Care Workers. San Antonio, TX: American Institute of Dental Public Health, October 2022. Copyright © 2022 The American Institute of Dental Public Health, Inc.

CareQuest Institute for Oral Health | AIDPH AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH



VISUAL REPORT

Improving the Oral Health of Rural Veterans

Through Policy, Data Collection, and Care Delivery

SUGGESTED CITATION:
The American Institute of Dental Public Health and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, Improving the Oral Health of Rural Veterans Through Policy, Data Collection, and Care Delivery Report, 9th November 2022. Copyright © 2022 The American Institute of Dental Public Health and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, Inc.

DECEMBER 2022

AIDPH AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH



Illustrating the Role of Dental Journals in the Translational Science Process

RESEARCH BRIEF

SUGGESTED CITATION:
Shaw, A, Megala, K, Boynes, S, Shaver, A, Cochran, A, Cochran, A. Illustrating the Role of Dental Journals in the Translational Science Process, 2022. Copyright © 2022 The American Institute of Dental Public Health, Inc.

WE PREPARED FUTURE ORAL HEALTH LEADERS TO SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

Dental Public Health Residency Commencement Celebration

AIDPH, with the American Board of Dental Public Health and the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, celebrated the graduating class of 2022 on June 8th. The ceremony honored the scholarly achievements of 18 residents across eight programs. View the recording [here](#).

Summer Fellowship

Five fellows built and refined their research skills and dental public health expertise during this program. Each developed, conducted, analyzed and presented findings related to oral health research or advocacy for special populations including veterans, LGBTQIA+ people, and rural communities. You can view their conclusions in this [webinar recording](#).



Advocacy and Research in Oral Health for Special Populations: Conclusions from the AIDPH Summer Fellowship

Webinar

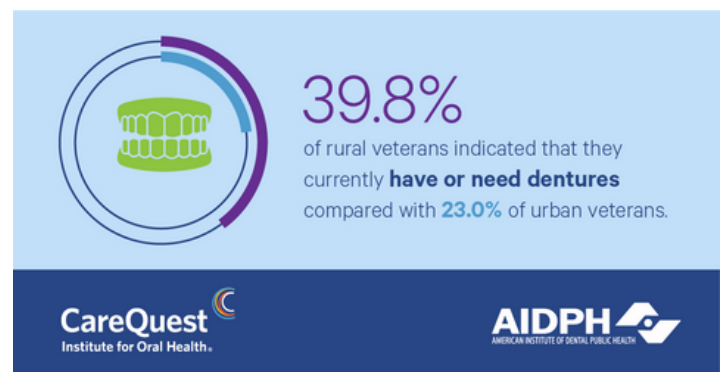
September 7th 2022

12:30 PM- 1:30 PM CT

Rural Veteran Oral Health Month

During November, AIDPH partnered with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health in a Rural Veteran Oral Health campaign to increase awareness of the impact and

context of inadequate access to veteran oral health. The campaign showcased two publications on [access to care for veterans](#) and the [economic implications of veteran oral health](#) alongside the [veteran oral health data dashboard](#). Through a joint presentation at the American Public Health Association national conference and a dedicated ECHO session, AIDPH and CareQuest Institute educated various audiences on this critical issue.



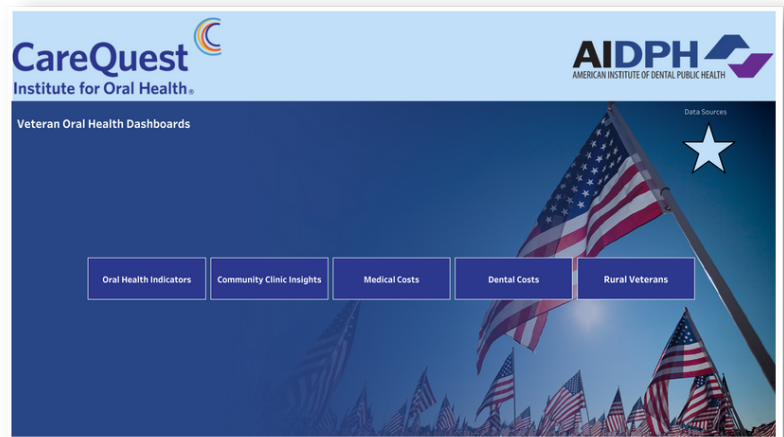
Policy Panel at the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN) Mid-year Meeting

AIDPH Executive Director, Annaliese Cothron, joined policy experts in a panel to discuss the latest issues in oral health including Medicare and oral health access for veterans and individuals with disabilities. More than 200 participants attended the session and left with several calls to action to support these populations.

