Oral Health by the Numbers

The number of Americans without dental insurance is more than 2.5X the number without medical insurance.*

Note: Each figure represents 9.7 million people (2012)

Adult Medicaid dental benefits vary widely by state**

Note: ID, MT & ND offer different dental benefits to different categories of Medicaid enrollees

Low income adults are 2X as likely to go without an annual dental check-up than those with a higher income.****

Between 2006-2009 ER visits for preventable dental conditions increased by 16%.***

ER dental visits cost the healthcare system up to $2.1 billion a year. (2010)****


***Emergency Only: Relief of pain under defined emergency situations. Limited: Fewer than 100 dental procedures covered; annual benefit cap of less than $1,000. Extensive: More than 100 dental procedures covered; annual benefit cap of $1,000 or more.


*****Keymae Nasseh and Marie Yulitsk. Dental Care Utilization Rate Highest Ever Among Children, Continues to Decline Among Adults. [Chicago, IL: American Dental Association Health Policy Institute, 2014.]

******Thomas Wall and Keymae Nasseh. Dental-Related Emergency Department Visits on the Increase in the United States[Chicago, IL: American Dental Association Health Policy Institute, 2013.]