Fewer Michigan residents are receiving dental care

- Adults **not visiting** a dentist in the prior year increased 17% from 2002 to 2012
- Preventable dental care provided to children in operating room visits cost $7.9 million in 2011
- 32% of Michigan’s residents lacked dental insurance in 2015
- More than 1 in 4 third graders had untreated dental disease

- 66% of third-graders in the UP had a **history of dental decay** compared to 56% statewide
- Third-grade children in Detroit in need of **immediate dental care** is 2.5 times higher than the rate of children in need of care statewide

Seniors, pregnant women, low-income children and other special populations are at risk for poor oral health outcomes

- **More than one-third** of all Michigan seniors have **lost six or more natural teeth** due to tooth decay or gum disease.
- **Approximately 40%** of children who are covered under Healthy Kids Dental **did not receive dental services** in 2014
- 3 out of 4 new mothers in 2008 **did not receive any dental care** during their most recent pregnancy

For more information, visit midentalaccess.org or contact Amy Zaagman, MCMCH Executive Director, at info@mcmch.org
Improve access to dental care in Michigan

This common sense, cost-effective legislation will enable dentists to delegate routine procedures to dental therapists working under their supervision and allow dentists to focus their time and skills on more complicated, revenue generating procedures.

Senate Bill 1013 will:

Provide opportunities for previously underserved populations, many in rural areas, to gain access to routine dental care

Allow new providers to perform routine dental care: assessments, simple cavity preparation, restoration, simple extraction

Require practice under supervision of a dentist with detailed collaborative practice agreements

Create opportunities for dentists to grow their practices and reach more patients

Establish opportunities for dental professionals to continue their education, expand their skill set and grow their careers

Include direct referrals to supervising dentist; creating an ongoing relationship between patients and dental care providers

Focus the new workforce on our greatest access challenges, allowing increased capacity in safety net clinics and dental shortage areas

Ensure in all practice settings these new providers treat uninsured and Medicaid-insured patients

There is at least one dental shortage area in 77 of Michigan’s 83 counties

Sources:

midentalaccess.org