



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™
EL PASO

Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine



**THE ORAL HEALTH CRISIS
IN THE BORDERLAND**

WHY WEST TEXAS NEEDS A DENTAL SCHOOL





THE BORDERLAND FACES

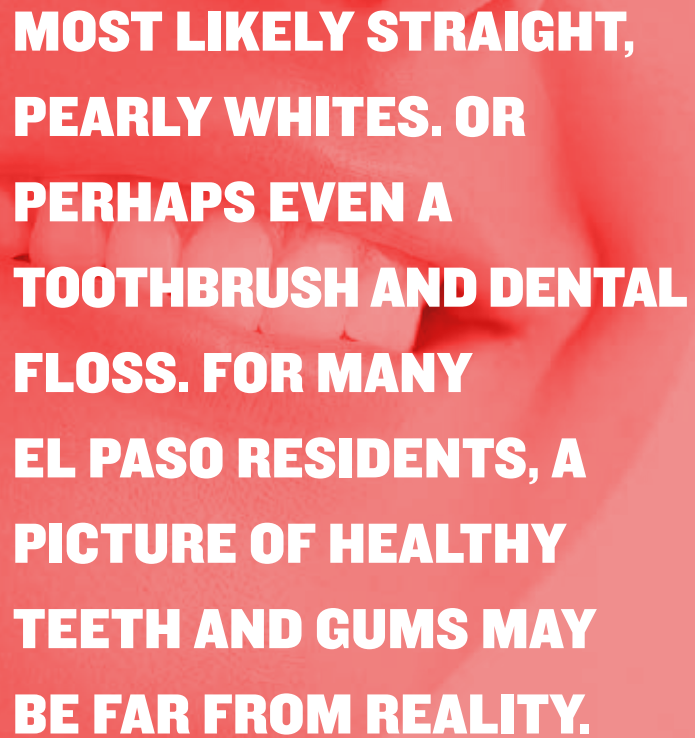
CRITICAL DISPARITIES IN

ORAL HEALTH CARE.



**WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT
DENTAL HEALTH,
WHAT COMES TO MIND?**





**MOST LIKELY STRAIGHT,
PEARLY WHITES. OR
PERHAPS EVEN A
TOOTHBRUSH AND DENTAL
FLOSS. FOR MANY
EL PASO RESIDENTS, A
PICTURE OF HEALTHY
TEETH AND GUMS MAY
BE FAR FROM REALITY.**



**IN 2017
ONLY
50%**

**OF EL PASO RESIDENTS
VISITED
A DENTIST**





LACK OF

HEALTH INSURANCE

For adults, issues related to affordability and availability have a major impact on whether or not they are able to receive regular dental care. In 2016, 26% of residents in El Paso, Hudspeth, and other nearby counties reported not having any type of health care coverage.

The lack of health insurance coverage greatly reduces people's ability to seek care.



26%
of residents in El Paso,
Hudspeth, and
other nearby counties
reported not having any
type of health care
coverage.

18%
of residents in the
panhandle region reported
not having any type of
health care coverage.



