



Predoctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Program

Academic Years 2015-2020

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is the primary federal agency for improving health care to people who are geographically isolated or economically or medically vulnerable. HRSA programs help those in need of high quality primary health care by supporting the training of health professionals – focusing in particular on the geographical distribution of providers to areas where they are needed most.

The purpose of the Predoctoral Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry and Dental Hygiene (PD) program is to enhance dental workforce education and training to prepare predoctoral dental students, dental hygiene students, and dental hygienists to practice in new and emerging models of care that are designed to meet the needs of vulnerable, underserved, or rural communities. Beginning in 2017, the emphasis of the program was to enhance clinical pediatric predoctoral dental and dental hygiene training focusing on children ages 0-5 to improve the oral health of vulnerable, underserved, and rural pediatric populations.

This report analyzes data from Academic Years (AY) 2015 through 2020.

Select PD Program Characteristics

Table 1. Select PD Program Characteristics, AY 2015-2020

| Academic Year | Number of Awardees | Total Number of Students | Predoctoral Dental Students | Dental Hygiene Students | Graduates / Program Completers |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019-2020 | 25 | 11,121 | 10,542 (94.8%) | 579 (5.2%) | 2,658 |
| 2018-2019 | 25 | 10,356 | 9,758 (94.2%) | 598 (5.8%) | 2,518 |
| 2017-2018 | 25 | 9,562 | 8,972 (93.8%) | 590 (6.2%) | 2,010 |
| 2016-2017 | 14 | 5,291 | 4,817 (91.0%) | 474 (9.0%) | 1,366 |
| 2015-2016 | 20 | 3,835 | 3,666 (95.6%) | 169 (4.4%) | 923 |

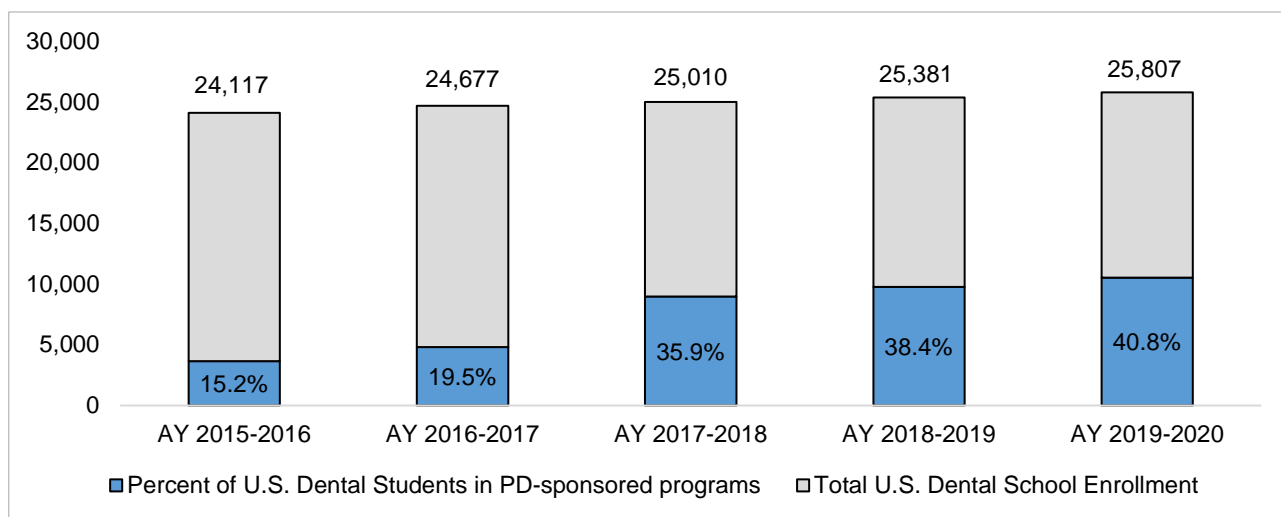
- The total number of students in PD-sponsored programs nearly tripled from 3,835 in AY 2015-2016 to 11,121 in AY 2019-2020.
- Between AY 2015-2020, 94 percent of trainees in PD-supported programs were predoctoral dental students; six percent of trainees were dental hygiene students.