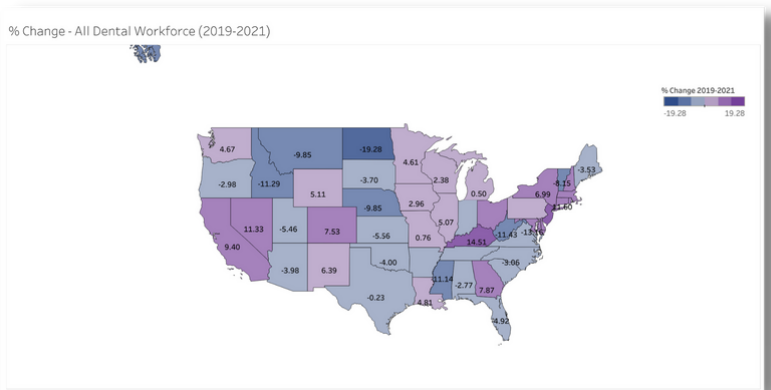
WE DEVELOPED AND SUPPORTED IMPACTFUL RESEARCH TO DRIVE ORAL HEALTH INNOVATION.

Through Data Visualization...

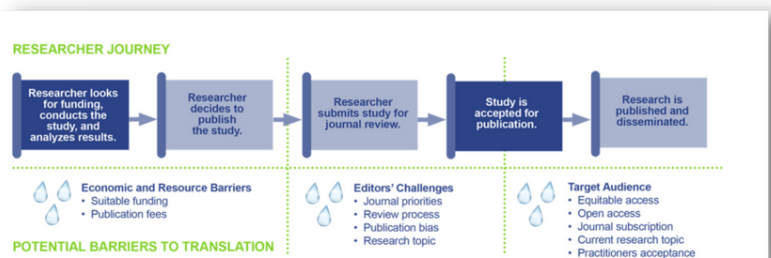
Veteran Oral Health Data Dashboard. In partnership with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, AIDPH developed a national veteran oral health data dashboard that includes maps of key oral health indicators from every U.S. state. In 2022, we launched the dashboard, which includes five key areas of analysis: oral health & physical health, community insights, medical costs, dental costs, and rural veterans. You can view the dashboard [here](#).



COVID-19 Dental Workforce Impact Dashboard. In conjunction with our publication, The Financial and Policy Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on US Dental Care Workers, AIDPH analyzed COVID-19's impact on the dental workforce by developing a dashboard of interactive maps illustrating changes of the dental workforce both pre-and post-pandemic. You can view the dashboard [here](#).



Peer-Reviewed Oral Health Journals' Interactive Graphic. In conjunction with our paper, Illustrating the Role of Dental Journals in the Translational Science Process, AIDPH developed an interactive graphic comparing key indicators for peer-reviewed oral health journals.



WE DEVELOPED AND SUPPORTED IMPACTFUL RESEARCH TO DRIVE ORAL HEALTH INNOVATION.

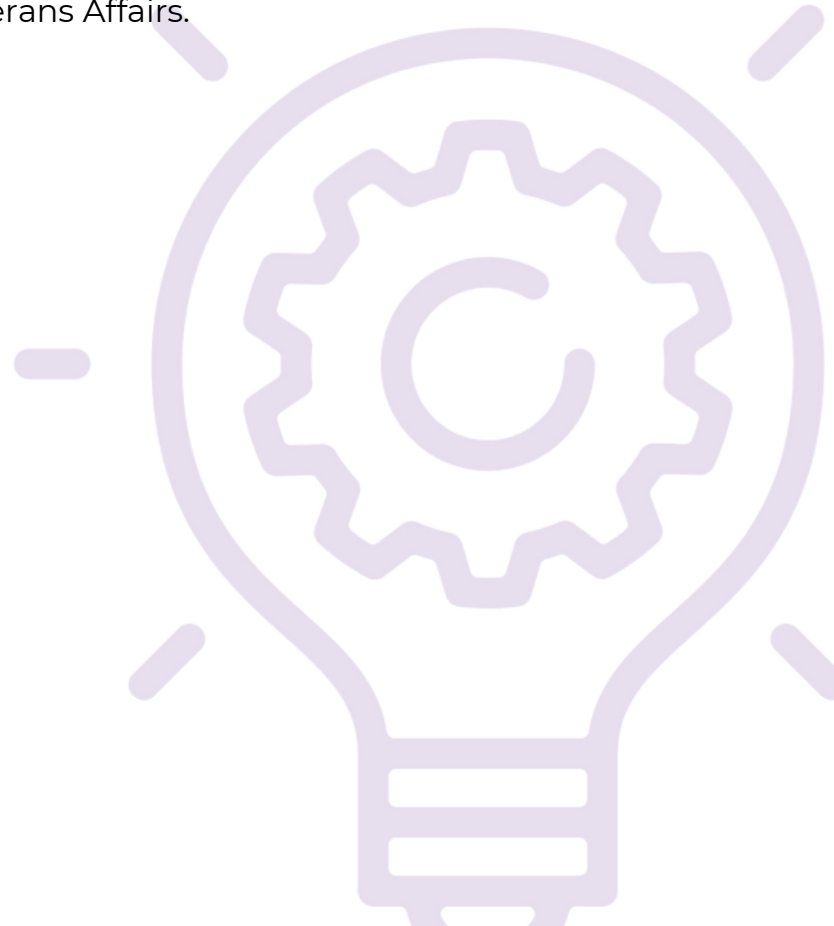
Through Surveys...