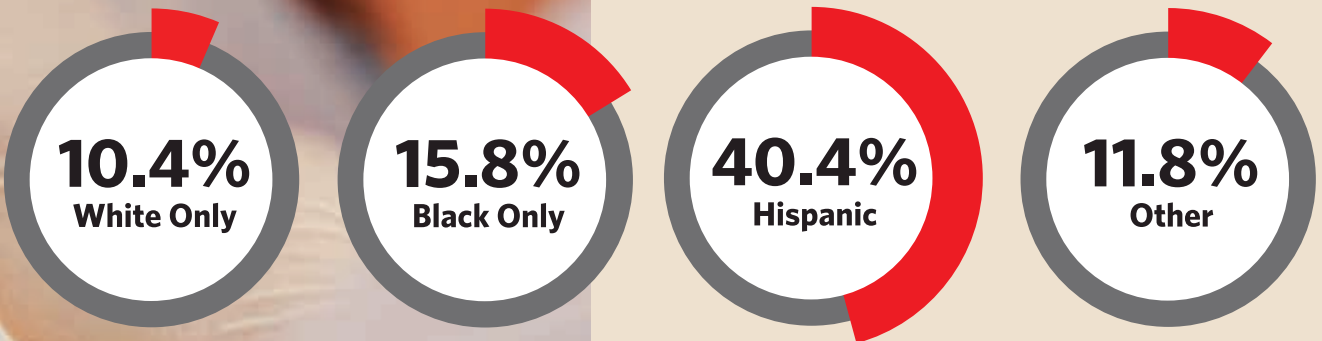


HISPANICS AND ORAL HEALTH

When viewed by race, the lack of health insurance in Texas' predominantly Hispanic regions, compared to other racial/ethnic groups in the state, further demonstrates the lack of access to services among certain groups.

Overall, Hispanics, non-Hispanic blacks and Native Americans have the poorest oral health of all U.S. racial and ethnic groups. Thus, Hispanic children are more likely to have untreated tooth decay compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE IN TEXAS BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2016)



Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System,
Texas Department of State Health Services, 2016.



PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

LACK OF DENTAL CARE

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.

15.7%
≤15 Years

17.6%
16-17 Years

17.5%
≥18 Years

**PERCENTAGE OF TEXAS
STUDENTS WHO MISSED
SCHOOL BECAUSE
OF PROBLEMS WITH THEIR
TEETH OR MOUTH DURING THE
PAST 12 MONTHS.**

*Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
Texas Department of State
Health Services, 2017.*

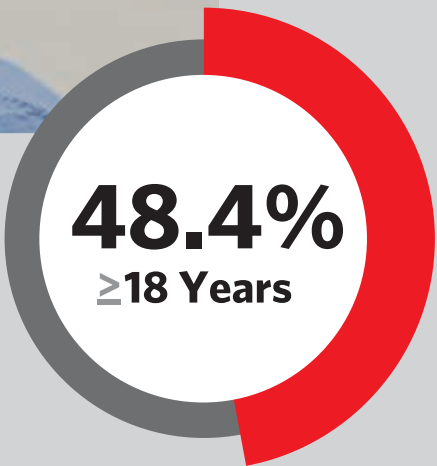


PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

INITIAL SIGNS

When initial signs of oral health issues are not addressed in adolescents, other health-related conditions and complications can progress throughout adulthood.

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported the following for students attending public schools in 2017.



PERCENTAGE OF TEXAS STUDENTS WHO REPORTED THEIR TEETH OR MOUTH HAD BEEN PAINFUL OR SORE DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Texas Department of State Health Services, 2017.

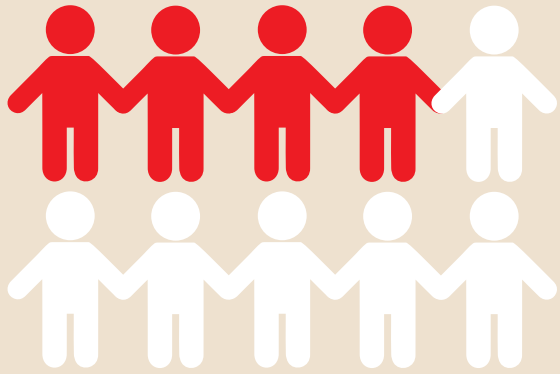


PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS

YOUNG CHILDREN

Young children are even more vulnerable since they are in the process of losing baby teeth and growing permanent adult teeth.

Learning healthy oral hygiene practices is critical at young ages, but unfortunately, many children in Texas are already experiencing poor oral health as young as three years old due to lack of access to dental providers.



4 out of **10**

43% OF TEXAS CHILDREN AGES 3-5 HAVE EXPERIENCED TOOTH DECAY, COMPARED TO 28% OF CHILDREN IN THE SAME AGE GROUP NATIONALLY.

