



THE ORAL HEALTH OF ADULTS LIVING IN MISSOURI'S SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

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 60-100 years (mean=76)

22 Skilled nursing facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand programs that provide oral health education 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 including observation of possible future dental problems.
- Create a referral system between the skilled nursing facilities and safety-net dental clinics for people with urgent dental needs.
- Consider the use of silver diamine fluoride treatment by supervised teledentistry hygienists.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Office of Dental Health

oralhealth.mo.gov or 573.751.5874

ORAL HEALTH STATUS

PEOPLE WITH FEWER THAN 20 TEETH HAVE TROUBLE EATING HEALTHY FOOD

74% Experience severe tooth loss

39% Have no natural teeth

TOOTH DECAY & GUM DISEASE CAN CAUSE PAIN & LIFE-THREATING INFECTIONS

39% People with teeth have untreated decay

27% People with teeth needing periodontal care because of gum disease

MANY NURSING FACILITY RESIDENTS RELY ON STAFF TO CLEAN THEIR MOUTH

35% People with teeth have less than satisfactory oral health

MANY PEOPLE AT SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES CENTERS HAVE NO DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO REPLACE MISSING TEETH

Medicare does not cover most dental care. Medicaid only covers a limited number of dental services and does not provide dentures after teeth are pulled.

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