How do adults in Georgia view their oral health? This fact sheet summarizes select data on self-reported oral health status, attitudes and dental care utilization among Georgia adults as of 2015, by income level, based on an innovative household survey. For methods and sources, visit ADA.org/statefacts. For more information on the ADA Health Policy Institute, visit ADA.org/HPI.
How Often Have You Experienced the Following Problems in the Last 12 Months Due to the Condition of Your Mouth and Teeth?

- **Very Often**
- **Occasionally**
- **Rarely**
- **Never**

**1 in 4 adults** avoid smiling due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

**23%** of adults feel embarrassment due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

**23%** of adults experience anxiety due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
Problems Due to Condition of Mouth and Teeth, by Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Mouth</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty Biting/Chewing</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience Pain</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid Smiling</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embarrassment</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems Sleeping</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Social Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty with Speech</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulty Doing Usual Activities</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Days Off</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Low income adults are most likely to report having problems due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.**

The top oral health problem for low income adults is experiencing pain.

- **Dry Mouth**: 40% of low income adults experience difficulty with dry mouth.
- **Difficulty Biting/Chewing**: 37% of low income adults experience difficulty with biting/chewing.
- **Experience Pain**: 41% of low income adults experience pain.
- **Avoid Smiling**: 66% of low income adults avoid smiling due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
- **Embarrassment**: 42% of low income adults feel embarrassment due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
- **Anxiety**: 74% of low income adults experience anxiety due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
- **Problems Sleeping**: 65% of low income adults experience difficulty with sleeping.
- **Reduce Social Participation**: 90% of low income adults reduce participation in social activities.
- **Difficulty with Speech**: 63% of low income adults experience difficulty with speech.
- **Difficulty Doing Usual Activities**: 84% of low income adults experience difficulty doing usual activities.
- **Take Days Off**: 91% of low income adults take days off due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

19% of high income adults experience pain due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

25% of middle income adults feel embarrassment due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

19% of low income adults reduce participation in social activities due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
Oral Health and Well-Being in Georgia

Attitudes Toward Oral Health and Dental Care

- **I value keeping my mouth healthy.**
  - Strongly agree: 72%
  - Agree: 20%
  - Somewhat agree: 6%
  - Disagree: 7%

- **Regular visits to the dentist will help keep me healthy.**
  - Strongly agree: 34%
  - Agree: 29%
  - Somewhat agree: 26%
  - Disagree: 20%

- **As I grow old I accept I will lose some of my teeth.**
  - Strongly agree: 58%
  - Agree: 28%
  - Somewhat agree: 7%
  - Disagree: 6%

- **I need to see the dentist twice a year.**
  - Strongly agree: 46%
  - Agree: 15%
  - Somewhat agree: 17%
  - Disagree: 20%

- **It is easier to get ahead in life if I have straight, bright teeth.**
  - Strongly agree: 34%
  - Agree: 15%
  - Somewhat agree: 26%
  - Disagree: 29%

- **92% value oral health.**
- **86% feel they need to visit the dentist twice per year.**
- **92% agree regular dental visits keep them healthy.**
- **80% believe straight, bright teeth help you get ahead in life.**
- **70% low income adults**
- **33% high income adults**

"I accept I will lose some teeth with age."
Oral Health and Well-Being in Georgia

Reasons for Not Visiting the Dentist More Frequently, Among Those Without a Visit in the Last 12 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Low Income</th>
<th>Middle Income</th>
<th>High Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afraid of Dentist</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconvenient Location or Time</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trouble Finding a Dentist</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Original Teeth</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Perceived Need</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Reason</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19% of low income adults cite fear as a reason not to visit the dentist.

31% of middle income adults cite fear as a reason not to visit the dentist.

25% of high income adults cite no reason for not visiting the dentist.