

State of Oral Health Equity in America 2024 Survey Key Findings



State of Oral Health Equity in America 2024

The 2024 State of Oral Health Equity in America survey is a nationally representative survey of over 9,000 adults' attitudes, experiences, and behaviors related to oral health. Future reports will take a deeper dive into specific outcomes and experiences; some key findings are highlighted here.

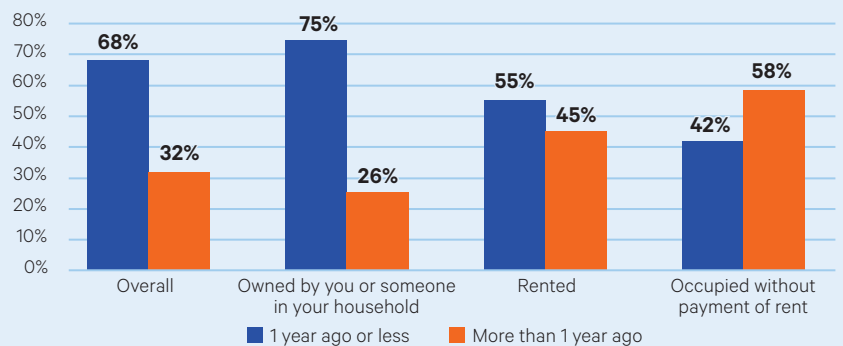
Dental Visits in the Past Year



Over two-thirds
of adults overall (68%) report
seeing a dentist in the prior
year, up slightly from 67% of
adults in 2023 and 65% in 2022.

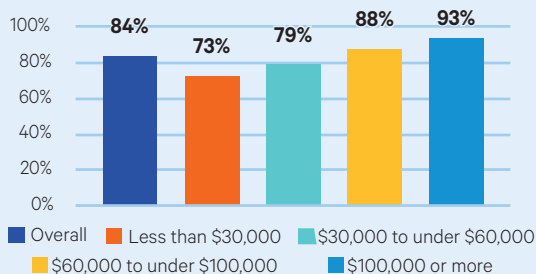
Adults who own their own homes (75%)
report seeing a dentist in the prior year
in **higher percentages** than those who rent
their homes (55%) or occupy their homes
without paying rent (42%).

Time Since Last Dental Visit by Home Ownership



Planned Dental Visits in the Coming Year

Planning Future Dental Visit by Income



Most adults (84%) say they plan to see a dentist in the coming year for routine or preventive care, comparable to the number of adults planning to see a dentist in 2023 (84%) and 2022 (85%).

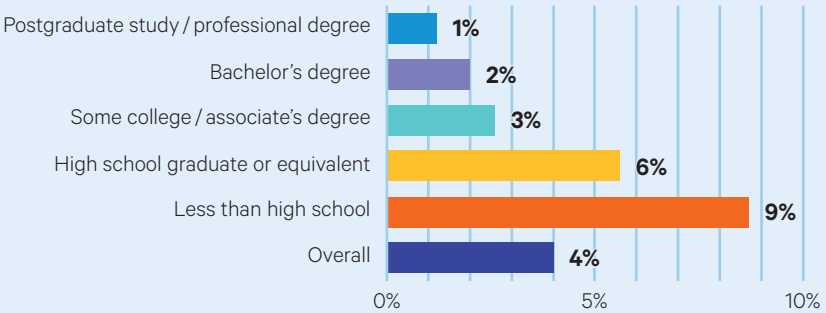
Those earning \$100K or more per year report planning to seek dental care in greater numbers (93%) than those earning less than \$30K per year (73%).

Emergency Department Visits for Dental Care

Approximately 4% of adults reported seeking dental care through an emergency department (ED) in the prior year, remaining stable from 2023 (4%) and 2022 (4%).

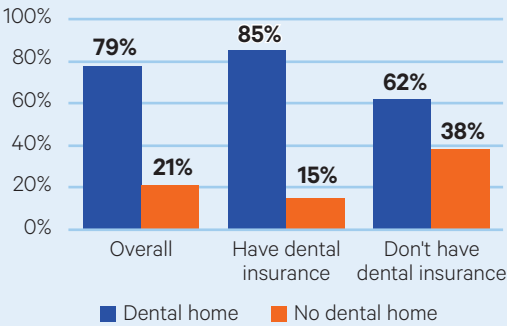
Adults with less than a high school education were nine times more likely to report seeking dental care through an ED (9%) than those with a postgraduate or professional degree (1%).

In the last year, have you visited a hospital emergency department (ED) or an emergency room (ER) for dental care or pain/discomfort in your mouth? (Yes)



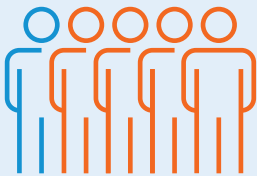
The Dental Home — Having a Usual Source of Dental Care

Presence of a Dental Home by Dental Insurance



Nearly eight in ten adults say they have a usual source of dental care, otherwise known as a dental home (79%), higher than the number reporting a dental home in 2023 (75%) and 2022 (76%).

More than four out of five adults with dental insurance say they have a dental home (85%) compared to just over half of adults without dental insurance (62%).