Table 2. Select PD Program Predoctoral Dental Student Demographics, AY 2015-2020

| Academic Year | Total Number of Predoctoral Dental Students | Female Students | Black / African American Students | Students from Disadvantaged Background |
|---------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2019-2020 | 10,542 | 5,731 (54.4%) | 1,066 (10.1%) | 3,643 (34.6%) |
| 2018-2019 | 9,758 | 5,169 (53.0%) | 935 (9.6%) | 3,138 (32.2%) |
| 2017-2018 | 8,972 | 4,658 (51.9%) | 889 (9.9%) | 2,449 (27.3%) |
| 2016-2017 | 4,817 | 2,490 (51.7%) | 185 (3.8%) | 715 (14.8%) |
| 2015-2016 | 3,666 | 1,863 (50.8%) | 177 (4.8%) | 706 (19.3%) |

- Between AY 2015-2020, the number of female predoctoral dental students in PD-sponsored programs was greater than 50 percent, consistent with national dental student enrollment.¹
- The percentage of Black/African American predoctoral dental students enrolled in PD-sponsored programs doubled over the five year period, from five percent in AY 2015-2016 to 10 percent in AY 2019-2020, a much higher rate of increase than national dental student enrollment which grew from five percent to six percent in same time period.²
- The percentage of predoctoral dental students from disadvantaged backgrounds increased from 19 percent to 35 percent over the five-year period.

Figure 1. Total U.S. Dental School Enrollment³ and Percent in PD-sponsored Programs, AY 2015-2020



- In AY 2015-2016, 15 percent of students in predoctoral dental programs were enrolled in PD-sponsored programs. By AY 2019-2020, enrollment in predoctoral dental programs sponsored by the PD program grew to 41 percent of total enrollment.

¹ American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute. *Report 1: Academic Programs, Enrollment, and Graduates*. Accessed October 21, 2021. <https://www.ada.org/resources/research/health-policy-institute/dental-education>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Select PD Training Site Characteristics

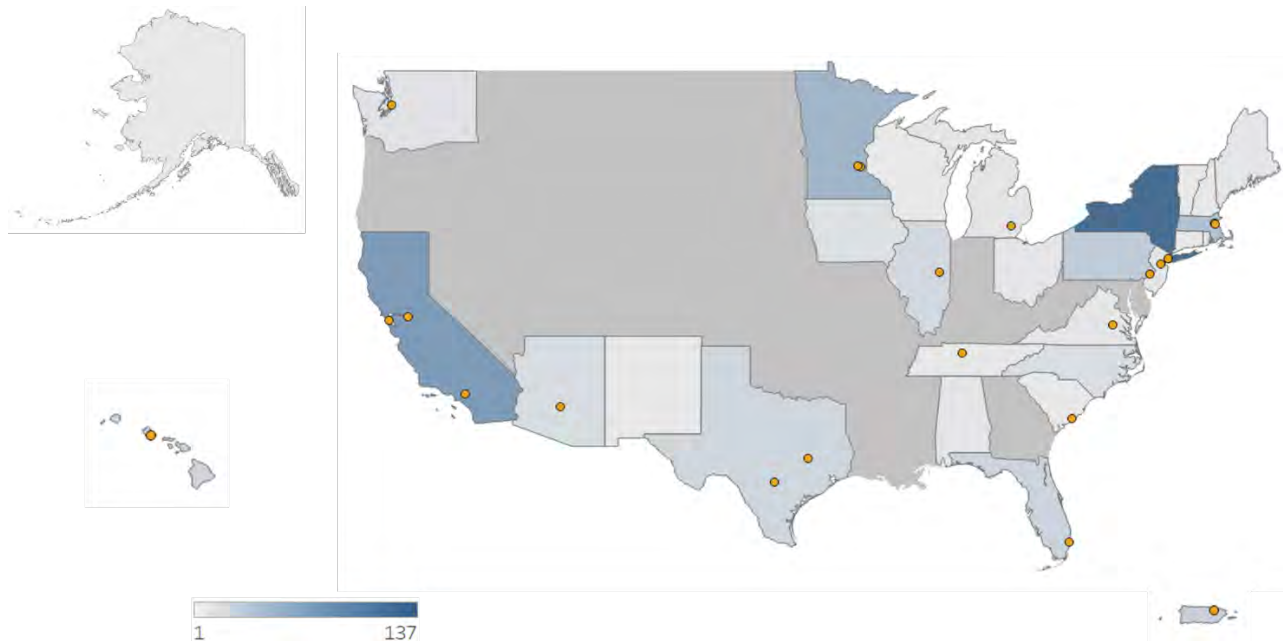
Table 3. Select PD Training Site Settings and Characteristics, AY 2015-2020

