

Washington Dental Commission's July 2026 Newsletter

WPHP: Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Washington's Dentists

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Dentistry is a uniquely demanding profession, requiring sustained concentration, physical precision, the daily management of patient care, and the business responsibilities of running a practice. Over time, these demands can contribute to stress, burnout, physical strain, and other health concerns that may affect a dentist's well-being and clinical performance. With the right support in place, dentists can thrive both personally and professionally, maintaining resilience while continuing to deliver high-quality care.

For 40 years, the Washington Physicians Health Program (WPHP) has served as a trusted, confidential resource dedicated to restoring the health of medical professionals. WPHP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization contracted by the Washington Department of Health to provide voluntary and therapeutic support to dentists, physicians, physician assistants, veterinarians, as well as students and residents in these fields.

Confidential Support and Care

WPHP exists to provide a confidential pathway to address healthcare concerns while safeguarding patient safety and preserving careers. WPHP is a peer-to-peer assistance program that is primarily funded by a surcharge on the licenses of those who are eligible for WPHP's services. This allows us to serve dentists and other health professionals who provide care for Washingtonians.

Anyone may contact WPHP for a consultation if they have concerns about a dentist's ability to practice safely due to a health concern. In some cases, brief assessment and referral to resources or services are all that is needed to support health and put concerns to rest. In other cases, more help is needed and WPHP is ready to assist. WPHP offers early intervention, assessment, treatment referral, and post-treatment health support for those in the medical workforce with conditions that may negatively impact practice performance.

Referral to WPHP helps protect the well-being of healthcare professionals and the patients they serve. Our confidential support and exceptional outcomes provide reassurance of safe practice and promote workforce sustainability.

Education, Outreach, and Resources

An essential component of WPHP's mission is to provide education and outreach to Washington's medical community. We provide presentations throughout the year on healthcare topics and WPHP's program and services. Through our efforts we work to advance health and well-being of health professionals and deepen the understanding of the resources available through our program.

We invite you to learn more about WPHP and how we help Washington's dentists and other medical professionals. Watch our [video](#) and read our [Annual Report](#) for an overview of WPHP's mission, outcomes, and transformative impact of our work and the vital role we play in supporting Washington's medical community.

WPHP also regularly contributes expertise to research articles, medical journals, healthcare newsletters, podcast, television programs, and publications covering medical topics. Explore the latest news and research, gain insights on building healthy practices, and access confidential services for yourself or a colleague in need by visiting wphp.org.