

Progress Toward 100% Cavity Free!

Delta Dental of Washington 2022 Reflection



 **DELTA DENTAL**[®]

Delta Dental of Washington



**Our Vision - All People
Enjoy Good Oral and
Overall Health with
No One Left Behind.**

Celebrating 2022

At Delta Dental of Washington, we're on a mission to ensure everyone can have a healthy smile. As a not-for-profit oral health and dental benefits company, we are driven by the opportunity to deliver excellent service and improve oral health for everyone in our state as well as those we cover across the nation.

As we reflect on 2022, we want to thank the many individuals and organizations who partnered with us to remove barriers and increase access to oral health care. This includes dental professionals, healthcare and community organizations, brokers, policy makers and many more.

To the companies and individuals who choose Delta Dental as your dental benefits provider - we are honored to be of service to you. We now cover over 4 million people, each of you is important to us.

As part of our mission, we are proud to fund Arcora Foundation, Washington's largest oral health foundation, and invite you to view Arcora's significant contributions to improving oral health equity across Washington in their [community report](#).

In the spirit of celebration, this report provides examples of 2022 accomplishments. We look forward to collaborating for an even brighter 2023 and beyond! If you are inspired to partner with us to improve oral health, please don't hesitate to contact Diane. Together we can achieve 100% Cavity Free!

Sincerely,

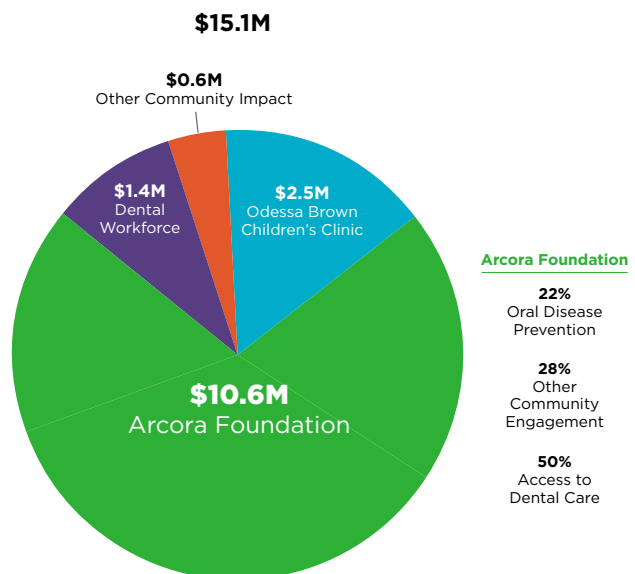


Mark Mitchke
CEO



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2022 MISSION INVESTMENTS





Did you know?

Most oral disease is preventable, which means access to routine preventive care helps protect people from suffering and promotes thriving.

The Power of Prevention

For people of all ages, healthy smiles are vital to overall health and life quality. That’s why—when left untreated—oral disease can negatively impact a person’s wellbeing. While children in pain from untreated cavities may struggle to eat, learn and sleep, adults may experience barriers to employment, poor pregnancy outcomes, and chronic disease.

Good oral health lowers the risk of diabetic complications, cardiovascular disease, and more, which is why Delta Dental works closely with employers to ensure that preventive visits are covered at no or very low cost. All our plans offer free or discounted preventive dental visits.

In 2022, 26,000+ members received dental coverage tailored to optimize their overall health through our Health360 product. Created in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, Health360 is a fully integrated medical and health plan.

Health360

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Because preventing cavities starts with a daily oral health routine, we partner with schools across the state to share The Tooth Fairy Experience, making oral health education magical and memorable for kids of all ages.

In 2022, we reached over 11,000 students, the majority from under-resourced areas. We also welcomed two new Tooth Fairies to our team: Malcom, who is fluent in American Sign Language, and Alex, who is fluent in Spanish. Thank you to all of our partners, including the Seattle Kraken and Seattle Storm, for helping us reach more children with oral health education!





Since 2019, The
Tooth Fairy Experience
has reached 50,000+ kids
across Washington.



Tooth Fairy Alex visits families at
the Odessa Brown Clinic.



Tooth Fairy Molli with
dental assistant puppet "Toothie".



Tooth Fairy Jasmine Shows off her
healthy smile at the Odessa Brown Clinic.



Tooth Fairy Malcolm presents at the
Washington School for the Deaf.



Tooth Fairy Arika shares a smile at the
Annual Asia Pacific New Year Celebration.

