



Streamline Licensure for Foreign Dentists to Address NY's Dental Shortage

CHCANYS strongly urges NYS to enable foreign trained dentists to practice to the full extent of their qualifications.

- New York is facing a critical dental workforce shortage amid rising demand for dental services. The immediate solution is to enable foreign trained dentists to practice in New York.
- There are many foreign-trained dentists whose skills are not being utilized to their fullest extent and many are underemployed (i.e., many community health centers (CHCs) hire foreign trained dentists, but they can only work as dental assistants).
- Currently, New York mandates foreign trained dentists to attend a state-approved dental school and to complete a one-year residency program, which can create significant barriers for many qualified foreign dentists who may not have the time or resources to retrain, especially when they already have significant experience abroad.
- **CHCANYS strongly supports** A.3244 (Woerner)/S.3966 (Stavisky) which would allow foreign trained dentists to complete either a one-year full-time faculty mentorship at an approved NYS school of dentistry or a full-time experience as a general practice dental preceptee in a preceptorship program.

Streamlining dental licensure requirements for foreign trained dentists is essential to address New York's growing dental crisis.

- Expansion efforts are necessary to ensure equitable access to dental care, especially in underserved communities grappling with dental care deserts.
- There are 155 Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas in NY affecting more than 5.3 million people, and only about 16.7% of the need is being met. At least 1,100 more dental practitioners are needed to meet current demands.¹
- Currently, 19% of dentists in New York participate in Medicaid.² Those who graduated from foreign dental schools and practiced in NY were **2.5x more likely to participate in Medicaid.**³

Community health centers are critical access points for dental care.

- 66 CHCs provide dental services across New York and are often the only source affordable and accessible dental care in their communities, especially for individuals with Medicaid, uninsured, or underinsured.
- CHCs need support to meet the overwhelming demand due to workforce shortages and the inability to compete with private practices for the limited pool of dental providers.
- The scarcity of dental providers is exacerbating health disparities, disproportionately impacting low-income individuals and people of color, who already utilize less dental care than the rest of the population in part due to the limited availability of dental services.⁴

¹ <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/dental-care-health-professional-shortage-areashpsas/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9274318/>

³ https://www.chwsny.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CHWS_New-York-State-Dentists-Serving-Medicaid-Beneficiaries_2022.pdf

⁴ [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Oral Health Strategic Framework, 2014–2017 - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)