

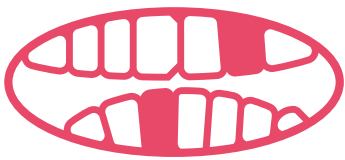
# WISCONSIN HEALTHY SMILES SURVEY



## THE ORAL HEALTH OF WISCONSIN'S OLDER ADULTS

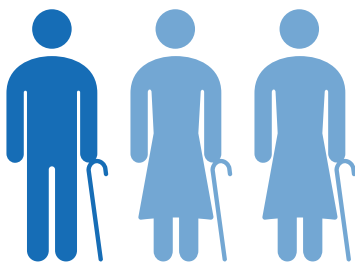
The burden of oral disease among Wisconsin adults age 65 and older is significant. Many grew up without the protective benefits of water fluoridation or dental sealants, and now face new barriers to accessing dental care. Challenges like the loss of insurance, transportation issues, and limited mobility can leave seniors vulnerable to tooth loss, untreated decay, root fragments, and oral debris—all conditions that can cause pain and lower quality of life. Addressing this growing population's needs will require system-wide changes.

### TOOTH LOSS



#### PREVENTION

Tooth decay and gum disease are preventable but can cause tooth loss if left untreated.



#### NATURAL TEETH LOSS

1 in 3 nursing home residents are missing all natural teeth and of those, 25% do not have dentures.

#### IMPACT OF TOOTH LOSS

Tooth loss can affect the overall quality of life in the following ways:



self-esteem



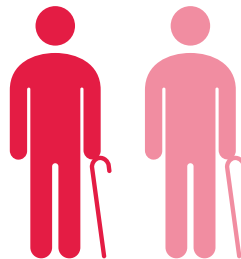
speaking



sleeping



eating



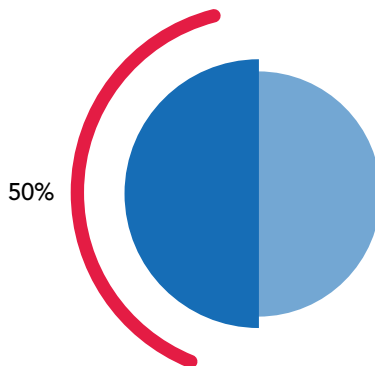
#### UNMET DENTAL NEEDS

1 in 2 (50%) nursing home residents have unmet dental treatment needs.



#### BACK TOOTH LOSS

1 in 3 older adults in nursing homes do not have back teeth that function for eating.



#### UNTREATED DECAY

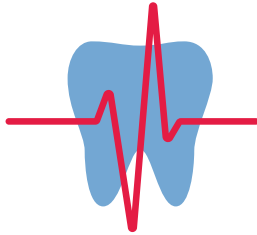
1 in 2 older adults in nursing homes have untreated tooth decay.

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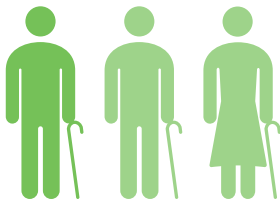
## THE ORAL HEALTH OF WISCONSIN'S OLDER ADULTS

### OTHER FACTORS



#### HEALTH COMPLICATIONS

Poor oral health complicates diabetes and has been linked with other conditions such as heart disease, bacterial pneumonia, and stroke.



#### BROKEN TEETH

1 in 3 nursing home residents have teeth that have decayed or broken down to the gum line.

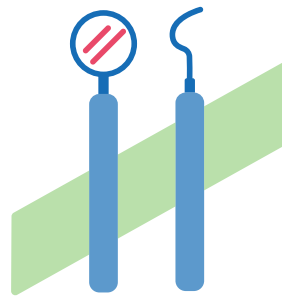


#### GINGIVAL INFLAMMATION

1 in 4 older adults in nursing homes have moderate to severe gingival inflammation.

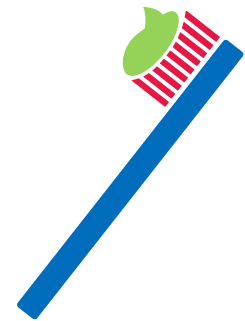
#### BARRIERS TO CARE

Nursing home residents face additional barriers to accessing dental care like cost, transportation, and mobility.



#### PERIODONTAL CARE

2 in 5 older adults in nursing homes need periodontal care.

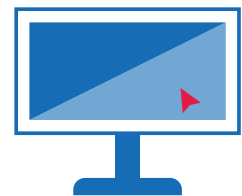


#### ORAL DEBRIS

1 in 4 nursing home residents have substantial oral debris.

For more information about the Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey visit:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01121.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01121.pdf)



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES