



THE ORAL HEALTH OF ADULTS

SKILLED NURSING FACILITY



A facility where nursing care or related services are provided to residents of the facility

WHO TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY

253 Residents aged 37-100 years (mean=75)

22 Skilled nursing facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand programs that provide educational and preventive dental services at skilled nursing facilities.
- Develop programs that provide corrective and emergency dental services at skilled nursing facilities.
- Provide enhanced training to nursing facility staff about the importance of daily oral hygiene services.
- Create a referral system between skilled nursing facilities and safety-net dental clinics for residents with urgent dental needs.
- Consider the use of silver diamine fluoride treatment by public health hygienists for patients with transportation barriers.

ORAL HEALTH STATUS

PEOPLE WITH FEWER THAN 20 TEETH HAVE TROUBLE EATING HEALTHY FOOD

73% The percentage of residents with severe tooth loss

38% The percentage of residents with no natural teeth

TOOTH DECAY AND GUM DISEASE CAN CAUSE PAIN AND LIFE-THREATENING INFECTIONS

40% The percentage of dentate residents with untreated decay

29% The percentage of dentate residents needing periodontal care because of gum disease

MANY NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS RELY ON STAFF TO CLEAN THEIR MOUTH

49% The percentage of dentate residents with less than satisfactory oral hygiene

MANY NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS HAVE NO DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Medicare does not cover most dental care and Medicaid only covers a limited number of dental services

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Office of Dental Health
health.mo.gov/living/families/oralhealth/

SEPTEMBER 2022

DATA SOURCE: MISSOURI ORAL HEALTH SURVEY OF VULNERABLE ADULTS, 2022