

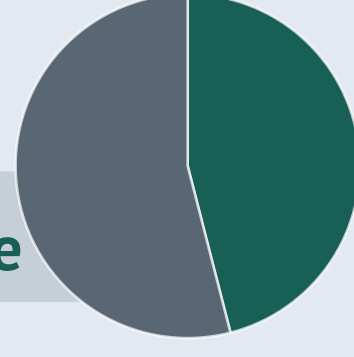
Gum disease forms when bacteria, plaque and food particles are left to fester around the teeth and gums, causing the gums to become inflamed. If left untreated, inflammation could lead to gum recession and tooth loss.

The State of Oral Health

1 in 5 children ages 6-11 have untreated cavities

1 in 4 adults have untreated cavities

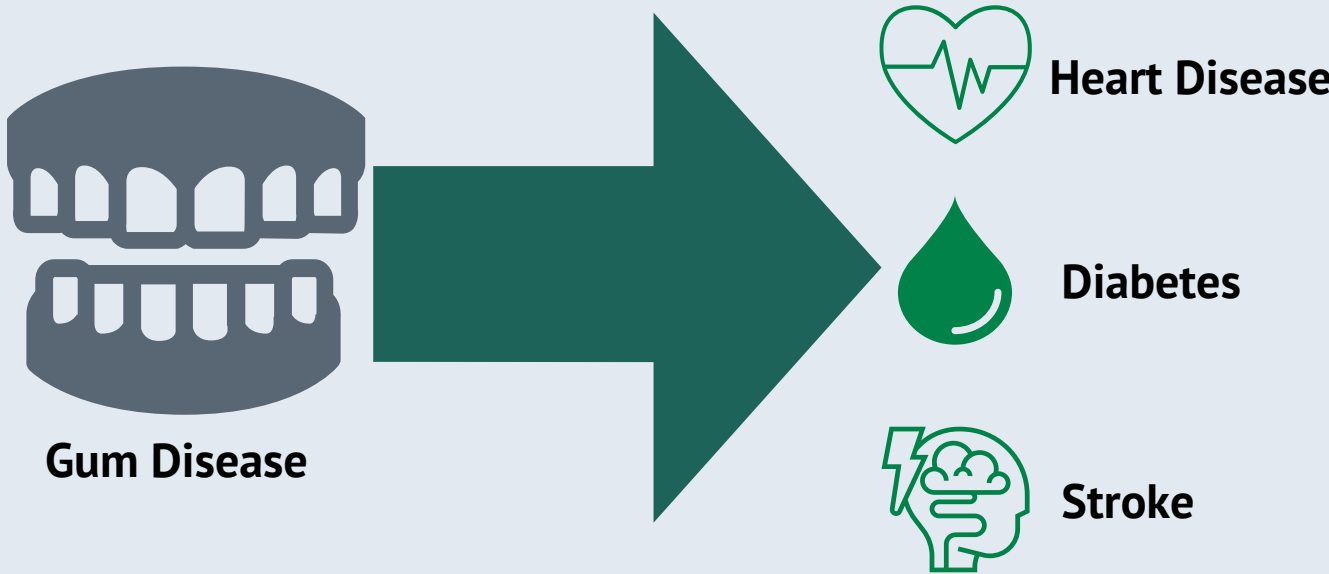
46% of all adults over 30 show signs of **gum disease**



In pregnant women, untreated gum disease is linked to premature birth and low birth weight

Impact of Oral Health on the Rest of the Body

Untreated gum disease increases the risk and severity of chronic illness



The oral cavity is the gateway to the rest of the body. An infection in the mouth can seep into the bloodstream and cause harm to other vital organs.

Barriers & Challenges To Achieving Oral Health

Provider Shortage
56 million Americans live in dentist shortage areas

Lack of access to fluoridated water
~100 million Americans don't have access to fluoridated tap water

Financial barriers
 Black and Hispanic people are **more likely** to encounter cost barriers to oral health care

Lack of transportation

Lack of childcare or work leave issues

During the Pandemic

More than 6 million American adults lost their dental insurance. Many delayed getting care due to finances, lack of insurance and fear of exposure to the virus. Many dental offices were closed early on in the pandemic except for emergency care contributing to the delay in care.

