



WISCONSIN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **WDA dentists privately donate \$9.6 million annually in charitable care**

WEST ALLIS, WIS., April 20, 2017 – A recent survey shows Wisconsin Dental Association dentists quietly donate an estimated \$9.6 million in charitable care through their practices every year, in addition to volunteering with organized events and at local community clinics and separate from non-reimbursed care provided to medical assistance patients.

The online survey link was distributed to 3,246 practicing and retired member dentists with active emails on file with the WDA. A total of 295 dentists took the survey in mid-January, providing information about their charitable care efforts during 2016.

More than 78 percent of responding dentists provided charitable care privately in their practices. Sixty-one percent donate \$5,000 or more annually in services separate from organized events and programs (e.g., [Give Kids A Smile®](#), [WDA Foundation's Donated Dental Services](#), [WDA Mission of Mercy](#)).

Fifty-six percent of responding dentists provided more than \$10,000 in non-reimbursed care to dental Medicaid (MA) patients in 2016.

State fee-for-service MA data for fiscal year 2011 (most-recent data available from the state) shows \$189.6 million in dental care was provided to enrollees. However, the state and federal governments paid just \$65 million (34 percent) of the value of the care patients received with participating dentists donating the balance of \$124.6 million in services. The dental community regularly donates more in care than is paid for by the state and federal governments combined.

More than 27 percent of responding dentists spend from 26 - 100 hours annually providing charitable care with nearly 13 percent logging 101 or more hours.

“Research shows good dental health is critical to overall well-being,” [WDA President Dr. Ned Murphy, a general dentist practicing in Racine](#), said.

“As dental professionals, we want Wisconsin residents to have access to affordable, preventive dental care, regardless of their financial situation. [Serving our communities is a priority for the WDA and our more than 3,000 members](#),” Murphy said.

*The Wisconsin Dental Association has 3,000 member dentists and a number of dental hygienists. With just 3,500 licensed dentists in the state, the WDA is considered the leading voice for dentistry in Wisconsin. WDA members are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. For more information, call 414-276-4520, visit [WDA.org](http://WDA.org) and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).*

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