A new report released June 23 by The Pew Charitable Trusts concludes that a lack of access to dental care in the United States, especially among low-income children and families, is being compounded by uneven geographic distribution of dental services and dentists’ low Medicaid participation rates.

The findings are consistent with previous studies and analysis by Pew, which is a strong backer of the concept of expanding the role of midlevel providers of oral health care as a core strategy to improve access to dental care among underserved populations.

This latest analysis also warns of an impending likelihood that the access-to-care challenge will increase because of the number of dentists intending to retire soon and the number of children who will qualify for subsidized dental care through private or public insurance programs when provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act take effect in 2014.

Drawing on data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the American Dental Association and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Health Resources and Services Administration respectively, a table in the Pew report provides a state-by-state snapshot of the converging challenges.

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor
Maine Senate defeats midlevel provider bill

Maine House had approved the proposed legislation 95-45

A June “issue brief” from The Pew Charitable Trusts provides several examples of dentists in both business and academia supporting state initiatives to expand certain capabilities of non-dentist members of the dental services team. But Maine dentists are not listed among the examples.

An explanation for that might be found in a recent Bangor Daily News article by Matthew Stone in which the defects of midlevel-provider legislation in the Maine Senate is attributed to heavy lobbying by Maine dentists. Just days before the Pew issue brief was released in June, the Maine Senate voted down legislation that would have created licensed “dental hygiene therapists” to help address the state’s access-to-dental-care gap.

Fifty-three countries have similar licensing in place, and in the United States, Alaska and Minnesota have some form of midlevel licensing available to help address access-to-care challenges. The Pew issue brief reports that approximately 15 states have some type of midlevel dental-care provider legislation under consideration. But in Maine, it’s back to the drawing board for proponents of such licensing.

The Pew House had approved the “dental hygiene therapist” legislation by a 95-45 vote, sending it on to the Senate, where it was voted down in a 14-to-21 vote prior to being killed, Stone reported.

The proposed legislation was sponsored by Mark Edes, D-North Berwick, who is the House speaker. It was co-sponsored by more than 40 legislators representing both parties, Stone reported.

Much of the legislation’s focus was on serving dental patients participating in MaineCare, the state’s version of Medicaid. Proponents had presented statistics on how many of the state’s residents were living in dental-service shortage areas identified by the federal government. The Maine Dental Association appears to have successfully challenged the accuracy of some of the statistics used to demonstrate a need for the bill.

One of the main statistics to be challenged was from a legislature-sponsored report on oral health care in Maine that had said 66 percent of the state’s residents lived in “rural” areas. The Maine Dental Association argued the correct figure was 25 percent, and that the inaccurate state figure was based on mixing together different definitions of “rural” from two different federal agencies. No contention was the statistic that 13.5 percent of Main dentists practiced in value of an anticipated increase in the number of dental schools opening as having meaningful impact on repositioning the expected wave of dentists retiring. According to the analysis, the expectation is that new dentists will continue to open practices in heavily populated areas and primarily serve privately insured patients.

The report also quotes American Dental Association statistics looking at 2030 to 2050 that indicate an increasing number of dental-school graduates won’t keep pace with overall population growth to conclude a decline in the overall ratio of dentists to patients.

Midlevel care providers supported

In the end, the report focuses on the expansion of a midlevel-provider workforce as the most likely access-to-care answer that won’t fall short. “Midlevel providers can extend the reach of the dental team to areas whereds are scarce,” the brief states. “They can also make it more financially feasible to provide care for Medicaid-enrolled children. Working under the supervision of dentists, these practitioners can improve the ability of safety-net systems to reach low-income community members, save states money on emergency room care and other costly alternatives, and ensure that more children and families get the care they urgently need.”

