Dental Care for Older Americans

Data Update

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The ADA Health Policy Institute
The ADA Health Policy Institute

NOVA
When Addiction Starts at the Dentist
BY TERESA CARR  WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018  NOVA NEXT

The main reason people avoid the dentist isn't fear

FOX NEWS
The New York Times

THE NEW HEALTH CARE
Medicare Doesn’t Equal Dental Care. That Can Be a Big Problem.

USA TODAY
Chew on this: Dental coverage gives protection within limits

The Atlantic
Education Doesn't Solve the Gender Pay Gap

Stopped flossing? Teeth still vital to overall health

The Washington Post

THE PAINFUL TRUTH ABOUT TEETH
You can work full time but not have the money to fix your teeth — visible reminders of the divide between rich and poor

Forbes
Why Some Millennials Aren't Smiling: Bad Teeth Hinder 28% In Job Search

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“We have become a set of tribes, with different codes, values, and even facts. In our public debates, it seems that we no longer just disagree. We reject each other’s premises and doubt each other’s motives. We question each other’s character. We block our ears to diverse perspectives.”
How We Process Data

- **What the facts say**
  - Undervalued
  - Overvalued

- **What confirms your beliefs**
  - Foolish
Today

• Dental care use
• Oral health and well-being
• Dental care financing
• Barriers to dental care
• A useful lesson from the ACA
THE DENTAL INDUSTRY IS ENTERING A “NEW NORMAL” THAT IS CHARACTERIZED BY A GROWING NUMBER OF DENTISTS, SHIFTING PRACTICE CONFIGURATIONS, AND AN EVOLVING PATIENT LANDSCAPE.

www.ada.org/hpi
Dental Care Utilization

126 Million Americans

OR

39% of the population

visited a general dentist in 2016
Oral Health and Well-Being

OVERALL CONDITION OF MOUTH AND TEETH AMONG SENIORS

- 33% VERY GOOD
- 39% GOOD
- 21% FAIR
- 7% POOR

Low Household Income:
- 19%
- 42%
- 25%
- 14%

Middle Household Income:
- 28%
- 38%
- 25%
- 13%

High Household Income:
- 46%
- 39%
- 13%
- 9%
Dental Care Utilization

Breakdown of the number of Americans visiting a general practitioner dentist (in millions)

Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Seniors</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Kids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>293.8</td>
<td>184.3</td>
<td>74.0</td>
<td>35.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>318.9</td>
<td>197.3</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People who saw a general dentist, by dental insurance status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Uninsured</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>122.2</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>35.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>125.6</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Dental Care Financing

NATIONAL DENTAL SPENDING (MILLIONS)

NATIONAL DENTAL SPENDING PER CAPITA BY SOURCE OF FINANCING (INFLATION-ADJUSTED)

INFLATION-ADJUSTED • NOMINAL

PRIVATE INSURANCE • OUT OF POCKET • CMS • OTHER

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Dental Care Financing

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN DENTAL SPENDING (INFLATION-ADJUSTED 2016 DOLLARS), 2006-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>OUT OF POCKET</th>
<th>PRIVATE INSURANCE</th>
<th>PUBLIC INSURANCE</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHILDREN (AGES UNDER 21)</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>101%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADULTS (AGES 21-64)</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIORS (AGES 65+)</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>154%</td>
<td>132%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dental Care Financing

BREAKDOWN OF DENTAL SPENDING BY AGE AND SOURCE OF PAYMENT, 2016

Children
$36.8 Billion
TOTAL DENTAL SPENDING

Adults
$62.4 Billion
TOTAL DENTAL SPENDING

Seniors
$28.3 Billion
TOTAL DENTAL SPENDING

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Barriers to Dental Care

REASONS FOR NOT VISITING THE DENTIST MORE FREQUENTLY AMONG SENIORS WITHOUT A VISIT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

COST

AFRAID OF DENTIST 12%
INCONVENIENT LOCATION OR TIME 9%
TROUBLE FINDING A DENTIST 11%
NO ORIGINAL TEETH 35%
NO PERCEIVED NEED 8%
NO REASON 9%
OTHER 12%

ALL SENIORS

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

LOW 69%
MIDDLE 34%
HIGH 24%

COST IS THE TOP REASON AMONG SENIORS REGARDLESS OF INCOME LEVEL.

NO ORIGINAL TEETH IS THE TOP REASON AMONG HIGH-INCOME SENIORS.
Barriers to Dental Care

**EXHIBIT 1**

Percentages of National Health Interview Survey respondents who did not get selected health care services they needed in the past 12 months because of cost, by age group, 2014

- Dental care
- Medical care
- Prescription drugs
- Eyeglasses
- Mental health care

![Chart showing percentages of respondents who did not get needed services because of cost, by age group.](chart)

**SOURCE** Authors’ analysis of data for 2014 from the National Health Interview Survey. **NOTES** The sample consisted of 50,077 respondents. For all age groups, the difference between dental care and medical care not obtained was significant (p < 0.05).
Lessons from Insurance Expansions

AN ESTIMATED 9.8 million adults

GAINED DENTAL BENEFITS through Medicaid expansion or Medicaid policy changes following passage of the Affordable Care Act through 2017.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF ADULTS WITH MEDICAID DUE TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

- States with Adult Dental Benefits in Medicaid that Expanded Eligibility Under the ACA
- States with Adult Dental Benefits in Medicaid that Did Not Expand Eligibility Under the ACA
- No Adult Dental Benefits in Medicaid

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Medicaid expansion under the ACA led to a 3-6 percentage point increase in dental care use among low-income adults.
Thank You

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