

# AK DHAT



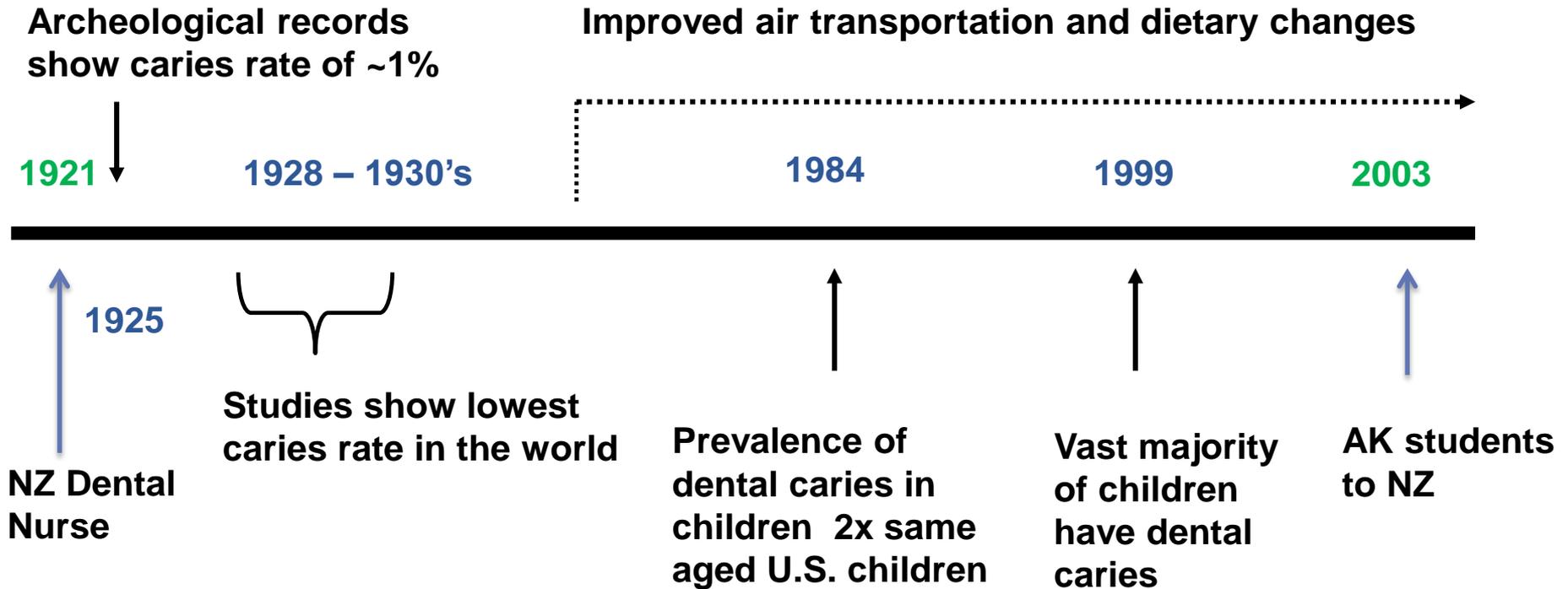
The  
American  
Academy  
of Dental  
Therapy,  
2011

**Mary E. Williard, DDS**  
National Indian Health Board  
32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Consumer Conference  
September 23, 2015



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# History of Dental Caries in Alaska Native People