Texas children ages 3-5 have experienced tooth decay.



2 out of **3**

67% OF THIRD GRADERS HAVE EXPERIENCED TOOTH DECAY, COMPARED TO 58% CHILDREN NATIONALLY.

THIS IS TWO OUT OF EVERY THREE THIRD GRADERS.

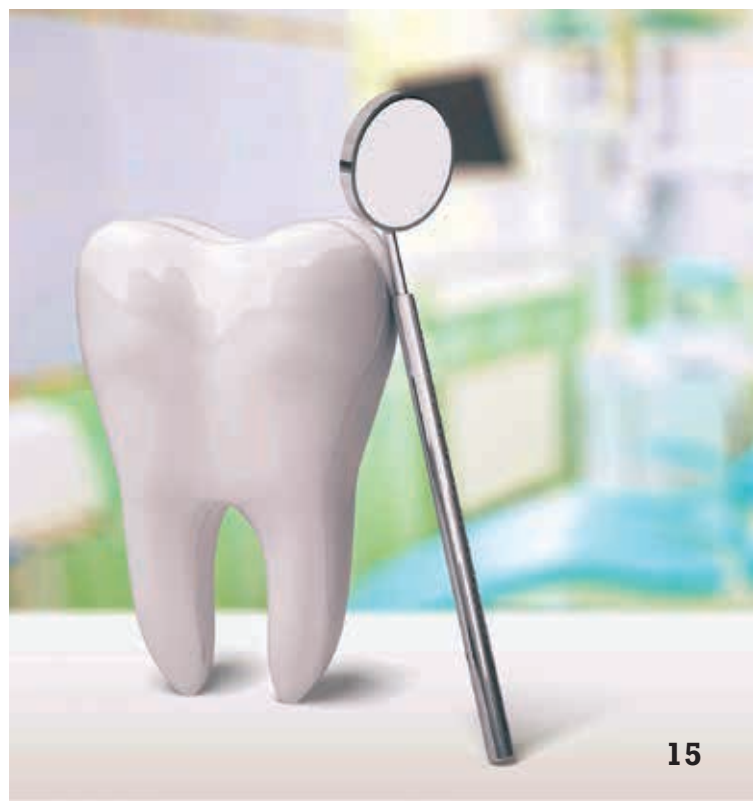
Third graders have experienced tooth decay.



DENTAL HYGIENE

GOES BELOW THE SURFACE

Dental hygiene can have an impact that goes far beyond what your teeth look like on the surface. Researchers have determined that inflammation and bacteria associated with periodontal (gum) disease contribute to chronic inflammation that can damage other body systems. Periodontal disease is associated with chronic diseases and metabolic syndrome—a cluster of conditions including high blood pressure, high blood sugar, and excess body fat around the waist.



ORAL HEALTH AND

CHRONIC DISEASE

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 addition, poor oral health is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes such as low birth weight and premature death.



SILENT EPIDEMIC

Poor dental health is being recognized among health care professionals as a “silent epidemic” because of its association with chronic conditions and diseases. El Pasoans face increased health disparities that are exacerbated by a substantial shortage of dentists to serve its growing population.



POOR DENTAL HEALTH IS LINKED TO MANY CHRONIC CONDITIONS SUCH AS CANCER, DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, LUNG DISEASE AND STROKE.

