



California & The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research



FY20 Total Funding: **\$73,367,571**

Number of Institutions Funded: **26**

Number of Grants Awarded: **189**

Number of Congressional Districts with NIDCR Grants: **18**

Improving California Oral Health Through NIDCR Funding:

- Scarless Laboratories, Inc. received roughly \$1 million to further investigate a method to decrease scarring after cleft lip and palate surgeries. Many patients born with a cleft lip or palate defect must undergo multiple corrective surgeries. Currently, these surgeries prove effective at restoring proper oral health function, but there are often scars and wounds left behind. Scarless Laboratories is working with a promising peptide, a building block of protein, in the hopes of reducing scarring for cleft lip and palate patients as well as burn victims.
- The University of Southern California is conducting research to address the overall health impact of electronic cigarette use, including the biological effects of e-cigarettes which can help clarify the health risks associated with the use of these products and assist regulatory agencies in making scientifically-based decisions on the development and evaluation regulations.
- Dental caries, or cavities, is one of the most common chronic diseases affecting the population worldwide. Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco are exploring how infrared imaging technology may be used for earlier detection and more accurate diagnosis of lesion severity and depth. This technology has the potential to safely and routinely monitor cavities without radiation exposure and in the long term, may help patients avoid unnecessary surgical intervention.