The Pew Charitable Trusts Children’s Dental Campaign continues to push for expansion of the dental workforce. It supports creation of trained ‘dental hygiene therapists’ — midlevel-care providers who could perform procedures now undertaken by only dentists in most states. Photo by Johann Hellgson, www.dreamstime.com

Suggestions for improving access to dental care include passage of legislation that would allow more midlevel-care providers, such as dental hygienists or assistants, to practice in tandem with dentists. The Pew report describes the access-to-care challenges facing underserved in dental care and residence in areas designated as having a shortage of dental-care services as of 2013.

According to the report, more than 14 million children enrolled in Medicaid did not receive dental services in 2011. And in 22 states “fewer than half of Medicaid-enrolled children received dental care.”

By comparison, 2010 data showed that privately insured children were nearly 30 percent more likely to receive dental care than those insured through Medicaid or other government programs. The brief points out that studies show it’s the former group that is at far greater risk for developing caries or encountering other oral health problems.

Complex problem

The Pew report describes the access-to-dental-care issue as a complex problem with numerous contributing factors. It advocates higher Medicaid reimbursement rates and streamlined administrative processes to make it more financially feasible for dental-service providers to work with Medicaid patients, but the report concludes that such steps alone aren’t enough to address the access-to-care gap. The Pew analysis also downplays the

Tell us what you think!

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Some eristic thoughts ...

By David L. Hoexter, DMD, FACD, FICD, Editor in Chief

I believe the reason we have as many hurricanes as we have had in recent years is because of the 24-hour weather channel. Jerry Della Femina, the wonderful author, as well as editor of "The Independent," once wrote that as a young boy he knew what the weather would be. Every day his mother would open her window, stick her head out and see if it was raining. She would then tell him if he should wear rubber boots or not.

I believe my tooth whitener of 35 percent carbamide peroxide will whiten my patients' teeth better than my colleagues' 35 percent carbamide peroxide will whiten their patients' teeth.

How come there are so many tuna fish still swimming about — with all that mercury?

Should there be a limit to the physical size of a booth at a dental convention? This might encourage the "mom-and-pop" booths to hang in there (at least until they are bought out by the bigger booths).

Was that a placard seen at the annual endodontics meeting stating, "Use the strongest dose of peroxide twice a day to whiten your teeth."? Good for endo business.

"Some days you're the dog, and some days you're the hydrant." — Lafont

Editorial note: For those of you who might be wondering, here is an explanation of the word "eristic" from www.britannica.com:

"Eristic, (from Greek eristikos, "fond of wrangling"), argumentation that makes successful disputation an end in itself rather than a means of approaching truth. Such argumentation reduces philosophical inquiry to a rhetorical exercise. Eristic argument is closely associated with the Sophists and was ridiculed by Plato in his dialogue Euthydemus. The term is often used more broadly to characterize arguments that rely on subtle but specious forms of reasoning."

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The National Dental Association organized in 1913 to address the needs and issues of African American dentists. The NDA was officially organized in 1913 to address the needs and issues of African American dentists, who because of segregated practices and racial discrimination were not allowed to join the white organizations.

Premier organization for underrepresented minorities

Today, the NDA identifies itself as being the premier organization for underrepresented minorities and the voice for the underserved. It is committed to strengthening the organization, and securing the success and impact of future generations of African American dentists and other underrepresented communities.

In 2012, the NDA convened the historic, first joint Oral Health Summit of the three major ethnic dental organizations in America: the NDA, the Hispanic Dental Association, and the Society of American Indian Dentists.

The $1 million Centennial Campaign focuses on an endowed student scholarship fund, community outreach support for local NDA chapters and NDA-HEALTH NOW, a community-based, grass-roots mobile health project.

The theme of this year’s meeting is “Preserving Our Legacy While Embracing the Future.” In addition to a wide variety of educational sessions and workshops, many worth C.E. credit, the meeting includes a two-day exhibit hall, on Saturday and Sunday, July 27–28. Hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on both days.