| Academic Year | Total Sites | Medically Underserved Community | Primary Care Setting | Rural Area | Implements Inter-professional Education / Practice |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--|
| 2019-2020 | 297 | 221 (74.4%) | 133 (44.8%) | 46 (15.5%) | 153 (51.5%) |
| 2018-2019 | 313 | 240 (76.7%) | 131 (41.9%) | 39 (12.5%) | 149 (47.6%) |
| 2017-2018 | 275 | 206 (74.9%) | 114 (41.5%) | 45 (16.4%) | 133 (48.4%) |
| 2016-2017 | 175 | 124 (70.9%) | 53 (30.3%) | 28 (16.0%) | 38 (21.7%) |
| 2015-2016 | 139 | 88 (63.3%) | 77 (55.4%) | 23 (16.5%) | 15 (10.8%) |

Notes: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

- The number of sites PD-sponsored programs partnered with more than doubled between AY 2015-2016 and AY 2019-2020, from 139 sites to 297 sites.
- The percent of training sites located in medically underserved communities grew from 63 percent in AY 2015-2016 to 74 percent in AY 2019-2020.
- Between AY 2015-2020, the number of training sites in primary care settings increased by 70 percent, from 77 to 133 sites.
- In AY 2015-2016, the percent of training sites implementing inter-professional education and/or practice was 11 percent. By AY 2019-2020, over 50 percent of training sites were implementing inter-professional education and/or practice.

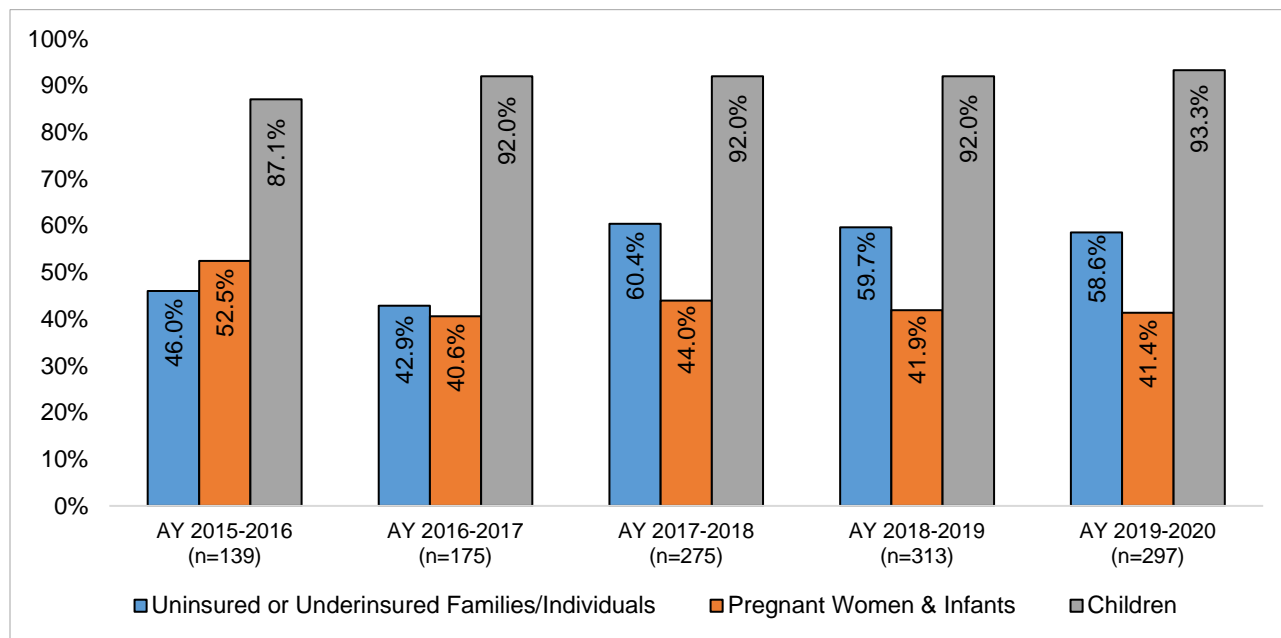
Figure 2. Geographic Distribution of PD Awardees and Training Site Density by State, AY 2015-2020