RATIO OF

POPULATION TO GENERAL DENTISTS 2017



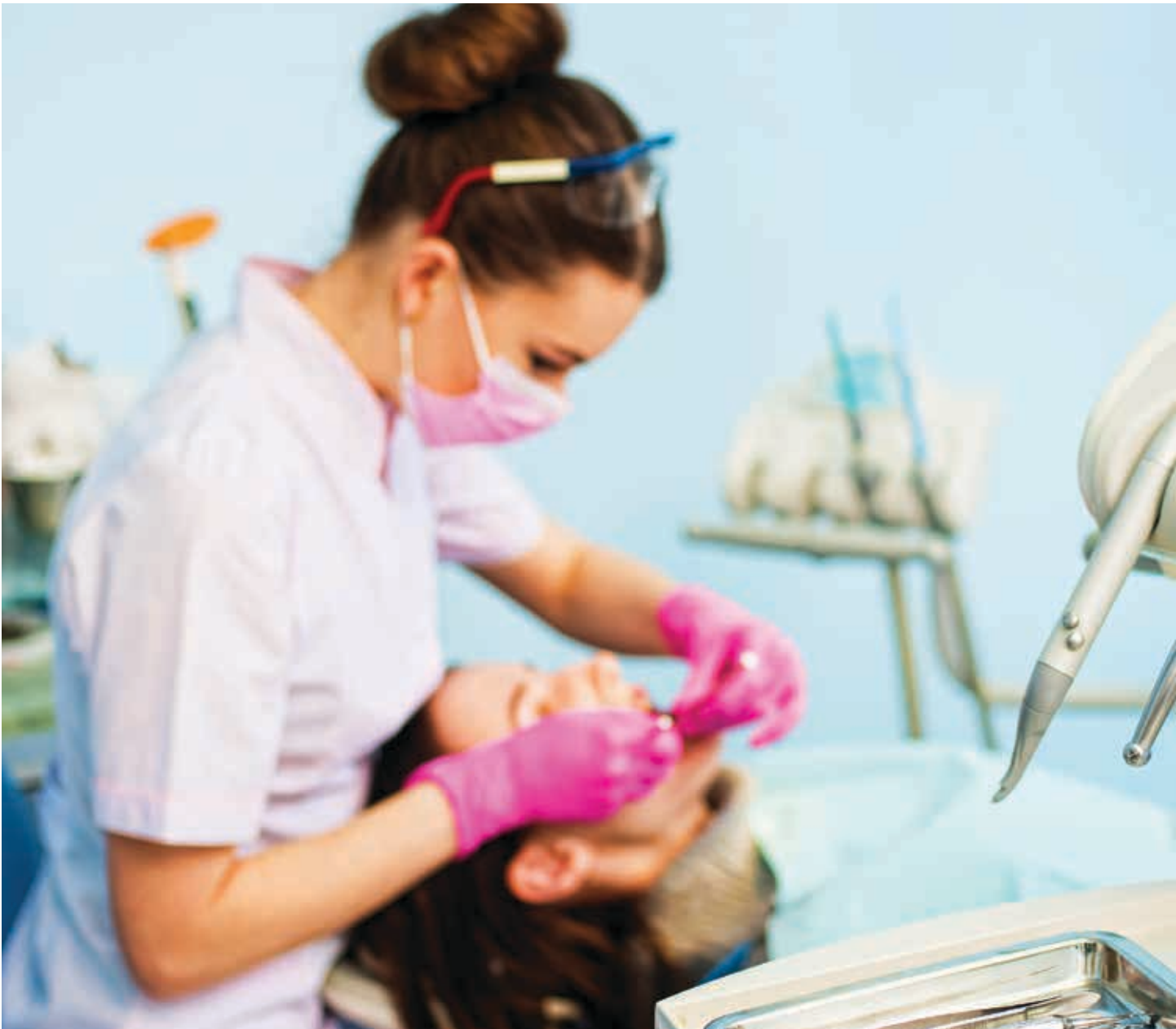
**TEXAS
2,970 to 1**



**U.S.
2,075 to 1**



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



LACK OF DENTAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES IN

WEST TEXAS AND THE BORDER REGION



Map Source: American Dental Association, 2016.

Today, there are only three dental schools operating in Texas, and they are all in the eastern part of the state, hundreds of miles from El Paso.

