# **DIVERSITY IN DENTISTRY**

# Where we are and why it matters.

Diversity is core to our mission at Benevis, and it is reflected in our clinical office staff, dentists, leadership, and the patients we serve. We are committed to breaking down barriers to high-quality, affordable dental care for everyone.

April is National Minority Health Month

# WHERE IS THE U.S. NOW?

The U.S. population continues to diversify with particular growth in Hispanic and Asian populations, while Black populations remain stable. Dentistry has long been an overwhelmingly White male profession, and Black and Hispanic dentists are still severely underrepresented. But some important shifts are occurring in tandem with population diversification, including an increase in female and Asian dentists:



Big increase in Asian dentists from 6% to 18% between 2019 and 2020.1



**Growth in Asian** & Hispanic dental students and decrease in White students.<sup>2</sup>

1/4

About 25% of all dental students are Asian.<sup>2</sup>



2020
Female Dentists

Percentage of female dentists has grown 10% over ten years with continued growth projected.

# WHERE IS BENEVIS NOW?



35% of U.S. dentists are women, while 51% of Benevis dentists are women.



33% of Benevis dentists are women from a minority group. 21%

Less than 4% of U.S. dentists are Black, while 21% of Benevis dentists are Black.





Diversity is core to our mission at Benevis, and it's one of my favorite things about our dental offices. Many of our doctors reflect our patients, and our patients see themselves in our doctors and me. This helps us build patient confidence and avoid cultural miscommunications. Because we understand and appreciate diversity in our offices, we can help our patients feel more comfortable.

Dr. Jessica George, DDS, Benevis District Dental Director

## **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Great strides have been made, but there is more work ahead to improve diversity in dentistry. A more diverse pool of U.S. dentists brings numerous benefits, including:

#### **EXPANDED PATIENT CARE**

Only 18% of dental providers manage Medicaid populations with 100+ child visits annually, and Benevis is proud to be among them.

## GREATER CULTURAL COMPETENCIES

Exposure to different cultures, races, and ethnicities enhances our dental team's cultural awareness and empathy for a better care experience.

### REDUCED HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

Greater diversity in dentistry can improve access to oral healthcare in underserved communities and result in better patient outcomes.

#### **ENRICHED LEADERSHIP POOL**

Having leaders from a range of backgrounds means a variety of viewpoints and perspectives can enrich decision-making processes, build greater equity, and serve as role models for the next generation of leaders

At Benevis, every patient's smile matters. We're proud to serve diverse patient communities with diverse dental professional teams to help improve access to care.



1-ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of ADA masterfile, Distribution of Dentists survey, Survey of Dental Education, Survey of Dental Practice, U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, and U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. The Dentist Workforce Key Facts infographic. Published in February 2021.

2-ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of data from the ADA masterfile, U.S. Census Bureau, and American Dental Education Association. Racial and Ethnic Mix of the Dentist Workforce in the U.S. infographic.

3-Vujicic, Marko, et al. Dentists in Medicaid: Who are they, where do they locate, how do they practice? Health Policy Institute. Webinar. Published September 15, 2022.