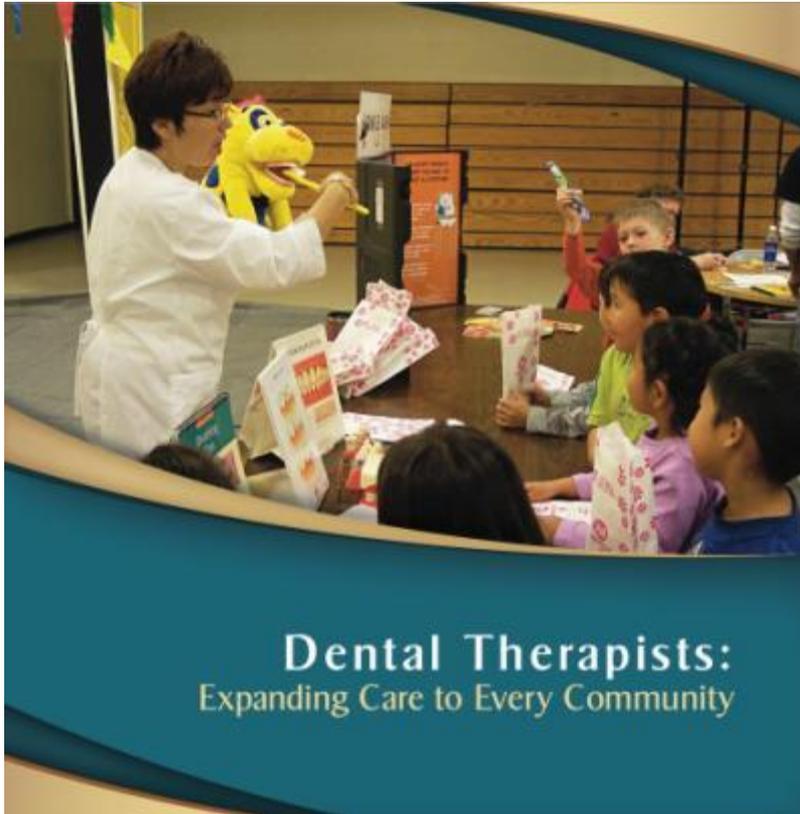


Price, WA. 1939. *Nutrition and Physical Degeneration*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Lemon Grove, CA.



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# Dental Therapists: A Definition



- Primary oral health care professionals
  - Basic clinical dental treatment and preventive services
  - Multidisciplinary team members
  - Advocate for the needs of clients
  - Refer for services beyond the scope of the dental therapist's practice.\*

# There Was Opposition

100-10 - Dental Association, Juneau full page ad - cc (11.6.25) X 21

## Governor Murkowski 2nd class dental care for Alaska Natives deserves a ferocious reaction!



No Alaskan should face irreversible dental surgery by an unlicensed therapist with no dental degree. Alaska law is being broken unnecessarily.



Alaska Dental Society, Inc. • 9170 Jewel Lake Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99502-3303

Pursuing policies that enhance the well-being of Alaskans.



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# The Fight is Winnable and Worth It



