DentaQuest has developed innovative programming to address dental care disparities related to:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Age
- Geography
- Disability
- Language and Culture
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

**DESPITE PROGRESS, DISPARITIES PERSIST:**

- Untreated dental disease in adults
  - 42% of African Americans
  - 36% of Hispanics
  - 22% of Caucasians

- 42% of adults below the federal poverty level have tooth decay, three times more than adults with incomes above 400% of the level

- Rural areas experience higher rates of dental disease and tooth loss with lower preventive utilization rates

- Barriers such as cost and fear of discrimination mean just 10% of surveyed LGBT population say they have regular dental visits

**A SENSE OF URGENCY TO EMPOWER UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES**

- Business commitment to advance diversity and inclusion of the executive leadership team
- Unconscious bias awareness training for management
- Breaking down company silos related to:
  - Community allies and advocates
  - Culturally competent community outreach strategies
  - Best practice models for care
  - Innovations in value-based patient-centered care
  - Equity initiatives created or supported by DentaQuest

**DRIVING CHANGE: CROSS COMPANY DISPARITIES WORKGROUP**

- Bolster health equity-focused partnerships
  - Minority dental associations
  - State oral health coalitions
  - Regional Health Equity Council participation

- Use claims data to:
  - Illuminate and address disparities
  - Improve our services
  - Bring better outcomes/greater savings to clients and members
  - Tell more effective stories that can educate and engage members

**INSTITUTIONALIZE CHANGE**

- Develop processes to share and leverage claims data with clients for future projects and work with at least three states to approve legal agreements that would expand our use of propriety data to address health disparities:
  - TENNESSEE: to justify a pregnant women's dental benefit and monitor progress
  - MASSACHUSETTS: to respond to substance abuse crisis by sharing prescribing data of dental care providers in our network
  - NEW YORK: to lay groundwork for medical/dental integration data analytics

**BARRIERS TO SUCCESS**

- Legal approval for data sharing agreements with clients
- Formal internal governance structure, support and resources for analyses