Most graduating dentists establish their practices in proximity to their dental school. As such, general dentists are not evenly distributed across the state of Texas. 53% of general dentists are currently located in the five most populated counties: Harris, Dallas, Bexar, Tarrant and Travis, in proximity to existing dental schools.

Currently, 51 Texas counties west of Interstate 35 have no general dentists.

IN THE
PAST

10
YEARS

ONLY

22

OUT
OF

2,390

TEXAS DENTAL SCHOOL GRADUATES
HAVE CHOSEN TO **PRACTICE**
IN WEST TEXAS

IN 2017,

there were over 300 Texas dental school graduates, but only two opened practices in El Paso. Over the past 10 years, only 22 Texas dental graduates have chosen to practice in West Texas.





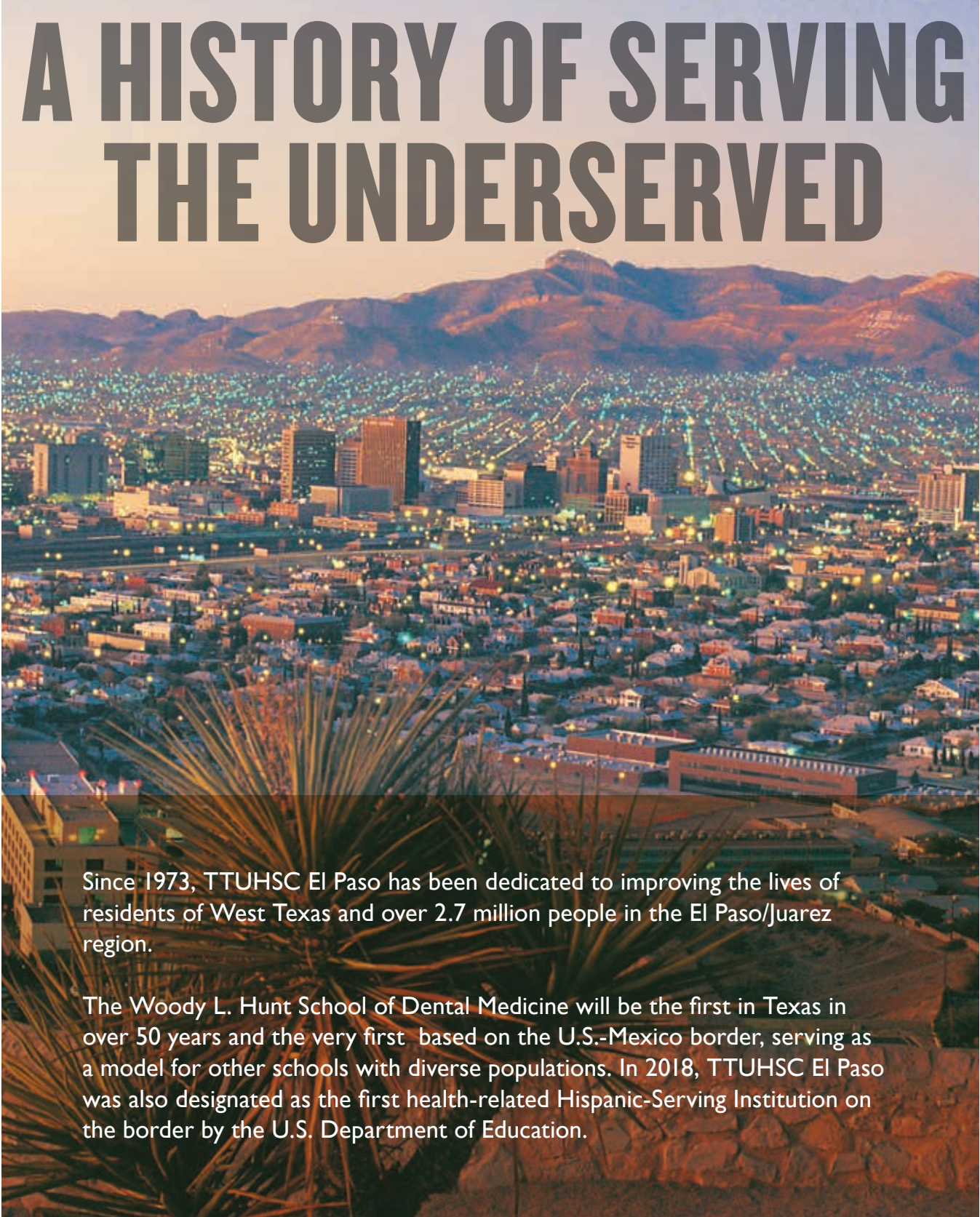
SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

