



THE ORAL HEALTH OF ADULTS AT MISSOURI'S SENIOR / NUTRITION CENTERS

SENIOR / NUTRITION CENTERS IN URBAN AND RURAL SETTINGS

Senior / nutrition centers connect older adults to vital community services that can help them stay healthy and independent.

WHO TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY

296 People aged 60-96 years (mean=74)

24 Senior or nutrition centers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand programs that provide oral health education and preventive dental services at senior centers and nutrition centers.
- Promote the importance of oral health to the centers' clients.
- Office of Dental Health will work with the Bureau of Senior Programs and centers in ways to improve their clients' oral health.



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

52% People with severe tooth loss

23% People with no natural teeth

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

34% People with teeth with untreated decay

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

PEOPLE WITH TEETH DO NOT PROPERLY
CLEAN THEIR MOUTH

11% People with teeth with less than satisfactory oral health

MANY PEOPLE AT SENIOR OR NUTRITION
CENTERS HAVE NO DENTAL INSURANCE
COVERAGE

Medicare does not cover most dental care and Medicaid only covers a limited number of dental services.

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