Convention highlights:

Friday, July 26
• Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute (invitation only)
• Minority Faculty, Administrators’ and Practitioners’ Forum
• WHS Children’s Community Outreach
• New Dentist Conference starts
• Opening Session
• Get Acquainted Reception

Saturday, July 27
• Exhibitors Showcase opens
• WHS Women Dentist’s Awards Luncheon
• Dr. Joseph Blaes New Products Session
• President’s Symposium
• Minority Faculty, Administrators’ and Practitioners’ Forum
• SNDA Rites of Passage Ceremony
• NDHA Scholarship Fundraiser
• Alumni receptions

Sunday, July 28
• Last day for the exhibit hall/silent auction/raffle
• ANDA fundraiser event
• Alumni receptions

Monday, July 29
• Golf tournament
• Civil Rights Luncheon
• Grand finale

Information and registration

To download a full version of the program for the NDA meeting, as well as the schedules for the SNDA, NDHA, NDAA and ANDA meetings, visit the NDA website at www.ndaonline.org. Also available through links on the website is conference hotel information and registration details.

Sources: National Dental Association and VOCO
An opening-morning panel discussion titled “The Coordinated Attack on Neuromuscular Dentistry, and What That Means for Your Future,” is just one of the many sessions expected to attract lively discussion at the International Association of Comprehensive Aesthetics 2013 annual meeting. The panel discussion is being moderated by Bill Dickerson, DDS, FAACD, LVIM, founder and CEO of LVI Global, a core IACA supporter.

The IACA annual meeting runs from Aug. 1 though 3 in Calgary, Alberta, at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre.

A synopsis of the session moderated by Dickerson states: “There is an organized movement in our profession that is attempting to restrict the treatment of our TMD [temporomandibular disorders] and comprehensive restorative cases based on false science and inaccurate Bio Social model. This forum will introduce you to the threat and discuss the historical aspect and accomplishments of this well-organized attack as well as the science that discredits its conclusions as misguided obsession.”

Whole-patient focus
But in the spirit of the best defense being a powerful offense, the overall content of the conference in total has far less to do with defending the neuromuscular approach to dentistry than it has to do with advancing its principles and practice — and supporting a whole-patient focus in dentistry.

The topics are as diverse and comprehensive as you’ll find at any dental major event hotels are the Calgary Marriott Downtown, the Fairmont Palliser Calgary and the Hyatt Regency Calgary. Registration and event details can be found at www.theiaca.com.

About the IACA
Prior to the inception of the IACA, there were a limited number of organizations with which neuromuscular dentistry practitioners — committed to furthering their education and advancing the profession — could affiliate.

Recognizing this void and left with the impression that existing dental groups were losing touch with their membership, a small, dedicated group of dentists (the founding members of the IACA) identified the importance and value in keeping abreast of the latest advances in oral health care and providing the best care for their patients. In that spirit, the IACA was created.

The IACA was established not only to provide a vehicle for health care professionals to learn and experience advanced oral health and practice management education, but also to create an enjoyable environment in which dentists, their team members and their families could interact.

The annual IACA conference offers a variety of lectures and hands-on workshops presented by world renowned professionals representing a wide range of dental-profession sectors.

Conference attendees develop comprehensive esthetic treatment skills, network with a wide variety of health care professionals and are introduced to proven-practice-management techniques, all of which are designed to support the common goal of building a successful comprehensive esthetic approach.”

Tell us what you think!
Is there a topic you would like to see articles about in Dental Tribune? Let us know by emailing us at feedback@dentaltribune.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Diverse programs anchor International Association of Comprehensive Aesthetics conference in Calgary, Aug. 1–3
Registration is free at Greater New York Dental Meeting

By Jayne McNiff Spicciatie
Greater New York Dental Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2013 Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM). Organizers of the 89th annual meeting anticipate the largest attendance yet. New for the 2013 meeting will be a re-design of the exhibit floor — with the addition of new technology pavilions and a unique dental laboratory exhibition. The exhibit floor and the diverse continuing education programs are the centerpiece of the expansive annual meeting. Attendees are able to walk the exhibit floor for free (no preregistration fee) and meet with more than 6,000 companies selling the newest products and advanced technologies.

