



# WEST VIRGINIA ADULT POPULATION ORAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

2012

## Baseline Data Collection to Strengthen the Oral Health of Adult West Virginians

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY & THE WEST VIRGINIA BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Oral health means much more than healthy teeth, and is integral to the general health and well-being of all West Virginians. It is well-documented, but relatively unknown within the general population, that oral diseases and conditions can profoundly affect one's systemic and overall health. For example, poor oral health is associated with morbidities such as diabetes, respiratory infections, and poor birth outcomes. Safe and effective means do exist for maintaining good oral health and preventing disease. Unfortunately, many individuals still experience needless pain and suffering, resulting in complications that can devastate overall health and well-being and impose financial and social costs that significantly diminish the quality of life.

Action at all levels of society - from individuals to communities to the state - are needed to maintain the health and well-being of West Virginians and to address the disparities in oral health status. In order to identify specific problems that need to be addressed, the Oral Health Program in the Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health, Bureau for Public Health, sponsored an assessment of adult oral health in West Virginia. The purpose of this assessment was to identify the prevalence of tooth decay and edentulism, and to identify gaps in insurance coverage.

The method used for this assessment was to screen a convenience sample of adults at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's). FQHCs serve one in five West Virginians and provide services in all 55 counties. Additionally, these centers serve everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, thus capturing the full spectrum of patients by insurance coverage. FQHCs were randomly selected using a probability proportional to size sampling scheme to assure a sample representative of the entire state. This was the first time for conducting a statewide sample of adults. Screenings were conducted by trained examiners from August to November 2012. A total of 403 adults participated in the screening.

### Demographics

#### **Gender**

Female: 275 (68%)

Male: 128 (32%)

#### **Race**

Caucasian: 394 (97.8%)

African-American: 6 (1.5%)

Other: 3 (0.7%)

#### **Age Range**

18 to 95 years old (average age of 48)





West Virginia’s oral health survey provides essential information about the oral health of the adult West Virginian, helps to identify oral healthcare issues and can guide future practice and policy.

## Summary of Findings

Prevalence of Untreated Decay: **30%**

Prevalence of those who haven’t visited a dentist in over 5 years: **22%**

Prevalence of those who were completely edentulous (those without any natural teeth): **12.4%**

Prevalence of need for dental treatment (Early/Urgent): **33%**

Those with some type of DENTAL coverage: **40%** vs. **81%** with some type of MEDICAL coverage

Of the **81%** with Medical Coverage, only **43%** had an option to purchase supplemental DENTAL coverage with their existing plan

Of the **262 (65%)** reporting they have a dentist that they usually go to for care and advice:

- **72.5%** had been seen in the past 12 months
- **17.9%** had a need for dental treatment

Of the **215 (53.3%)** that noted they had visited a dentist in the last 12 months, the main reason for the visit was:

- Check up, exam, cleaning: **74%**
- Pain, something bothering them, something was wrong: **14%**

Those that could not access care when needed over the past 12 months	66 (16%)	Reason that Dental Care During Any Time Could Not be Secured*	
		Could Not Afford It	n=91
Those utilizing an ER/ Urgent Care for dental pain or issues over the past 12 months	29 (7.2%)	No Insurance	n=96
Those having reported dental pain occasionally or very often over the last 12 months	94 (23%)	Other	n=45

\* Participants could select more than one option, so percentages are not present



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**For more information:** For additional state and national data, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/index.htm> as data and information change frequently and is updated on a regular basis.

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