

The NDA is comprised of forty-eight state and local chapters throughout the U.S. and Caribbean. Representing over 7,000 Black dentists, and 35 million Black Americans, it is currently expanding its membership to include oral health care professionals in Africa, Canada, Saudi Arabia, South America, and Latin America. It is also the parent organization of the Student National Dental Association, National Dental Hygienists Association, National Dental Assistants Association and Auxiliary to the National Dental Association (spouses).

The annual convention hosts all of these groups and features scientific sessions, the Women's Health Symposium, Leadership Workshop, the Minority Faculty and Administrators Forum, technical exhibits, and alumni reunions.

Since its inception in 1913, the NDA has provided its members with educational and technical information on oral health care improvements and patient service delivery. This has made it possible for NDA members to provide quality oral health care to underserved citizens throughout the U.S. and abroad. The organization provides a forum for minority oral health care professionals to address issues affecting their advancement within the oral health care profession, the armed services, national, state, and local governments, as well as private industry.

Through its scholarships, recruitment efforts and other support programs, the NDA ensures continuing service, and workforce diversity by actively promoting the oral health care field as a viable profession for African Americans and other underrepresented minorities.

Outreach Programs

- **“Bright smiles, Bright Futures.”** In 1991 the National Dental Association Foundation joined forces with Colgate Palmolive in its “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures” program. The goal of this community outreach program is to improve the health of school age inner city children, and thus improve their overall self esteem. Colgate Palmolive supplies five specially-equipped mobile vans to assist the dentists in their screening. By the end of 2000, the van had visited 30 cities and a volunteer network of 1,500 dentists had screened over 5 million children.
- **Black Expo.** NDA members provide free dental screening at the children's dental health screening booth during the annual Black Expo. This Expo brings African American Families and individuals together to experience seminars, entertainment and business opportunities.
- **Overseas Volunteer Programs.** For many years NDA volunteers have held expeditions to Third World countries in dire need of health care. Teams of dentists, students, hygienists and assistants have stayed for weeks at a time. Countries such as Israel, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Guyana have benefitted from manpower and supplies provided by the NDA.