



**CALIFORNIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION EXAMINES ACCESS TO CARE**  
*Dr. Dan Davidson addresses access issues in underserved communities*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Anaheim, Calif.** – Dan Davidson, DMD, CDA vice president and chair of its Policy Development Council, addressed access to care issues in California, as well as emerging activities across the nation, at *CDA Presents The Art and Science of Dentistry* on May 15.

Studies show that approximately 10 million Californians – or 30 percent of the state’s population do not have access to oral health care. Vulnerable populations such as low-income children, seniors, ethnic minorities and people with special needs often face barriers that limit their access to dental care.

“The issue of access is multifaceted and extremely complex. The dental profession has a responsibility to explore factors contributing to access barriers and examine solutions,” said Davidson, referring to CDA’s mission of improving the oral health of all Californians.

CDA’s leadership is actively meeting the challenge through the efforts of two workgroups that are dedicated to researching evidence-based ways to improve access to dental care for the 30 percent of the population that does not receive care now, while preserving the dental delivery system for the 70 percent that are well-served already.

“We have an opportunity to improve care for underserved Californians, whose numbers are expected to grow under health care reform initiatives that require dental coverage for people under the age of 21 starting in 2014,” Davidson said. “In California, it’s estimated that up to 2 million additional children will gain access to coverage for oral health care.”

Davidson urged CDA members to become more informed and remain engaged in the process, which will result in recommendations to be presented to the CDA House of Delegates in November.

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*The California Dental Association is the nonprofit organization representing organized dentistry in California. Founded in 1870, CDA supports its members in their practices and service to the public through innovation in education, advocacy and related programs. CDA also contributes to the oral health of Californians through various comprehensive programs and advocacy. CDA’s membership consists of more than 24,000 dentists, making it the largest constituent of the American Dental Association. For more information, visit [cda.org](http://cda.org).*

**CDA Presents The Art and Science of Dentistry**

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