The education program will include 300 full- and half-day seminars, essays and hands-on workshops. Among the specialty programs are topics including orthodontics, endodontics, cosmetic dentistry, pediatric dentistry and implant dentistry. The GNYDM is introducing three new hands-on educational pavilions that will focus on lasers, CAD/CAM and cone-beam/CT/X-rays. Each of these pavilions will house multiple companies providing information on the latest technologies that can be used in the dental office. Attendees will be able to instantly compare all of the products in one location, while also becoming more familiar with the state-of-the-art technology by attending morning and afternoon educational programs presented at each pavilion.

The GNYDM and Aegis Publishing, Inside Dental Technology, have announced a ground-breaking partnership in laboratory technology. Collaboration 2013 will provide a designated laboratory exhibit area on the GNMTD exhibit floor, specialized education, demonstrations, digital dentistry and technology that will engage technicians and dentists side-by-side in an integrated, hands-on experience.

The GNYDM continues to offer a modern, high-tech free “live dentistry” arena daily from Sunday through Wednesday. The interactive “live” program features top clinicians performing dental procedures on actual patients on stage, in front of 500 attendees. It all takes place right on the exhibit floor. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early because seats fill quickly.

The GNYDM is the largest dental congress and exhibition in the United States, registering 53,687 attendees from all 50 states and 130 countries in 2012. There is never a preregistration fee at the GNYDM. You are invited to be part of the 2013 meeting to experience the energy of an event that draws top dental professionals from around the world. And you’ll get to see all that New York City has to offer during one of its most beautiful times of the year, Nov. 29 through Dec. 4. Free registration is now open for the 2013 meeting at www.gnydm.com.

Yankee Dental Congress has hands-on cadaver programs

Organizers of the 2014 Yankee Dental Congress invite dental professionals to join 28,000 fellow professionals from Jan. 29 to Feb. 2 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. With a general theme centered on the concept of overall health starting with oral health, the YDC meeting offers the chance to explore and discover best practices, products and resources to improve your practice, increase your knowledge, and better serve your patients.

Organizers describe Yankee Dental Congress 2014 as being the best opportunity in New England for every member of the dental practice to participate in a wide variety of programs.

YDC 2014 highlights include:

• The Ritz-Carlton Leadership Center — Back by popular demand, this program promotes performance and practice excellence by developing your leadership skills and creating the best possible service for your patients. Courses include “The Fire Within — Igniting Passion for Ritz-Carlton Performance Excellence,” and “Legendary Service with a Smile,” both presented by Jennifer Blackmon.

• Hands-On Cadaver Programs — This unique opportunity enables participants to attend hands-on courses using cadavers while exploring topics that cover areas such as anesthesia, crown lengthening and anatomy.

• Evolutionary Dentistry — Hear about the research and activities at the Manot Cave Dig in Israel and discuss the relationship of evolutionary biology to modern dental problems led by Mark Haro, DDS, and Bruce Latimer, PhD.

• The Pankey Institute: Update 2014 — Discover new techniques and innovative approaches in treatment planning that will have a valuable impact on your practice. The series includes three courses featuring speakers Gregory Di Lauri, DDS, Matthew Messina, DDS, and Kenneth Myers, DDS.

• Master the Skills of Marketing Your Practice in One Day — A one-day symposium designed to help expand your practice with the power of marketing. Courses include “High Energy Marketing to Explode Your New Patient Numbers,” “Secrets of Social Media Success and Online Marketing,” “Get Noticed, Get Booked, and Grow Your Practice” and “Best Practices for Leveraging Social Media to Engage Patients.”

