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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



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SOURCES:

WHO IS IMPACTED?

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- Health, United States, 2015: With Special Feature on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, National Center for Health Statistics, 2015
- 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?

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- Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits: An Overview, Center for Health Care Strategies, May 2017
- Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2000
- Oral Health: Oral Health Problems, Administration for Community Living, 2017

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

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- Health, United States, 2015: With Special Feature on Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, National Center for Health Statistics, 2015
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ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA

Experiences of Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities





WHO IS IMPACTED?

Older Adults



More 2 out 3 than 2 of 3 LACK COVERAGE for dental benefits

Low-Income Older Adults...

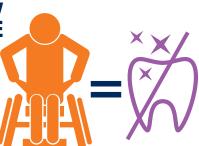
...Over ONE HALF did NOT have a DENTAL VISIT in the past year



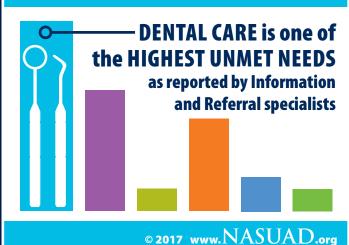
People with Disabilities...

FORGO DENTAL TREATMENT DUE TO COST nearly

3 TIMES MORE than people without disabilities

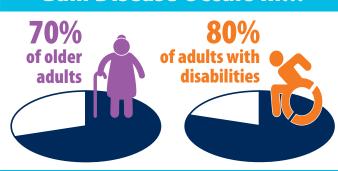


Unmet Need



WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT?

Gum Disease Occurs In...



Periodontal Disease is Associated With...



OTHER HEALTH RISKS

Diabetes • Stroke Cardiovascular Disease Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes

EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

Over a 3 year period, \$2.7 billion were spent in dental-related hospital emergency department visits in the United States

Tooth Loss



More 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



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WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

No Dental Care Coverage in Medicare

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



Barriers to Dental Care For Persons with Disabilities ...

TRANSPORTATION WORKFORCE TRAINING

GEOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBILITY
LOCATION

COVERAGE SEDATION SERVICES

Limited Access to Providers

33 MILLION PEOPLE live where dentists and clinics are scarce

Only 20% of **Dentists**Nationwide
Accept Medicaid



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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



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

Awareness

EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT ORAL HEALTH NEEDS



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