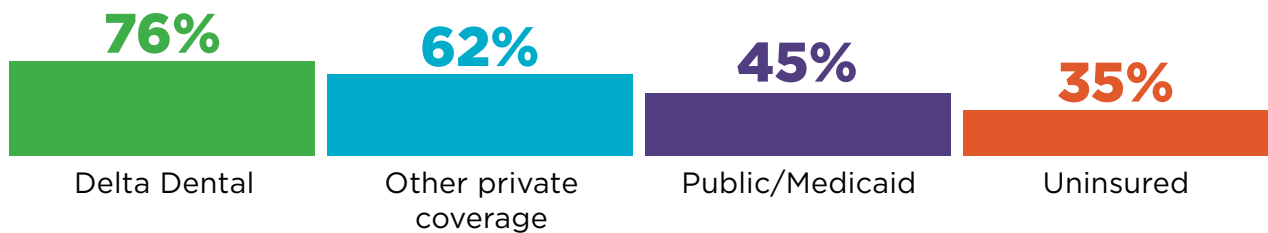


Delta Dental has the largest local and national network of providers, so the people we cover can access the dentist of their choosing.

Open Wide

All people deserve access to the routine dental care that helps keep their smiles healthy. That's why we're thankful that 90 percent of Washington's dentists are part of our network.

In 2022, we learned that members of Delta Dental of Washington were most likely among all adults in Washington to report having a dental visit within the last 12 months.



Because our mission is to serve all people in Washington, we continually pursue and innovate opportunities to widen access for people of all ages.

To ensure more kids and youth experience the many benefits of routine dental care, we joined Arcora Foundation to partner with the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic to open their new Othello Square location, which includes a state-of-the-art dental clinic.



Steve Metcalf (Arcora Foundation), Tooth Fairy Jasmine, Tooth Fairy Alex, and Vanetta Abdellatif (Arcora Foundation CEO) pause to celebrate the new Othello Square clinic with Dr. Kari Sims, Dental Director of the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic.

Lolinda Turner,
Dental Professional
Pathways Program
Manager



Open Wide

Oral health disparities by income, race, and ethnicity persist. A substantial body of research has highlighted the many benefits of fostering a diverse and inclusive health care workforce, including increased access to care.

To elevate diversity in oral health care, our **Dental Professional Pathways Program introduces youth from historically underrepresented groups to careers in the dental field.** In 2022, we reached **over 800 youth** through partnerships with schools and community-based organizations.

We are optimistic that some of these youth will be inspired to pursue dental careers in Washington.



Inspiring girls to consider dentistry
at Seattle Storm Academy.



Seattle Storm Academy.



In our most recent poll, over half of dentists reported a staffing vacancy.

Open Wide

If your routine dental visits have been harder to schedule, you may be feeling the impacts of the **significant shortage of dental hygienists and dental assistants currently impacting Washington state and the country.**

To address this reality, we funded the **Lake Washington Technical College** to launch a new dental assisting program in 2023 and expand their dental hygiene program in 2024. The **Shoreline Dental Hygiene Program**, which we funded in 2021, also began training dental hygiene students at their new location on the University of Washington campus. We continue to work to expand hygiene and assisting programs, to ensure our local dental workforce is strong and stable.

In 2022, we committed \$12 million over the next 3 years to launch a new School for Dental Medicine at Pacific Northwest University – a private, non-profit based in Yakima. PNWU will train dental students to practice in rural and other underserved communities.



Shoreline Dental Hygiene Program at UW School of Dentistry – Mark Mitchke (in chair), WSDA President Dr. John Gibbons, Diane Oakes, UW School of Dentistry Dean Andre Ritter, and Arcora CEO Vanetta Abdellatif.

Sharing Smiles

In addition to brushing and flossing, many factors impact our oral health such as the availability of affordable and nutritious foods, accessibility of healthcare services, equitable policies and systems, and community water fluoridation. No single organization can address these factors alone. We were honored to stand with these and many groups in 2022 to contribute to healthier communities.

We chaired the [American Heart Association of Puget Sound](#), Heart and Stroke Walk, which raised \$1.2 million while promoting healthy eating for healthy hearts, teeth, and gums.

We were an early supporter of the [Fund for Inclusive Recovery](#) to help meet the critical needs of people most impacted by the pandemic. In 2022, the Fund granted \$12.6 million to 21 organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color individuals to build a future that is healthy, thriving and prosperous for all.

Delta Dental is part of the [Washington Employers for Racial Equity](#), a coalition of over 70 companies committed to advancing equity in our workplaces and communities. In 2022, we launched a vendor diversity program to track and promote our equitable engagement with a diversity of backgrounds.

Our annual community impact campaign this year supported:

[Spokane County United Way](#) - Focus on education, health, and financial stability

[United Way of King County](#) - Focus on racially just community in which people have homes, students graduate, and families are financially stable

[Food Lifeline](#) - Addressing hunger across Western Washington

[Second Harvest](#) - supporting food banks, meal sites and other programs feeding people in need in Eastern Washington



Delta Dental team at 2022 Heart and Stroke Walk.

Thank you and
here's to a great 2023!