

Poll Questions

September 2017

Dental care at midlife — Unmet needs, uncertain future

Questions were answered by respondents age 50–64.

Q1. In general, how would you rate the health of your teeth and gums?

1. Excellent
2. Very Good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
6. N/A — I have dentures

Q2. Do you currently have dental insurance that pays for some or all of your dental care?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q3. How are you getting your dental insurance?

1. Offered through employer
2. Purchased on my own
3. Through Medicaid
4. Retiree health plan

Q4. Which statement best describes how often you go to the dentist?

1. Regularly for cleanings and problem care when needed
2. Occasionally for cleanings and problem care when needed
3. *Only* for a serious dental problem
4. Never

Q5. When is the last time you had a dental visit for preventive care (like teeth cleaning)?

1. Within the last year
2. 1–2 years ago
3. 3–10 years ago
4. More than 10 years ago

Q6. When is the last time you had a dental visit for a dental problem (like a toothache or cavity)?

1. Within the last year
2. 1–2 years ago
3. 3–10 years ago
4. More than 10 years ago

Q7. Do you have a regular dentist or dental office?

1. Yes
2. No

How true are the following statements?

Q8. Regular dental care at my age is important to prevent dental problems when I am older.

1. Definitely true
2. Somewhat true
3. Not true

Q9. It is just as easy for me to get dental care as medical care.

1. Definitely true
2. Somewhat true
3. Not true

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Q10. I am embarrassed about the condition of my teeth.

1. Definitely true
2. Somewhat true
3. Not true

Q11. In the last 2 years, have dental problems caused any of the following?

[Yes/No for each]

1. Pain
2. Problems with eating/chewing
3. Sleep problems
4. Missed work
5. Other health problems

Q12. In the last 2 years, has there been a time when you needed dental care but delayed dental care?

1. Yes
2. No

Q13. In the last 2 years, has there been a time when you needed dental care but did not get dental care?

1. Yes
2. No

Q14. How much did the following cause you to [delay/not get/delay or not get] the dental care you needed?

| Problem with... | Major factor | Minor factor | Not a factor |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. Finding a dentist | | | |
| b. Getting an appointment | | | |
| c. Dental insurance | | | |
| d. Cost | | | |
| e. Being afraid of the dentist | | | |

Q15. When you turn 65, how will you get dental insurance?

1. Through basic Medicare
2. Through Medicare Advantage/Medigap
3. Through retiree health benefits
4. Through Medicaid
5. Purchase separate dental plan
6. Other
7. Won't have dental insurance
8. Don't know

Participants were also asked demographic questions on age, gender, health status and insurance status.

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