Conan Murat, DHAT, standing his ground

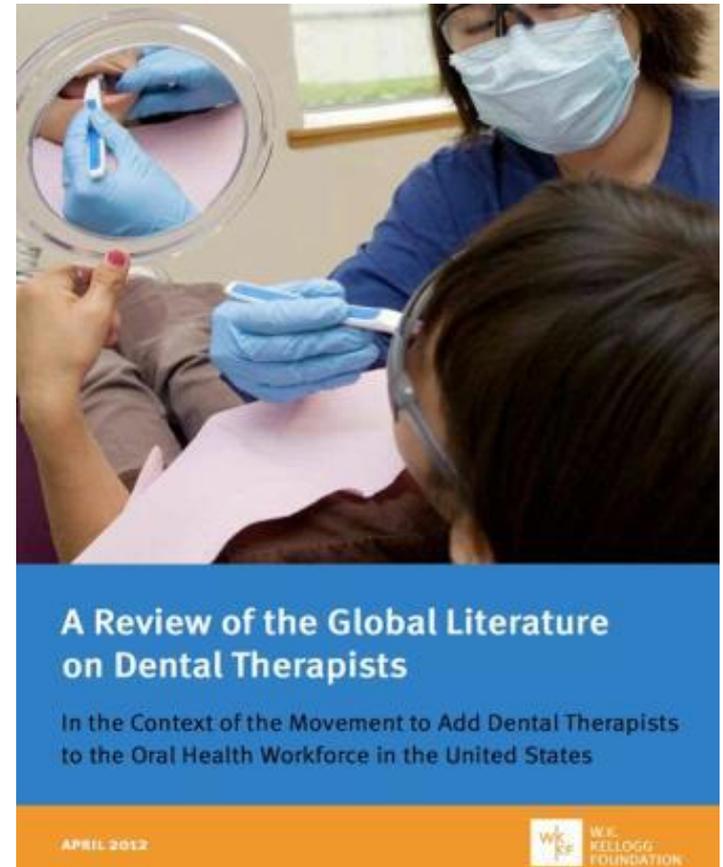


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# “A Review of the Global Literature on Dental Therapists”\*

## Dental Therapists:

- Decrease cost of care
- Improve access to care
- Provide care safely
- Public values the role of dental therapists
- Traditionally 2 years education



<http://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2012/04/nash-report-is-evidence-that-dental-therapists-expand-access>

\*Prepared by: David A. Nash, Jay W. Friedman, Kavita R. Mathu-Muju, Peter G. Robinson, Julie Satur, Susan Moffat, Rosemary Kardos, Edward C.M. Lo, Anthony H.H. Wong, Nasruddin Jaafar, Jos van den Heuvel, Prathip Phantumvanit, Eu Oy Chu, Rahul Naidu, Lesley Naidoo, Irving McKenzie and Eshani Fernando



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Supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

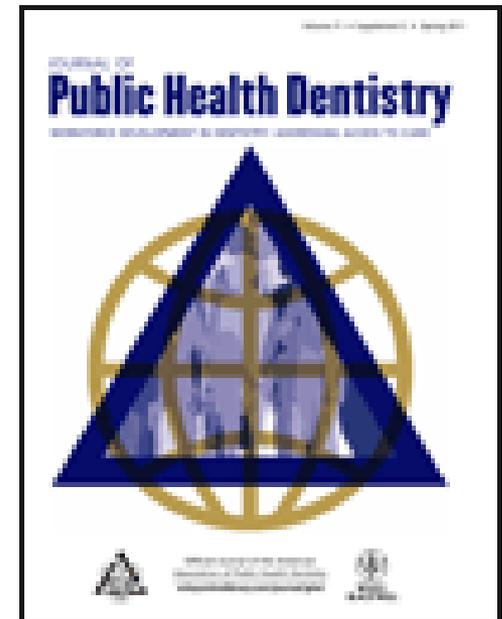
# Curriculum



## DHAT curriculum adapted by AAPHD panel

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

- 11-person academic panel
- Model curriculum
- Two-year, post-secondary
- Open access online:
  - <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jphd.2011.71.issue-s2/issuetoc>



**The Journal of Public Health Dentistry, Special Issue:  
Workforce Development in Dentistry: Addressing  
Access to Care  
Spring 2011 Volume 71, Issue Supplement S2**



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# The Heart of DHAT

## Prevention and Promotion



DHAT students doing screenings and fluoride applications at a Head Start



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# Improved Access and Quality

- 29 certified DHAT
- 81 communities in rural AK
  - Over 40,000 people have access
- Continuity of care
  - Higher level of care possible
  - Dentist working up to their licensure



DHAT Aurora Johnson,  
NZ Educated

# Keys to DHAT Success

- **Not Mini Dentists**
- 2 Year Education
- Cultural Competence
- General Supervision
- Appropriate Scope:
  - **Diagnosis and Treatment Planning**
  - **Extractions**
- Certification/ Recertification
- Community-based



Trisha Patton, DHAT student, taking x-rays



# DHAT Educational Program

Mary E. Williard, DDS

907-729-5600

4200 Lake Otis Parkway, Ste. 204

Anchorage, AK 99508

DHAT training is [ANTHCsmile](#)  
on **Facebook**

website:

<http://anthcoralhealth.org>



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