Veteran Oral Health Survey. After launching the largest veteran oral health survey in decades in 2021, AIDPH partnered with veteran service organizations for a second survey highlighting the stories and oral health care experience of veterans. The survey is currently in the field and results will be released in 2023. More than 1,500 have responded, marking the most robust data repository in veteran oral health history.

LGBTQIA+ Workforce Survey. In the summer of 2022, AIDPH disseminated a survey on LGBTQIA+ oral health to over 200 dental professionals across the country. This survey focused on the attitudes, awareness, and experience of oral health professionals related to caring for LGBTQIA+ people. The survey results will be released 2023.

By Advocating to Congress...

Apprised Congress of Veteran Oral Health Issues. As part of legislative advocacy to advance oral health and well-being of veterans, AIDPH was asked to participate in a closed-door roundtable session with members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. We shared our research while delivering a sign on letter with more than 70 organizations supporting expanded access to dental care through Veterans Affairs.



WE BUILT THE CAPACITY OF THE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND CREATIVE PROGRAMMING.

Rural Oral Health ECHO

AIDPH has increased awareness and knowledge of rural oral health challenges through the “all teach, all learn” telementoring model, ECHO. In partnership with CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, the Oral Health Progress and Equity Network, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and the National Rural Health Association, ECHO has serviced nearly 200 providers and other oral health professionals this past year. To learn more about ECHO, visit [our website](#).



Policy and LGBTQIA+ Learning Collaboratives with Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)

AIDPH holds a leadership position within OPEN, a community of over 2,000 oral health professionals. AIDPH co-facilitates the monthly Policy and LGBTQIA+ Learning Collaboratives by providing subject matter expertise and designing opportunities for network members to advance an oral health equity policy agenda.

Podcast with America's Heroes Group

In partnership with America's Heroes Group, AIDPH participated in a monthly session on veteran oral health, discussing topics including dental care policy, rural veterans, and equity in minority populations. Listen to the podcast series [here](#).

Dental Public Health Leadership Academy (DPHLA)

This unique program focuses on leadership development for early- to mid-career dental public health professionals, and its curriculum includes both leadership-development frameworks and content that is specific to dental public health. The inaugural cohort comprises 16 professionals.



OUR IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, AIDPH strove to increase its visibility and presence as a thought leader in the dental public health landscape. We are excited to share the following metrics that show our progress in the journey to increase awareness about AIDPH and its work to build and equip an equity-oriented oral health workforce prepared to lead.

350 total CEUs awarded

400 hours of education provided

1,000+ total attendees of workshops, webinars, and virtual events hosted by AIDPH

7,000 views of scientific content on YouTube

1,000+ hits to the AIDPH website from our social media channels

119% increase in email subscribers

**Data from January 1, 2022 to November 15, 2022*

OUR IMPACT: IN YOUR WORDS

I have always been motivated to work towards the LGBTQ+ community and make them feel more inclusive about decision-making. I believe the approaches discussed in the series were great and easy to implement in our own dental practice.

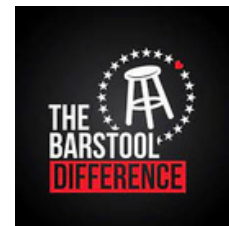
I often feel like my hands are tied and I don't have a voice living in one of the most rural areas of the state. There is more power to make a difference when many people advocate for your cause, even from the smallest, grassroots level of advocacy. This made me recognize the difference I have already made on a small level and empowered me to continue to advocate for bigger level causes.

Everything that was addressed in these sessions was very real to me. I enjoy listening to others' perspectives and ideas, and I think it is important to bounce these ideas off each other as the same problems exist across the country.

These sessions have made me more aware of the access to care problem and how rural populations are at a greater disadvantage compared to urban populations.

