



The dental safety net

includes the facilities, providers, and programs that support oral health care for individuals facing social, economic, and/or other health disparities.

Facilities include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), dental schools, Medicaid-oriented dental practices, free and charitable clinics, hospital emergency departments, and clinics offering sliding fee scales, among others.

As of 2024, it is estimated an additional **9,731 practitioners** are required to fill the need for the **57 million individuals** living in **6,827 Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas** (determined by HRSA) across the country. FQHCs offer fulfilling career opportunities for dental professionals.

Dentists employed by FQHCs most commonly report a starting annual salary between \$125,000-\$175,000.

The majority of FQHCs provide continuing education reimbursement, major medical insurance benefits, retirement benefits, and paid time off. Additionally, many state and federal government programs offer loan repayment opportunities in exchange for practice in FQHCs.



There are nearly 1,400 FQHCs in the US!

The Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) provides funding for at least another 100 look-a-like clinics as well. Over 5,100 dentists, 2,700 dental hygienists, and 40 dental therapists work in FQHCs.

Interested in working in a FQHC or safety net?

Contact NNOHA at info@nnoha.org or call 303-957-0635