PROFILE OF ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

Nearly one-third of older adults have untreated tooth decay

Nearly one-third of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) have untreated cavities and have difficulty visiting the dentist

Minority older adults are less likely to visit the dentist

Cost is the main reason for not visiting the dentist more frequently

Cognitive, physical, and behavioral limitations can make it difficult for persons with I/DD to brush and floss their teeth

As Alzheimer’s progresses, persons with dementia may forget how to brush their teeth

Less than half of older adults actually visited the dentist in the last year, although three-fourths said they planned to

74% of low income adults and 48% of high income adults accept that they will lose some teeth with age

Missing natural teeth is another reason seniors do not visit the dentist

PROFILE OF ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

SOURCES:

WHO IS IMPACTED?

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- The Changing Landscape of Aging and Disability Information and Referral/Assistance, National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, 2015

WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT?

- Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview, Center for Health Care Strategies, May 2017

PROFILE OF ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

- Oral Health: Overview, Administration for Community Living, 2017
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WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- Older Adults’ Oral Health in a State of Decay, Oral Health America, 2015
- Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview, Center for Health Care Strategies, May 2017

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- Oral Health: Oral Health Problems, Administration for Community Living, 2017


- Oral Health and Well-Bein...
WHO IS IMPACTED?

Older Adults

More than 2 out of 3 lack coverage for dental benefits

Low-Income Older Adults...

...Over one half did not have a dental visit in the past year

People with Disabilities...

Forgo dental treatment due to cost nearly 3 times more than people without disabilities

Unmet Need

Dental care is one of the highest unmet needs as reported by information and referral specialists

WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT?

Gum disease occurs in...

Periodontal disease is associated with...

Tooth loss

More than 1/3 of adults 65 years or older have lost all of their teeth

Poor nutrition occurs when...

Older adults have changes in chewing ability, untreated tooth decay, or missing teeth, making it more difficult to consume a healthy diet

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

No dental care coverage in Medicare

4 out of 5 uninsured seniors cannot pay for a major dental procedure

Barriers to dental care for persons with disabilities...

Limited access to providers

33 million people live where dentists and clinics are scarce

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Increase coverage

Adding a dental benefit under Medicare would increase affordability and access to dental benefits for older adults and persons with disabilities

Increase access

Integrate oral health into person-centered healthcare

Increase oral health workforce

Increase oral health workforce training

Innovation

Teledentistry and other innovations offer opportunities to meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities

Awareness

Educate stakeholders about oral health needs