

## PROMINENT QUOTES

“Is it a sober reality that we need to anesthetize some people with disabilities or are there better ways to deal with communicating with them?”

Jane Koppelman, Senior Manager, Dental Access Campaign, Pew Charitable Trusts

“Patients with disabilities face numerous barriers to oral health care, including a lack of access to transportation and adequate coverage and reimbursement through Medicaid and other insurances, along with a shortage of dentists trained to meet their needs”.

Stephen N. Abel, D.D.S., Senior Director, Community and Professional Initiatives, University at Buffalo School of Dentistry



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Disability  
Community

# ACCESSIBLE DENTISTRY

By: Victoria Weier





## **UNDERSERVED PATIENT BASE**

61 million adults in the United States have a disability; this is 1 in 4 patients that walk into the dental office.



## **PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS**

## **EQUAL ACCESS**

### **Accommodations:**

- Wheelchair lifts
- Widen doors/hallways
- Automatic door openers
- Permanent wheelchair ramps
- Wheelchair accessible sinks
- Lowered light switches

**Total estimated cost:  
\$63,000**

## **KEY DEMOGRAPHIC**

Only 69.2% of dentists treat people with mobility, sensory, or developmental disabilities on a regular basis.

## **EDUCATION, FUNDING & ADVOCACY**

- Reforming dental education to include disability studies
- Development of grants/funding to implement equal access
- Uniting to protect the quality of care for patients with disabilities