Notes: Awardee locations are marked in yellow. The number of training sites per state ranges from one to 137. States are color coded based on the density of training sites. Map is not to scale.

- Between AY 2015-2020, PD-sponsored programs supported 514 training sites in 28 states, plus Puerto Rico and Mexico.
- Between AY 2015-2020, the greatest number of PD-sponsored training sites were located in New York (n=137), followed by California (n=80).

Figure 3. Percent of PD Training Sites Serving Select Vulnerable Populations, AY 2015-2020



Note: Categories are not mutually-exclusive.

- Training sites for students in PD-sponsored programs provided services to a variety of vulnerable populations, particularly those targeted by the grant: children aged zero to five and the uninsured or underinsured.
- On average, over 90 percent of the training sites supported by PD-sponsored programs provided services to children between AY 2015-2020.
- Between AY 2015-2020, approximately half of all training sites served the uninsured or underinsured.

Table 4. PD Training Site Select Partnerships, AY 2015-2020

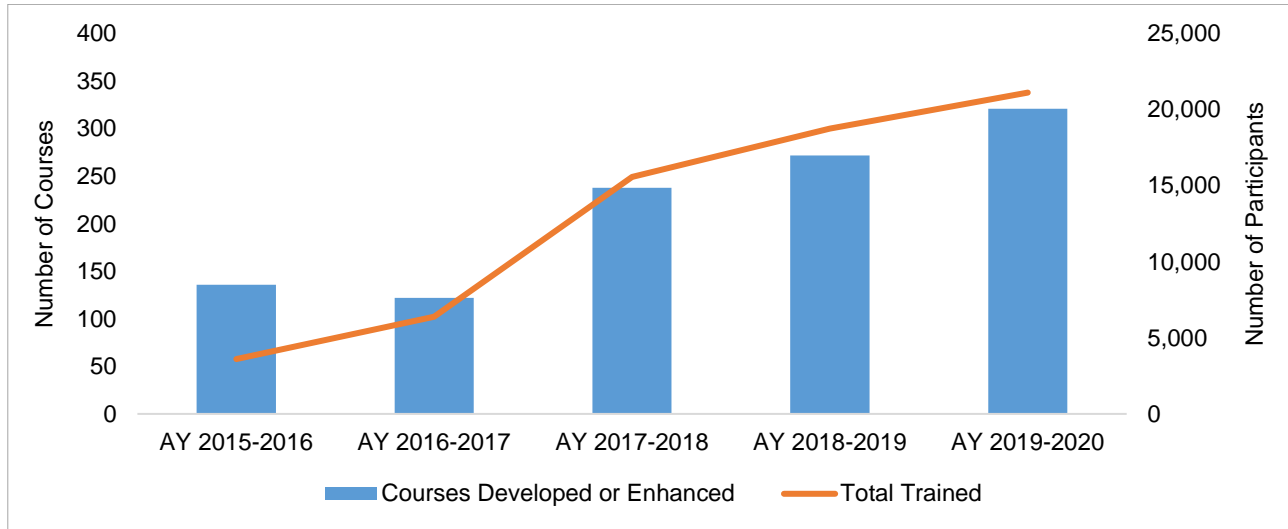
| Academic Year | Total Sites | Non-Profits | Academic Departments | K-12 Education Institutions | FQHCs and Look-Alikes |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2019-2020 | 297 | 93 (31.3%) | 54 (18.2%) | 49 (16.5%) | 39 (13.1%) |
| 2018-2019 | 313 | 92 (29.4%) | 62 (19.8%) | 53 (16.9%) | 43 (13.7%) |
| 2017-2018 | 275 | 81 (29.5%) | 52 (18.9%) | 44 (16.0%) | 43 (15.6%) |
| 2016-2017 | 175 | 64 (36.6%) | 32 (18.3%) | 21 (12.0%) | 26 (14.9%) |
| 2015-2016 | 139 | 29 (20.9%) | 67 (48.2%) | 11 (7.9%) | 39 (28.1%) |

Note: Categories are not mutually-exclusive.