• Dental Team Playbook: Strategies for Success (an expansion on the popular team-development day) — Your entire dental team can benefit from this one-day program with courses tailored to dental assistants, hygienists and office personnel. Team members can learn from experts in their respective fields. Presenters include Lois Banta, Amy Kirsch, RDH, Shannon Pace Brinker, CDA, Diane Peterson, RDH, and Anastasia Turchetta, RDH.

• Social Media Hot Spot — Learn how effectively utilizing social media such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter can help improve practice performance by drawing new patients in and keeping current patients connected to your dental practice.

You can visit www.yankededental.com for more information.

(Source: Yankee Dental Congress)
Live dentistry stage is back at Pacific Dental Conference

Three days of demonstrations with live patients scheduled in Exhibit Hall

The 2014 Pacific Dental Conference, from March 6–8 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) in Vancouver, British Columbia, features a varied selection of open C.E. sessions, hands-on courses and a live dentistry stage.

The variety of topics covered by more than 150 speakers means the entire dental team can access the latest information on dental technology, techniques and materials. Speakers in the 2014 lineup include John Kois, Greg Psaltis and Glenn van As.

Highlights
With the University of British Columbia Faculty of Dentistry celebrating its 50th anniversary, the PDC will present the “UBC Speakers Series,” featuring UBC alumni addressing a variety of topics.

The Live Dentistry Stage is back on the Exhibit Hall floor, with demonstrations on Thursday and Friday. Saturday’s “So You Think You Can Speak?” features 50-minute presentations by speakers who responded to the call for presentations and were accepted by the meeting’s scientific committee.

The exhibit hall opened to big crowds at 8 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday morning, thanks in part to a new, complimentary continental breakfast on the agenda. Also new and well-received was free Wi-Fi access throughout the host facility, the Palais des congrès.

Registration and lodging
Special hotel rates are available to PDC attendees, with early booking recommended to ensure availability. Reservations can be made directly with conference hotels through the links on www.pdconf.com.

Registration opens Oct. 15 with early bird rates for all members of the dental team.

(Source: Pacific Dental Conference)

Planning is under way for 2014 JDIQ

With the most recent Journées dentaires internationales du Québec just wrapped up in May, the JDIQ staff is already looking ahead to the 2014 meeting, set to run from May 23 to 27.

Meanwhile, the meeting staff reminds you that you can still consult the course notes provided by some of the 2013 speakers in the “Program and Registration” area of the convention section on the order’s website www.odq.qc.ca/Convention. Also, you have until Aug. 30 to submit your lecture evaluation forms, available at www.odq.qc.ca/evaluation.

More than 12,000 dental professionals turned out for the 2013 edition of the JDIQ, once again making the convention one of the most popular in Canada.

This 43rd Journées dentaires internationales du Québec (JDIQ), which was held from May 24–28, offered a diverse selection of lectures, hands-on workshops and other educational opportunities.

The exhibit hall opened to big crowds at 8 a.m. on Monday and Tuesday morning, thanks in part to a new, complimentary continental breakfast on the agenda. Also new and well-received was free Wi-Fi access throughout the host facility, the Palais des congrès.

(Source: JDIQ)
Periodontist, implantologist, entrepreneur — and novelist

Dentist Alan Winter, the co-founder of Expert Dental CE, publishes his third work of fiction

By Robert Selleck, Managing Editor

Alan Winter, DDS, FACD, always wanted to be a dentist. But throughout his 30-plus-year career, he hasn’t let that get in the way of his love for history and writing. Instead of taking a more traditional route and pursuing a biological sciences degree prior to dental school, Winter earned a history degree, graduating from Rutgers with honors and earning a fellowship nomination. But dental school beckoned, so he declined the fellowship and studied dentistry at NYU and Columbia before ultimately founding his periodontal and implantology practice in Manhattan, which continues as his primary work today.

While turning his practice into a thriving business, Winter started the dental journal Periodontal Case Reports. He wrote two novels and helped start Expert Dental CE, an online learning community that’s centered on providing continuing education and other support to dental professionals throughout the world.

