



Health Careers In Alaska

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Dental Health Aide

Like Community Health Aides/Practitioners, Dental Health Aides (DHAs) are unique to Alaska, and provide care to individuals in remote communities without regular access to dentists. DHAs live in rural Alaskan villages and deliver dental disease prevention and education services. The Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs), one type of DHA, do some minor irreversible procedures such as cavity removal, fillings and simple extractions. DHAs assist

dentists and other dental health care providers during their trips to their communities. DHAs are supervised by a dentist or other dental providers. DHAs generally live and work in remote areas, communicating regularly with their supervisor by telemedicine, telephone, e-mail, or radio. Some DHAs practice in the regional hub facilities with dental support provided locally.

Dental Health Aide Facts:

Where do dental health aides work in Alaska?

Dental Health Aides are generally employed by their tribal health organization or, less often, by their tribal councils. Tribal health organizations usually make the selection for employment and training. Some DHAs work as itinerants, working in a number of different villages each year.

Educational Requirements

- There are currently 6 levels of dental health aides, each with their own educational requirements and scope of work and standards. Primary Dental Health Aide I & II, Expanded Function Dental Health Aide I & II, Dental Health Aide Therapist, and Dental Health Aide Hygienist.
- A high school diploma or GED certificate are standard requirements for admission to DHA training (exception: DHA Hygienist, see below)
- While not a requirement for admission, college level coursework is recommended for students considering DHAT
- The Dental Health Aide Hygienist requires a license to practice as a dental hygienist and completion of approved classes in local anesthesia.
- All DHAs may obtain certification at their level of training by meeting program requirements determined by the CHA Program Certification Board.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$14.00-\$36.00

**Source from ANMC Dental Health Aide Program Staff*

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Dental Health Aide training sessions are organized by the Tribal Regional Health Organizations such as SouthCentral Foundation in Anchorage or the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, and are usually held at a hub dental program. The DHAT Training Program is held in Anchorage and Bethel. Contact your local dental program or tribal health program for more information.

Websites: <http://www.dentexak.washington.edu>

<http://www.akchap.org> (See Dental Therapist Training Program)

State Contact:

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