- In AY 2019-2020, the top four partnerships between PD-sponsored programs and training sites were non-profits (31 percent), academic departments (18 percent), K-12 education institutions (17 percent), and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and look-alikes (13 percent).
- The number of sites in K-12 education institutions increased from eight percent in AY 2015-2016 to 17 percent in AY 2019-2020, reflecting the new priority of the grant program.

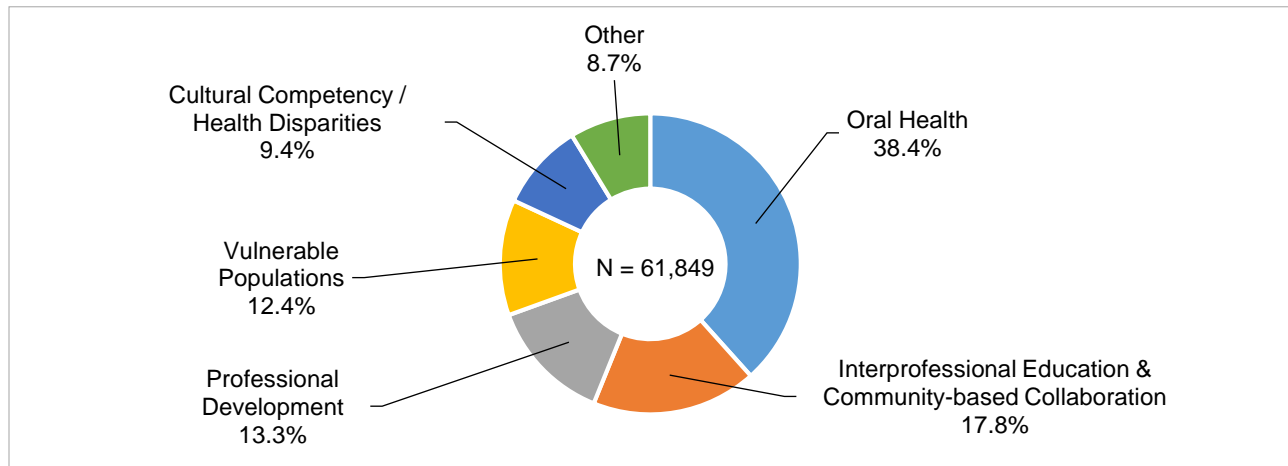
Courses Developed or Enhanced by PD-sponsored Programs

Figure 4. Number of Courses Developed or Enhanced and Number of Participants Trained in PD-sponsored Programs, AY 2015-2020



- Between AY 2015-16 and AY 2019-2020, the number of courses developed or enhanced by PD-sponsored programs grew from 136 courses to 321 courses.
- The number of participants trained in courses developed or enhanced by PD-sponsored programs increased dramatically over the five year period, from 3,606 trainees in AY 2015-2016 to 21,128 trainees in AY 2019-2020.

Figure 5. Percent Distribution of Students Trained in Courses Developed or Enhanced by PD-sponsored Programs by Topic, AY 2016-2020



Note: Data on course topic was not collected in AY 2015-2016.

- Between AY 2016-2020, oral health courses developed or enhanced in PD-sponsored programs included “Oral Health Practice Guidelines for Pregnancy and Early Childhood” and “Evidence-Based Dental Hygiene Practice” and were delivered to over 23,000 students, more than one-third of all students trained (38 percent).
- Between AY 2016-2020, 18 percent of the students trained in courses developed or enhanced in PD-sponsored programs participated in interprofessional education and community-based collaboration.