## THE CRITICAL ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE IN NEW MEXICO REMAINS AS AN UNEQUITY AMONG VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Although there is an increment of dentists in New Mexico from 2014 to 2017, the unequal distribution remains among urban and rural areas.

Increasing the number of dentists practicing in NM rural areas is imperative to increase dental care access, which would improve oral health and overall health among underserved communities.

## Dentist by Population by County in New Mexico 2017

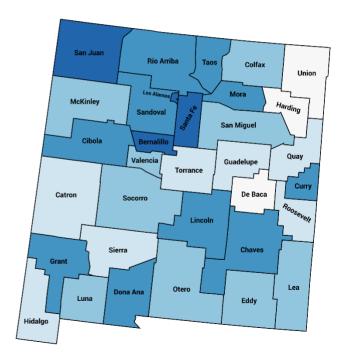
0 Dentist

1 Dentist per 8500 - 3501

1 Dentist per 3500 - 2501

1 Dentist per 2500 - 1501

1 Dentist per < 1500



There is a consistent increment in the number of dentists practicing in New Mexico from 2015 to 2017. However, the proportion of dentist practicing in rural areas has not increased throughout the years:

