



METROPOLITAN DENVER
DENTAL SOCIETY

YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ORAL HEALTH

Metropolitan Denver Dental Society

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Fact sheet...

DONATED DENTISTRY VOLUNTEERISM STATISTICS

The dental profession has an exemplary record of helping those in need. In recent ADA surveys, dentists have reported providing more than \$1 billion each year to the nation in free and discounted care to needy patients. In addition to its research and education agenda, the ADA Health Foundation is the profession's central agency for charitable support of national and regional access programs that help strengthen public awareness of oral health and make dental care available to those in need. The foundation launched the Samuel Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health Grants Program in 1999 to support programs that serve those children whose economic status places them at the greatest risk for dental caries and other oral diseases.

The National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, a not-for-profit charitable affiliate of the ADA, has helped almost 30,000 low-income disabled and elderly people receive more than \$34.1 million in services from more than 8,000 volunteer dentists and 1,864 participating dental laboratories through its Donated Dental Services program.

State and local dental associations, like MDDS, other groups and individual dentists will continue working to deliver care to those with the greatest needs. But in the end, charity alone will not eliminate the disparities in access to care. State and federal governments must join organized dentistry in attempting to make good oral health and oral health care a reality for all Americans.

***Metro-area dentists alone donate, on average, over \$13,365,000* (\$8,912 per dentist) of dental care per year to the Colorado and world communities. If you include all the discounted services Metro-area dentists offer to those in need, the number jumps to \$45,000,000* (or \$30,000 per dentist).**

**based on breakdown of 2000 American Dental Association statistics on volunteerism*

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