

Poll Questions

March/April 2020

Dental Care & Coverage After 65: Experiences & Perspectives

Questions were answered by respondents age 65–80.



Q1. Which response best describes how often you go to the dentist?

1. Regularly for cleanings (and as needed for dental problems)
2. Occasionally for cleanings (and as needed for dental problems)
3. Only for dental problems
4. Never

Q2. When is the last time you had a dental visit for preventive care (like teeth cleaning)?

1. In the past year
2. 1-2 years ago
3. >2-5 years ago
4. >5-10 years ago
5. More than 10 years ago
6. Never

Q3. When is the last time you had a dental visit for a dental problem (like a toothache or cavity)?

1. In the past year
2. 1-2 years ago
3. >2-5 years ago
4. >5-10 years ago
5. More than 10 years ago
6. Never

Q4. In the past two years, have you...

	Yes	No
visited an ER/emergency department for a dental problem?		
taken pain medication for a dental problem?		

Q5. How true are the following statements?

	Definitely true	Somewhat true	Not true
It's as easy for me to get dental care as medical care.			
My health or mobility limits my ability to get dental care.			
My oral health is important to me.			
I am embarrassed about the condition of my teeth.			
I consider not going to the dentist because of the cost.			

Q6. Rate your agreement with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Regular dental care at my age is as important as when I was younger.				
Oral health problems can contribute to other medical problems.				

Q7. In the past two years, have dental problems caused any of the following for you?

	Yes	No
Pain		
Problems with eating/chewing		
Sleep problems		
Missed/avoided social activities		
Financial problems		
Missed work		

Q9. In the past two years, has there been a time when you needed dental care but did not get dental care?

1. Yes
2. No

Q10. Do you currently have dental insurance that pays for some or all of your dental care?

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

Q8. In the past two years, has there been a time when you needed dental care but delayed getting dental care?

1. Yes
2. No



If Q8 = 1 or Q9 = 1

Q11. Did any of the following cause you to delay or not get the dental care you needed?

	Yes	No
a. [If Q10 = Yes] Problems with dental insurance		
b. [If Q10 = No] Not having dental insurance		
c. Cost/out of pocket costs		
d. Finding a dentist		
e. Being afraid of the dentist		
f. Transportation challenges		
g. Finding time to get to the dentist		
h. Health or mobility problems		

If Q11a = 1

Q12. What problems did you have related to dental insurance?

1. My dental insurance didn't cover what I needed
2. Premiums and/or out of pocket costs are too high
3. Reached annual limit
4. Couldn't find a dentist that accepted my plan
5. Other

If Q10 = 1

Q13. How do you currently get your dental insurance?

1. Medicare Advantage Plan
2. Through employer (mine or my spouse's/partner's)
3. Purchased on my own
4. Medicaid
5. Retiree health plan
6. Other

If Q13 = 1

Q14. Are dental benefits a factor in your choice of a Medicare Advantage Plan?

1. Yes
2. No

Q15. Would you favor or oppose a policy that would add a dental benefit to Medicare?

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose

If Q15 = 1 or 2

Q16. Would you favor or oppose this policy if it meant you would have to pay more for Medicare?

1. Strongly favor
2. Somewhat favor
3. Somewhat oppose
4. Strongly oppose

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