

# The Dental Divide in America

The nation's leading organization of dentists announced a nationwide campaign aimed at boldly addressing the dental health crisis in the U.S. The American Dental Association (ADA) campaign – Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference – aims to reduce the numbers of adults and children with untreated dental disease, through oral health education, prevention and providing treatment now to people in need of care. The need is clear, according to new Harris Interactive data released by the ADA. The study, conducted online in April among over 1200 U.S. adults, confirmed a disturbing dental divide in America.



## CHECKING OFF THE REGULAR CHECKUP LESS OFTEN

% of Americans who haven't seen a dentist in a year or more

**48%**  
of lower-income

**30%**  
of middle and higher-income

Furthermore, **20%** of adults earning less than \$30K have not visited a dentist in over **5 years**.



## A DIM VIEW ON DENTAL HEALTH

% of Americans likely to say the quality of their dental health is excellent or very good

**39%**  
of lower-income

**58%**  
of middle and higher-income



## SUFFERING THROUGH UNTREATED CAVITIES

% of Americans who have lived with an untreated cavity

**36%**  
of lower-income

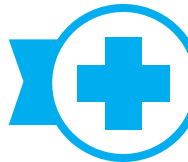
**18%**  
of middle and higher-income

Adults earning under \$30K are more than

# 2 times as likely

as those earning \$30K or more to have had all of their teeth removed.

**7% of adults earning under \$30K** have had all of their teeth removed while only **3% of those earning \$30K or more** have had all of their teeth removed.



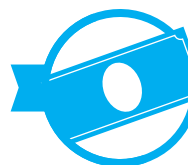
## A TRIP TO THE ER FOR DENTAL CARE – AND NOT FINDING IT

% of Americans who have reported that they or a household member has sought treatment for dental pain in an emergency room at some point in their lives

**18%**  
of lower-income

**7%**  
of middle and higher-income

**The result:** only 6% of those low-income adults who went to the ER reported that their dental problem was solved in the ER.



## PAYING OUT OF POCKET

% of Americans who use dental insurance to pay some or all of dental costs

**43%**  
of lower-income

**67%**  
of middle and higher-income



## MANAGING FAMILY HEALTH WITHOUT THE FAMILY DENTIST

% of Americans who have a family dentist

**47%**  
of lower-income

**75%**  
of middle and higher-income

For more information please visit [ADA.org/action](http://ADA.org/action)



## THE HEALTHCARE REFORM MYTH

Even though the Affordable Care Act offers little hope for adult Americans without dental coverage

**40%** of lower-income adults believe that health care reform will help them obtain dental care.