

Recently here at Crow Creek Tribal School two dental services, Indian Health Service and Delta Dental, provided care to 125 of our students. After reviewing the data from both entities our students desperately needed the care provided. Not only did they provide care, but oral hygiene education to our students. Unfortunately, the Indian Health Service was only able to provide service of a dental hygienist. Whereas, Delta Dental is able to offer a wide range of urgent dental needs equipped by their Mobile Dental truck. Delta Dental provides preventative, diagnostic, and restorative care. The Crow Creek Tribal School administration are making earnest efforts to restore our students dental health.

To begin, the treatments of the Indian Health Services will be examined. Over the course of eight days a total of 88 students were screened. 11 of these students had urgent needs requiring these students to be referred out to either Sioux Falls or Rapid City. 15 of the 88 students have needs that will become urgent if not treated within the next year. 130 sealants were placed on permanent teeth of these students. Sealants are needed to prevent tooth decay. 84 received cleaning and 88 received fluoride varnish treatment.

Next, the treatments Delta Dental provided will be reviewed. Here is where the data becomes staggering. Even though Delta Dental provided care to only 55 of our students. The care they provided was urgent to restore our students dental health. The treatment data is listed below. As one can see the services they can provide at the convenience of our doorstep is miraculous. All the treatments they provided totaled to a fee of \$51,059.00, which seems steep. But having our students dental needs met is priceless.

Treatments	Quantity of treatments provided
X-Rays	40
Cleanings	55
Fluoride	24
Silver Diamine Fluoride (Stops tooth decay)	22
Sealants	151
Sealant Repair	20
Tobacco Counseling	4
Fillings	139
Protective Restoration	1
Crown and Bridge	21
Extractions	24
Pulp cap-direct -used when pulp (blood vessel, nerves, protective tissue) is completely exposed to the surface.	1
Pulp cap- indirect -used when pulp (blood vessel, nerves, and protective tissue) is close to the surface, but not completely exposed.	3

In conclusion, improving the dental health of Crow Creek Tribal Students is desperately required. With the partnership of IHS and Delta Dental, our students' dental health will be a leading example for our fellow tribal schools. Next year, the Delta Dental consent agreements will be attached to students registration packets. This will exponentially increase the number of students screened and treated making our vision attainable

Personal Stories

Female: 1st grade, 7 years old

She is our youngest student that required a great deal of restoration for her age. Her work required two days to complete. On day one, Delta Dental repaired the left side of her mouth prior to treatment Delta Dental numbs the surrounding gums in attempt to lessen and avoid discomfort. She had 4 resin-based composite fillings, 1 stainless steel cap, and 3 deciduous (baby) teeth extracted. On the second day, the right side of the student's mouth was treated. She had 1 tooth sealed, 3 resin-based composite fillings, and 4 deciduous teeth extracted. This student lastly required an indirect pulp capping. This is used when pulp (blood vessels, nerves, and protective tissue) is close to the surface, but is not completely exposed. The dentist will place a protective covering to help restore the tooth and prevent necrosis of the pulp. Without this treatment the student would eventually require a root canal or extraction in the near future. Prior to having the pulp capped on her tooth this student experienced pain while eating and sensitivities to hot and cold.

Male: 8th grade, 14 years old

Over the course of three days Delta Dental warded off decomposition of this students teeth, but unfortunately ran out of time to fully provide restoration. On the first day the student had 9 sealants placed on his teeth to prevent decay as well as routine dental work such as fluoride and oral hygiene instructions. The second day this student had 10 resin-based composite fillings. Fillings require numbing of the surround gums to lessen pain and discomfort. On the final day this student had 5 Silver Diamine Fluoride Treatments along with 4 resin-based composite fillings. Silver Diamine is a liquid medication that is applied to active tooth decay to kill bacteria and stop the cavity from growing. Silver Diamine is great for stopping tooth decay, but unfortunately it will not restore the structure of the tooth that has already been effected. These five teeth will eventually require fillings, crowns, etc. Altogether this student had 9 dental sealants, 14 resin-based composite fillings, and 5 silver diamine treatments on 5 separate teeth. The need for ongoing treatment, after three days of dental work ,exhibits the demand in our area to restore our students dental health on the reservation.

Male: 12th grade, 18 years old

Thanks to Delta Dental this student successfully had his teeth restored over a span of three days. He was first seen by the Delta Dental Dental Hygienist. The hygienist cleaned and applied fluoride to his teeth. As well as, sealed 8 teeth to prevent decay. Also, on his first visit the dental hygienist observed a need for tobacco counseling. On his second visit he was seen by the Delta Dental Dentist. The dentist filled 9 teeth with resin-based composite fillings. Again, required numbing to assist with pain and discomfort. Along with the urgent need to pulp cap directly and indirectly. Meaning this student had blood vessels, nerves and protective tissue exposed on one tooth and almost exposed on another. The fact that the pulp was exposed meant the student was undergoing immense oral discomfort and pain. Lastly, on his third visit this student also required 1 silver nitrate treatment applied to active tooth decay to kill bacteria and stop the cavity from traveling to other teeth. Along with 4 resin-based composite fillings and one extraction. In total, he had 8 teeth sealed, tobacco counseling, 13 teeth fillings, pulp capping, one indirect and one direct, and 1 silver nitrate treatment.

CCTS School Nurse

As the school nurse it is difficult to see the pain and discomfort in our students their treatments. But, I understand the desperate need for our students to have access to quality dental care. Some parents don't have transportation or extra funds to get their children to their appointments that can be up to 200 miles away. Not only that dental care is expensive! Sadly, some students have lived with the disturbances brought on by lack of dental hygiene their entire lives. With the partnership of Delta Dental and IHS the Crow Creek Tribal School will reduce the problems poor dental hygiene ensues.