Community and business leaders, health care providers, educators, and others have long recognized the benefits that a dental school could bring to our underserved region. El Pasoans have stepped up to address this critical need.

Thanks to generous gifts from the Hunt Family Foundation and a grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation totaling \$31 million, significant efforts are underway to bring the first dental school in West Texas to El Paso.

TTUHSC EL PASO:

A HISTORY OF SERVING THE UNDERSERVED



Since 1973, TTUHSC El Paso has been dedicated to improving the lives of residents of West Texas and over 2.7 million people in the El Paso/Juarez region.

The Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine will be the first in Texas in over 50 years and the very first based on the U.S.-Mexico border, serving as a model for other schools with diverse populations. In 2018, TTUHSC El Paso was also designated as the first health-related Hispanic-Serving Institution on the border by the U.S. Department of Education.

IMPACTING OUR CITY AND REGION



- The WLHSDM will establish a clinic that offers low-cost or free treatment to El Pasoans in need, while providing students with culturally competent, hands-on training.
- El Paso is the major urban center for West Texas, Southern New Mexico, and Northern Mexico. A dental school in El Paso can be an education and research catalyst for the entire region, bridging the gap between the need for providers and residents seeking oral health care.
- The WLHSDM will create opportunities for skilled, high-paying occupations, not only at the school itself, but through a pipeline of trained dental medicine professionals. The dental school's economic impact is estimated to be between \$60 million and \$90 million annually.
- In 2016, TTUHSC El Paso's annual economic impact was over \$223 million.



LEARNING CENTER AND CLINIC

The Dental Learning Center will provide a hands-on learning environment that will enable students to meet the requirements of today and anticipate the needs of tomorrow. Students will train using the latest technology, clinical simulation, and lab advancements. Top-quality faculty and practicing dentists will mentor students throughout their course of study.

Much like the medical school's student-run clinic, the WLHSDM's public clinic will allow our dental students to serve the community and gain real-world experience. The clinic will offer low-cost or free treatment to El Pasoans in need, while providing students with culturally competent hands-on training.



YOUR SUPPORT IS

CRITICAL

It's been 50 years since Texas' last dental school opened, at a time when the state's population was approximately 11 million. It's now over 28 million and the existing dental schools are unable to meet the needs of this expanding population.

Establishing a dental school in El Paso is an ambitious undertaking, requiring the collective support of community stakeholders.

TTUHSC El Paso has gained significant support for the WLHSDM. Town hall meetings with



local dentists have helped raise awareness of the critical shortage of oral health providers while underscoring the value the school would bring to the region. As a result, many potential donors have begun to express their interest in supporting improved oral health for West Texas and the Borderplex.

Thus far, \$31 million has been secured to establish the dental school. An additional \$90 million is needed in private investments to ensure all approvals are obtained from the state and accrediting body, and to provide

critical start-up funding for the school, which is expected to open in 2021.

THE WOODY L. HUNT SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED HEALTH AND A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE EL PASO COMMUNITY, WEST TEXAS, AND BEYOND.



BE A CHAMPION

As we move forward, we hope that you will also join us in advancing the school's mission:

To improve the oral health of the people of West Texas and the greater Texas border community by:

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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END NOTES

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