

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™  
EL PASO

# MISSION

To improve the health of the people of West Texas and the greater El Paso community by:

- Focusing on the unique oral and overall health of border populations.
- Demonstrating excellence in education, research and patient care.
- Providing leadership to practicing community and area stakeholders.



## CURRICULUM AND LEARNING COMPONENTS



- Early clinical experience among a diverse population.
- Culturally competent, hands-on training.
- Access to contemporary technology and innovative simulation.
- Medical Spanish skills requirement.
- Integrated professional experiences.
- Evidence-based clinical education.
- Symptom-based critical thinking.
- Community Health Certification.

# ANTICIPATED ENROLLMENT

## Anticipated Enrollment:

The Hunt School of Dental Medicine will graduate an inaugural class of 40 students beginning in 2025, followed by 60 students per year thereafter.

Projected Student Enrollment	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	0	40	100	160	220

## Anticipated Enrollment: Race/Ethnicity/Gender

The Hunt School of Dental Medicine expects gender equity among enrolled classes.

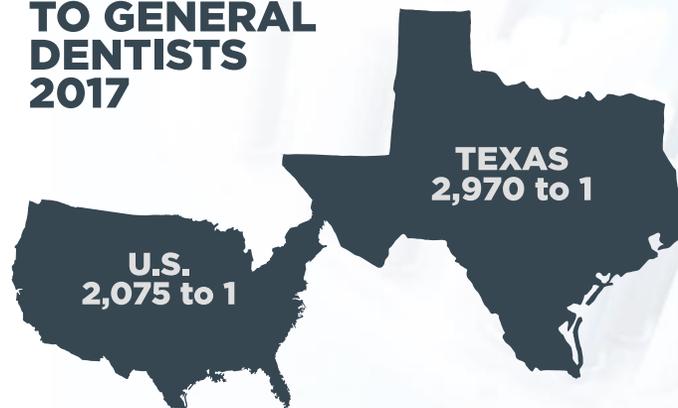
Enrollment Projections – Full-time Students					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
New Students <sup>1</sup>	40	60	60	60	60
Asian or Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup>	9 (23%)	14	14	14	14
Black Non-Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	2 (5%)	3	3	3	3
Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	12 (30%)	18	18	18	18
Native American/Alaskan Native <sup>2</sup>	1 (2)%	1	1	1	1
White Non-Hispanic <sup>2</sup>	16 (40%)	24	24	24	24

# MEETING THE NEED

## Meeting a Critical Need:

Currently, El Paso and the border region face a 57% shortage of general dentists compared to the national average.