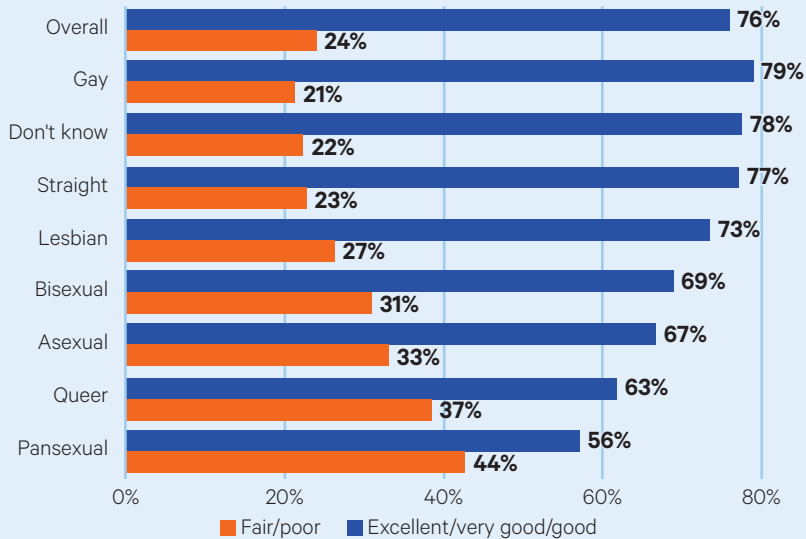
Self-Rated Oral Health



Overall, 76% of adults rated their oral health as excellent, very good, or good, up slightly from 2023 (74%) and 2022 (75%).

Adults identifying as gay (79%), as straight (77%), or as lesbian (73%), as well as those who said they “don’t know” their sexual orientation (78%) rated their oral health in positive terms in greater percentages than adults identifying as bisexual (69%), asexual (67%), queer (63%), or pansexual (56%).

Self-Rated Oral Health by Sexual Orientation



Importance of Cultural Humility in Oral Health Care

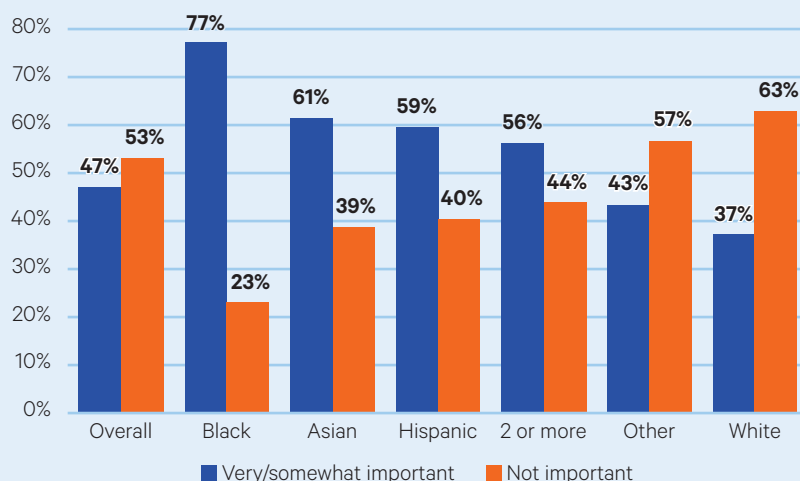
Adults were asked, “When making decisions about dental care, how important is it to you that a dentist embraces your cultural preferences (i.e., values, beliefs, norms) in their treatment recommendations?”*



Overall, 53% of adults said this was “not at all important” to them.

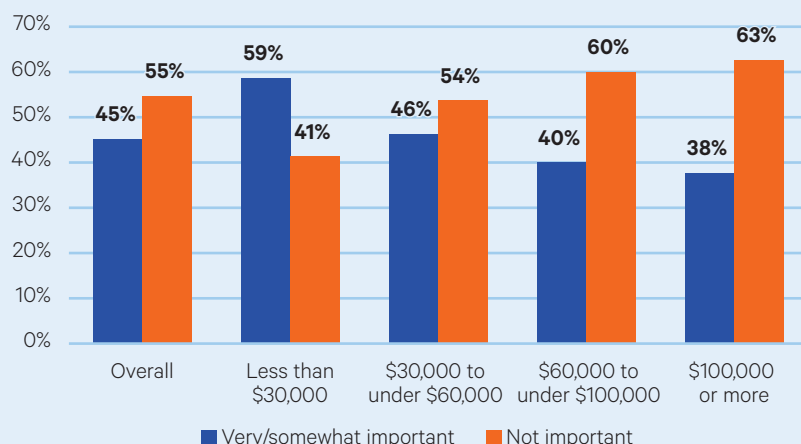
However, greater proportions of adults identifying as Black (77%), Asian (61%), Hispanic (59%), or two or more races (56%) said a dentist embracing their cultural differences was very or somewhat important to them, compared to 43% of adults identifying their race/ethnicity as “other” and 37% of adults identifying as white.

When making decisions about dental care, how important is it to you that a dentist embraces your cultural preferences (i.e., values, beliefs, norms) in their treatment recommendations?



Importance of Workforce Diversity in Oral Health Care

When making decisions about dental care, how important is it to you that a dental office has a diverse workforce?



Adults were asked, “When making decisions about dental care, how important is it to you that a dental office has a diverse workforce?”*



Over half (55%) of adults overall said this was not important to them.

However, adults reporting an annual income of \$30,000 or less said their dental office having a diverse workforce was very or somewhat important in greater percentages (59%) than adults with higher annual incomes.

*Questions about dentists embracing patients' culture and having a diverse workforce were introduced into the survey for the first time in 2024.

> For more information,
visit [State of Oral Health Equity in America 2023](#) or carequest.org.

Suggested Citation:

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