



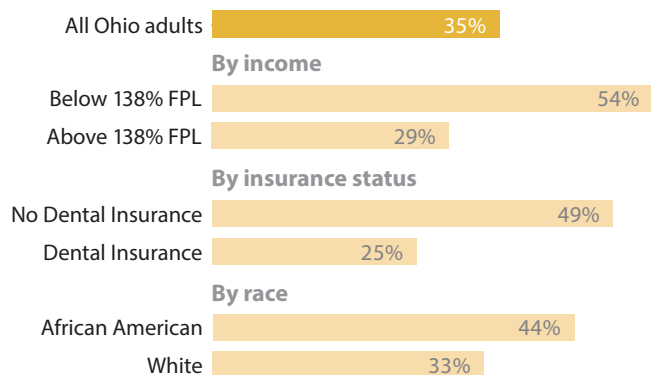
Many Ohio adults forgo dental checkups

Maintaining good oral health habits can help improve overall health. One of these habits is routine dental checkups. The American Dental Association recommends that people visit a dentist twice a year. During these visits, dental professionals can identify and treat problems early, preventing dental pain and higher treatment costs later.

According to the 2013 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)**, more than 3 in 10 Ohio adults (35%) reported that they had not visited a dentist within the past year for any reason. More than 2 in 10 adults (23%) had not visited a dentist in more than two years. Those less likely to have visited a dentist in the past year include Ohio adults who:

- Live below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL)¹ (54%)
- Do not have dental insurance (49%)
- Are African American (44%)

Have not been to dentist in the past year

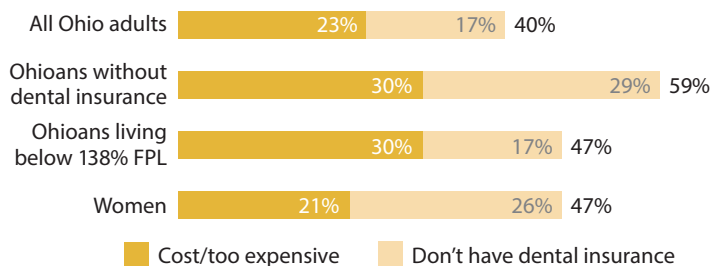


Cost is most important reason adults haven't visited dentist

Among Ohio adults who hadn't been to the dentist in the past year, 4 in 10 said cost (23%) or a lack of dental insurance (17%) was the most important reason they

hadn't been to a dentist. For particular groups of Ohio adults, cost or lack of insurance were significant factors in not seeing a dentist:

What is the most important reason you have not visited the dentist in the last 12 months?



2 in 10 Ohio adults wait until problem develops to see dentist

Beyond cost and insurance, 2 in 10 (21%) Ohio adults who hadn't been to the dentist in the past year said the most important reason was because they hadn't had any dental problems.

Regular checkups are intended to identify and prevent oral health problems, not just treat existing problems. Cavities and gum disease may develop for months before a person notices symptoms. When people wait to see a dentist until they notice a problem, they often require more extensive—and more expensive—treatment than they would have needed had they seen a dentist sooner.

Among Ohio adults who haven't been to the dentist in the past year, men (30%) and those with dental insurance (30%) were more likely to say that not having dental problems was the most important reason they didn't go to a dentist.

¹ 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2012 was \$31,800 for a family of four.

These findings unless otherwise noted are from Interact for Health's Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted May 19-June 2, 2013, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. The oral health questions were co-sponsored by the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio. A random sample of 868 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included interviews conducted by both landline telephone and cell phone. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to ±3.3%.

There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies such as non-response, question wording or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about OHIP, please visit www.interactforhealth.org/ohio-health-issues-poll. If you have questions about the data in this document, please contact Jennifer Chubinski, Director of Community Research, at 513-458-6608 or jchubinski@interactforhealth.org.