**RATIO OF  
POPULATION  
TO GENERAL  
DENTISTS  
2017**



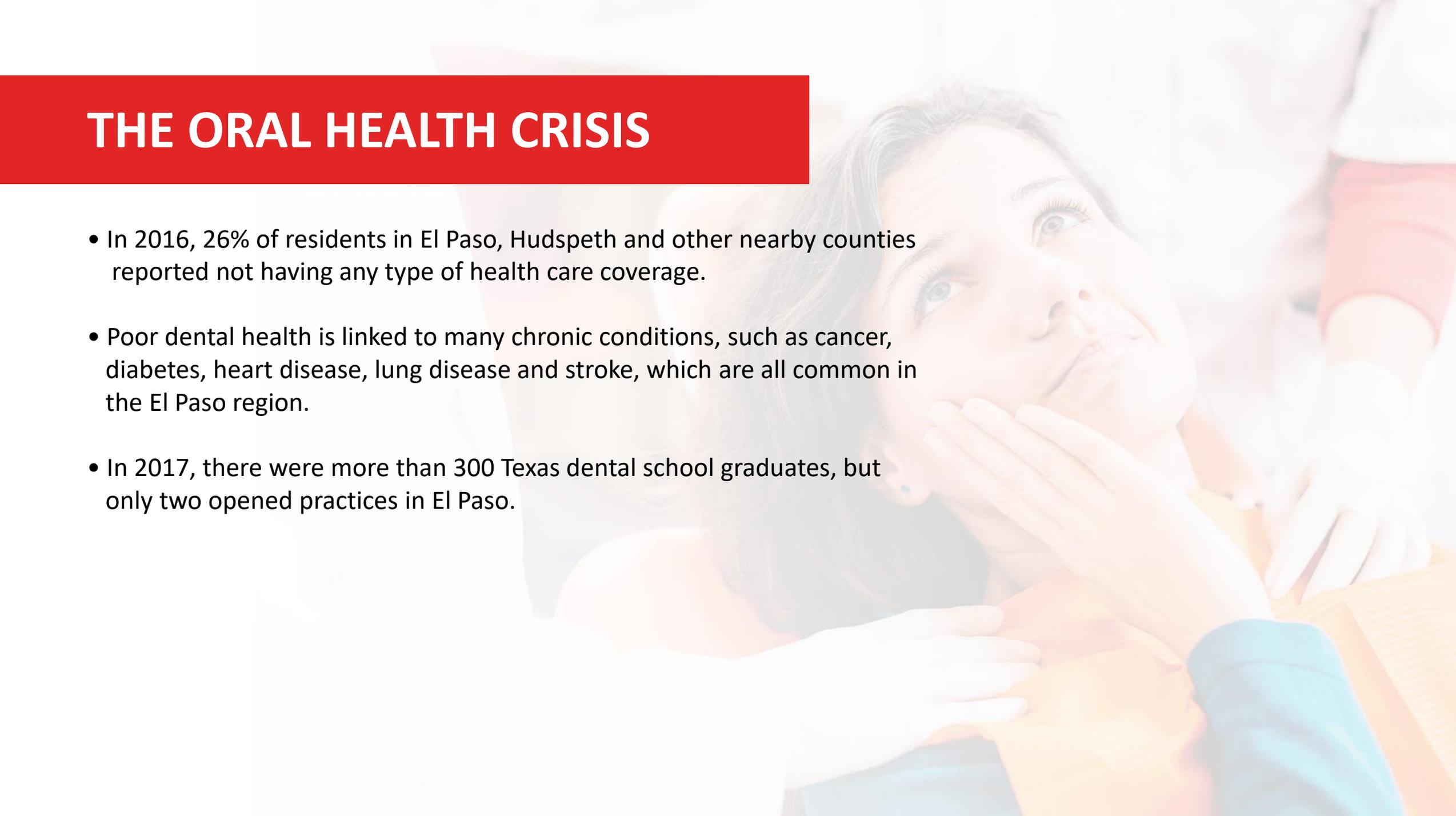
**EL PASO  
COUNTY  
5,482 to 1**

Because 75% of Texas dental school graduates establish practices in close proximity to their alma mater, the Hunt School of Dental Medicine will help combat a severe lack of dentists in the region.

# DENTAL CARE IN WEST TEXAS

- Lack of dental care is a public health concern that affects all residents of Texas.
- In children and adolescents in particular, the lack of dental upkeep impacts daily productivity and is linked to malnutrition, school absences and lower academic performance.
- Four out of 10 Texas children ages 3-5 years old have experienced tooth decay.
- Two out of three Texas third graders have experienced tooth decay.
- In 2017, only 50% of El Paso residents visited a dentist.

# THE ORAL HEALTH CRISIS

A woman with dark hair is sitting in a dental chair, looking upwards with a slight smile. A dentist's hands are visible, one resting on her chin and another near her mouth. The background is softly blurred, showing other people in a clinical setting.

- In 2016, 26% of residents in El Paso, Hudspeth and other nearby counties reported not having any type of health care coverage.
- Poor dental health is linked to many chronic conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease and stroke, which are all common in the El Paso region.
- In 2017, there were more than 300 Texas dental school graduates, but only two opened practices in El Paso.

# NEW PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

- The Dental Learning Center.
- Public, reduced-cost oral health clinic.
- Community clinical interfaces.
- Community Health Certification.
- Medical Spanish skills.



# PROPOSED RESEARCH



- West Texas epidemiologic data.
- Areas of emphasis at TTUHSC El Paso:
  - Cancer
  - Infectious diseases
  - Diabetes and metabolism
  - Neuroscience

# UPDATE ON STATE FUNDING

- In June 2019, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott approved a budget appropriation of \$20 million to establish the Hunt School of Dental Medicine.
- The Hunt School of Dental Medicine will be included in state tuition and per-patient-visit reimbursement once students have been enrolled and patients have been acquired.



# PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES

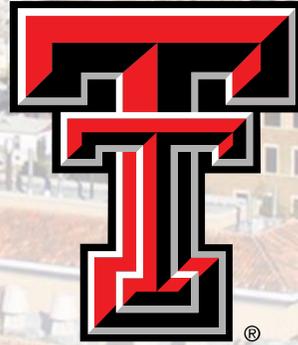
- IPE with medical, nursing and biomedical research students, as well as collaboration with student-staffed medical clinics, community health workers/promotoras, patients and their families.
- Diversity training and a medical Spanish skills requirement.
- Public health experiences in FQHCs and prisons, and through city and county health programs, community visits, community client groups and research.
- Clinical experiences that teach patient care, special patient care, geriatric care and hospital care skills.
- Teledentistry anticipated, with an emphasis on diagnosing dental pathology.



# BIGGEST CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- Start-up procedures, including the hiring of faculty, student admissions, and the opening and operation of the Dental Learning Center and public clinic.
- Obtaining data to enhance the delivery of quality oral health care to the region.
- Promotoras/community health workers to engage with patients in need of oral health care.





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