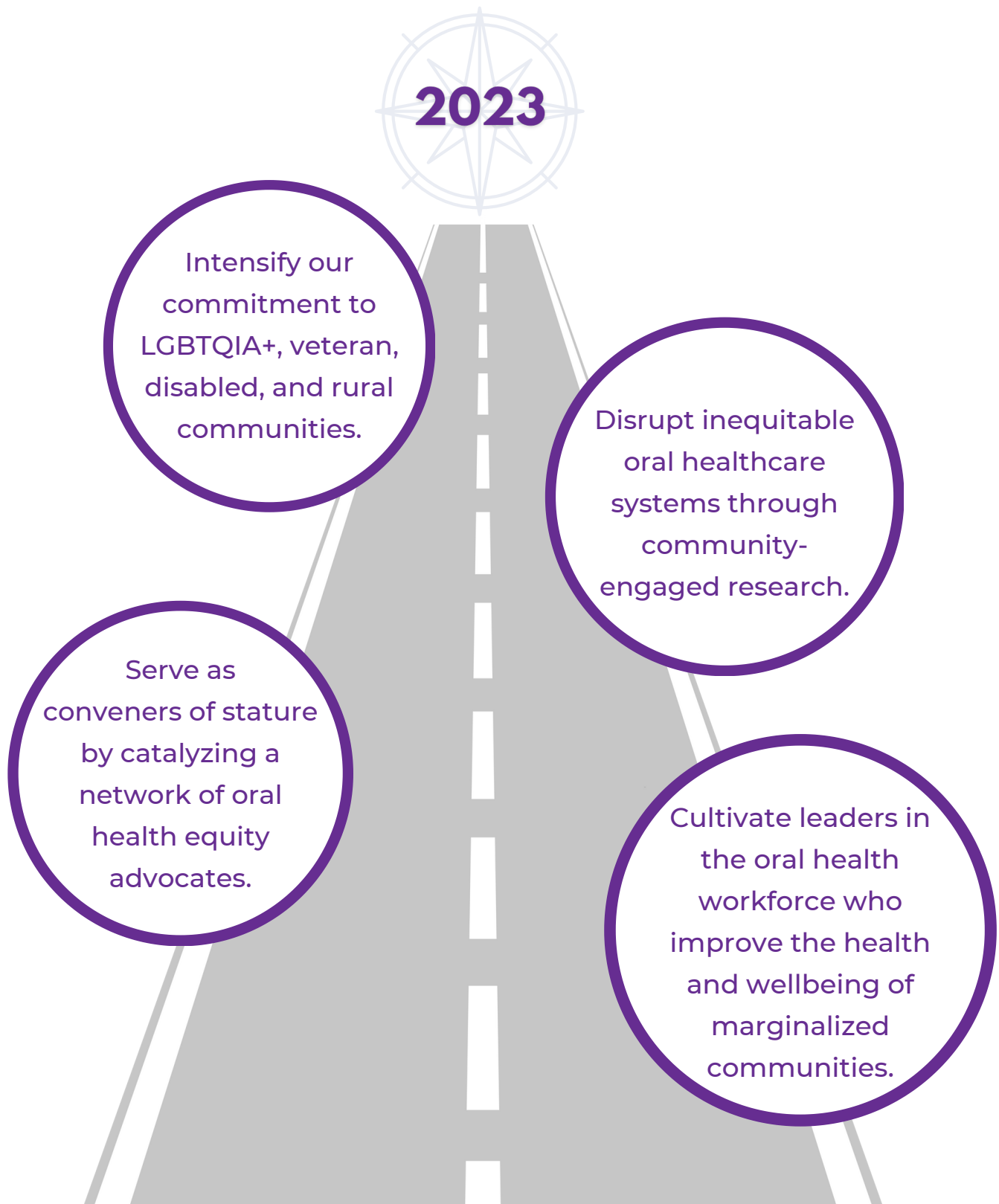
2022 PARTNERS

AIDPH is fortunate to work with many partners on our shared work to elevate oral health equity in rural, LGBTQIA+, and veteran communities; generate research that disrupts inequitable systems of oral health; transform the oral health workforce through leadership and capacity-building; and forge partnerships among diverse stakeholders as trusted brokers of health equity. We also want to say a special thank you to those partners who joined us for our inaugural LGBTQIA+ week in October '22.



2023 ROADMAP

As we continue our work to actualize an equity-oriented oral health workforce prepared to lead, we have identified the following action areas for 2023.



JOIN US IN ADVANCING OUR MISSION AND VISION IN 2023

We hope you will join us in 2023 as we continue our journey. Please consider taking one or more of the actions below to connect with us to advance oral health equity and disrupt systems that perpetuate disparity.



Follow AIDPH
on social media



Sign up for our
email list



Become a
corporate partner



Support our
mission



Attend our
events



Share our
research



VETERANS



RURAL



LGBTQIA+



WORKFORCE

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*Thank you for helping us
reach our goals in 2022.
We look forward to more
collective impact in 2023.*