Disparities in Oral Health Before the Pandemic

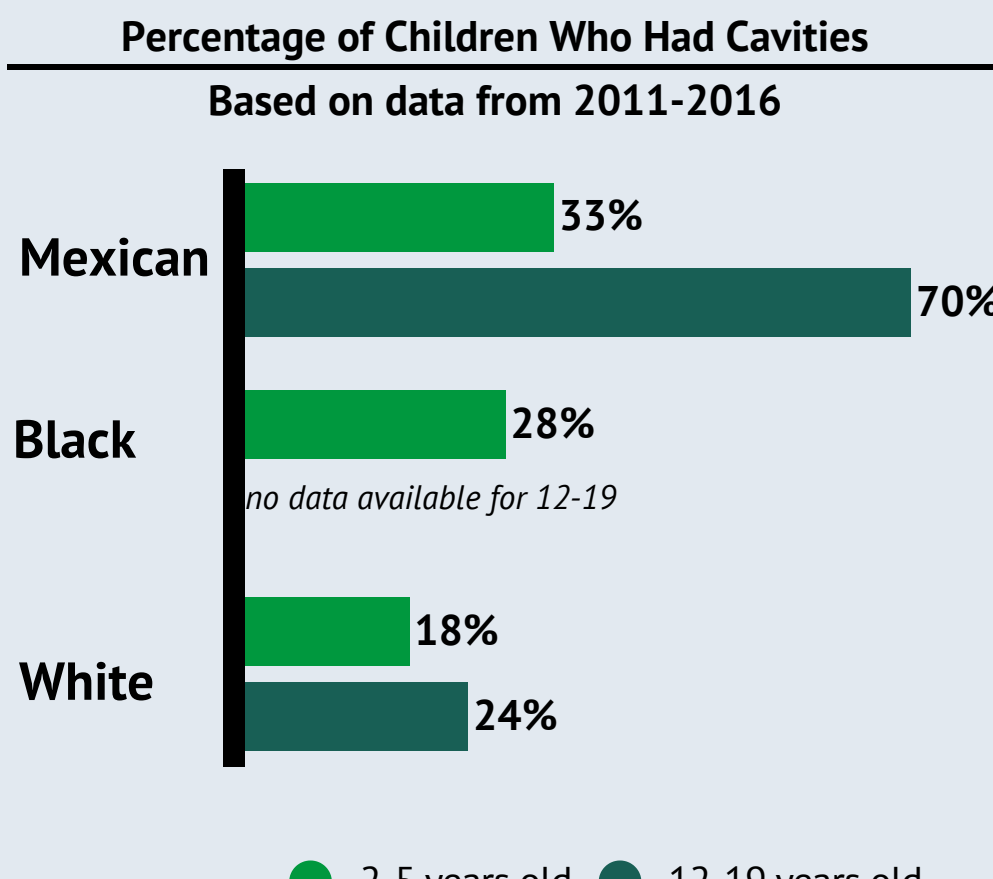
Prioritizing oral health is challenging when people are struggling with additional systemic health conditions, food and housing insecurity

Income-based Disparities

Untreated cavities are more prevalent among low-income adults. Nearly 40% have 3 affected teeth per person on average

- Non-elderly adults reported **financial constraints** as the main reason for unmet dental needs
- Low-income adults had **twice as many** mild to moderate untreated cavities and **3x more** severely untreated cavities
- Low-income children are almost **15% less** likely to have dental sealants & **twice as likely** to have untreated cavities compared to higher-income children

Racial & Ethnic Disparities



Disparities in American Indians and Alaska Natives (2014 Data)

Native Americans have historically had less access to dental care

4x AI/AN preschool children have the highest level of tooth decay, more than 4 times higher than White children

75% 75% of AI/AN children have experienced tooth decay by age 5

Strategies to Support Oral Health Equity

Increase Access

- Authorize midlevel providers - Dental Therapists
- Incorporate teledentistry
- Offer flexible dental office hours
- Strengthen and increase dental insurance

Community Support

- Implement community water fluoridation
- Offer school-based dental sealant programs
- Enact paid time off for routine health care

Integrated Health Care

- Encourage health care professionals to promote the importance of oral health, assess oral health and provide referrals to patients

Oral Health Education

- Improve family and public education
- Increase dental disease prevention

Investments in Oral Health Can Have Big Payoffs

Health Care Systems Savings
\$100M
 Dental-medical integration screenings for chronic diseases could save health care system \$102.6M in 1 year

School Sealant Program Savings
\$300M
 School sealant programs could save millions by providing sealants to low-income children

Fluoridated Water Systems
\$6.5B
 Providing fluoridated water to U.S. communities for one year could save billions in prevented dental treatment costs

On average, communities with water fluoridation experience 25% fewer cavities, saving \$32 per person annually by avoiding dental treatment costs and leading to fewer missed work and school days.



Every \$1 spent on fluorinated water saved an average of \$20 on dental costs

Programs that deliver sealants to children at high risk for tooth decay save money. Each tooth sealed saves more than \$11 in dental treatment costs over four years.

