Oral Health and Well-Being Among Seniors in the United States

OVERALL CONDITION OF MOUTH AND TEETH AMONG SENIORS

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

PROBLEMS DUE TO CONDITION OF MOUTH AND TEETH AMONG SENIORS BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Note: Seniors are defined as adults ages 65 and older. Figures based on ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of Harris Poll Survey Data. For methods and sources, visit ADA.org/statefacts. For more information on the ADA Health Policy Institute, visit ADA.org/HPI.
What people say...

76% of seniors say they plan to visit the dentist within the next year.

Reasons for not visiting the dentist more frequently among seniors without a visit in the last 12 months:

- Cost: 49%
- No original teeth: 35%
- Other: 12%
- Afraid of dentist: 12%
- Inconvenient location or time: 9%
- Trouble finding a dentist: 11%
- No perceived need: 8%
- No reason: 9%

What people do...

42% of seniors actually visited the dentist within the last year.

Percentage who plan to visit the dentist within the next year (Harris, 2015):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage who actually visited the dentist within the last year (MEPS, 2013):

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Household Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cost is the top reason among seniors regardless of income level.

No original teeth is the top reason among high-income seniors.

For more information, contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.