And in June, his third novel, “Savior’s Day,” was published. The suspense thriller, rooted in historical fact, is available through major booksellers, including www.amazon.com, where it can be bought as a hardback, paperback or e-book.

The book was more than 40 years in the making — not because of Winter’s abundance of other commitments and interests — but because that’s how long he had ideas for the story bouncing around in his head before he finally realized the perfect way to present it.

Interestingly, while the book has nothing to do with dentistry, the evolution of the story’s central theme is rooted directly in Winter’s dental practice, where a friendship began with one of his patients, Hayim Tawil.

As the two became more aware of each others’ interests, Tawil, a highly regarded biblical scholar and theological seminary instructor, shared with Winter his extensive knowledge about the Codex of Aleppo, the oldest known version of the Bible in book form (versus a scroll).

At the time, MasterMedia had just published Winter’s first book, “Someone Else’s Son,” and that led Tawil to ask Winter about collaborating on a book about the Codex of Aleppo. Winter was intrigued, and the two met weekly on the project for the next two years.

Winter’s first effort with the material was to present the epic story, filled with 1,000 years of conflict and mystery, as a work of historical fiction. But Winter wasn’t satisfied with the result, so he re-cast it as a nonfiction history book. That caught the attention of an agent interested in representing the project. But the agent, nervous about Tawil not being able...
Bruxing has always been an issue for a large portion of the population. More than 50 million people (one in six) in the United States have symptoms of bruxing, however, many never receive an effective treatment. In response, Keystone Industries is offering a new product, NiteBite®, which it describes as being an innovative device that easily and effectively treats grinding, clenching, pain, headaches and jaw joint syndrome (TMD or TMJ).

The company recognizes that there are plenty of night-guard options available, but it contends that many of them often do not work properly. Sometimes the devices overcorrect by opening the bite too far, and they do not stop bruxism and clenching. According to the company, its NiteBite device is different. The proprietary, patented and FDA-cleared device is the first bite guard that functions within the patient’s “freeway space” — the distance between the physiological rest position and the first point of contact of the upper and lower teeth.

**Unique design, thin construction**

Its unique design and thin construction within this “freeway space” stops people from clenching and grinding their teeth. According to the company, NiteBite also can stop symptoms such as headaches and tooth and jaw pain.

Here’s how the company describes the mechanics involved: NiteBite uses the jaw’s natural proprioceptive response to trigger the jaw-opening reflex. As the lower teeth approach contact with the NiteBite, the jaw-opening reflex returns the lower jaw to the physiological rest position where no teeth touch each other or the NiteBite. The muscles relax and NiteBite effectively relieves jaw, head and neck pain — as well as the associated symptoms of TMD disorder.

According to the company, not only does the device work physiologically and simply, it’s also easy to mold to the patient’s bite. In less than five minutes, a dentist or hygienist can heat the device and shape it to the patient’s front teeth. Then the patient is ready to go home with his or her new NiteBite.

**Key features**

- Stops bruxing and clenching.
- FDA cleared for use by dental professionals.
- Inserts, molds and fits in five minutes.
- No second patient visit.
- No lab time or expense.
- Custom fit for each user (in office).
- Easy to fit and comfortable to wear.
- Extremely safe and easy to use.
- Clinically proven to be effective.
- Most profitable occlusal appliance on the market.
- Little or no adjustment is needed.
- Prevents TMD syndrome.
- Relieves chronic tension and pain within the head, jaw and neck neuromuscular system.
- Available through your distributor.

With its simple design and easy application, NiteBite enables dentists to help the millions of untreated bruxing patients across the country.

You can get more information about NiteBite and other Keystone products at the Keystone Industries website, www.keystoneind.com. You can call Keystone Industries at (800) 333-3331 or fax (856) 663-0181. Keystone Industries is based in Cherry Hill, N.J.

(Source: Keystone Industries)