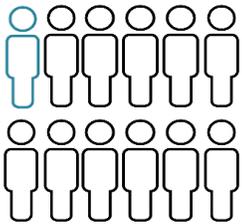




Federal agencies must increase their focus on oral health

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other agencies play a critical role in advancing Americans' oral health, yet analysis conducted by the Delta Dental Institute shows they are not sufficiently prioritizing oral health issues.

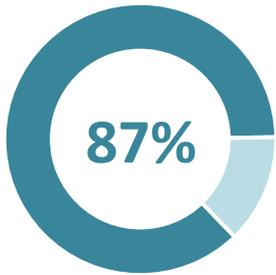
Key Findings



Only **1 in 12** federal agencies that oversee oral health initiatives currently has a Chief Dental Officer or equivalent, compared to **7** with a Chief Medical Officer or equivalent. Oral health experts should be leading oral health programs.



From 2012 to 2020, the average annual funding for oral health initiatives at relevant agencies was **less than 5%** of overall health funding. Oral health is critical to overall health and should be prioritized in resourcing.



Americans **overwhelmingly** support legislation at the federal level that expands dental benefits to children—a policy that would need oral health expertise and resourcing to evaluate and implement.

"Oral health is critical to overall health, and by neglecting to adequately prioritize oral health issues [federal] agencies are missing an opportunity to tackle overall health problems...Delta Dental is willing and eager to be a partner in helping get oral health expertise at senior levels to better address oral health issues."

- Dr. Joseph Dill, Head of Dental Science, Delta Dental Institute

Methodology: The Delta Dental Institute analyzed senior leadership, publications, and funding from 2008-2020 at the following agencies: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of State, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institutes of Health Division of Clinical Research, and the Office of the Surgeon General.