



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.

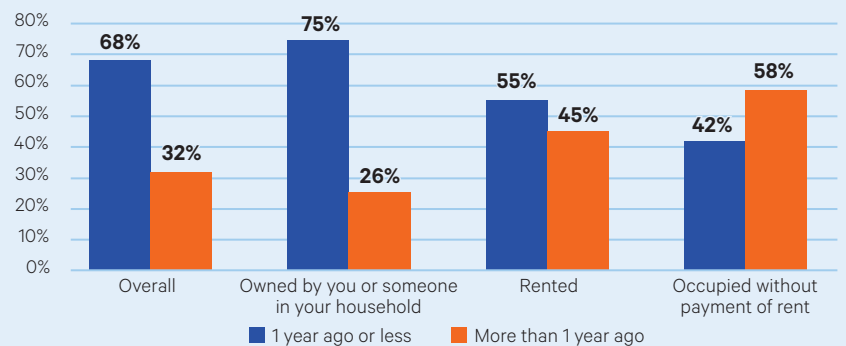
Dental Visits in the Past Year



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.

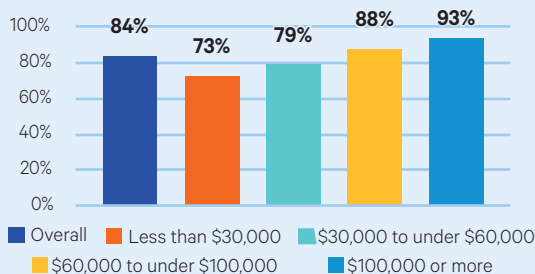
Adults who own their own homes (75%) report seeing a dentist in the prior year in higher percentages than those who rent their homes (55%) or occupy their homes without paying rent (42%).

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%).

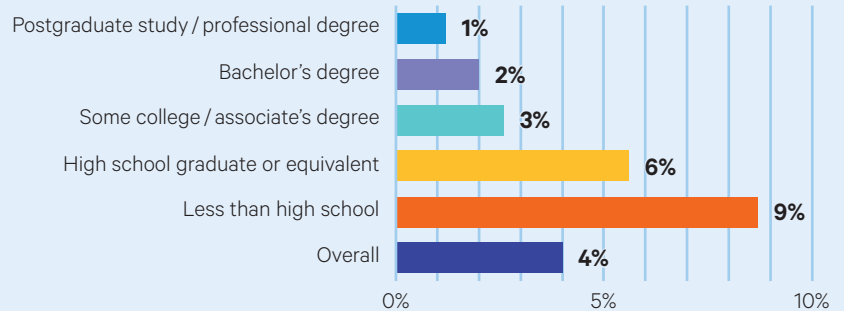
Those earning \$100K or more per year report planning to seek dental care in greater numbers (93%) than those earning less than \$30K per year (73%).

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%).

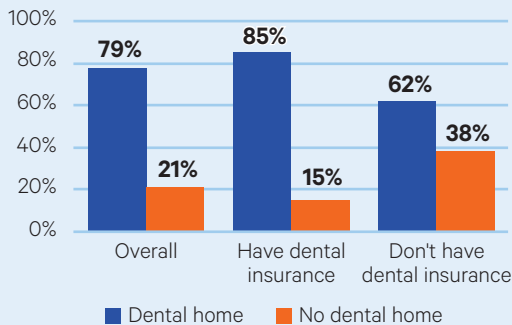
Adults with less than a high school education were nine times more likely to report seeking dental care through an ED (9%) than those with a postgraduate or professional degree (1%).

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)



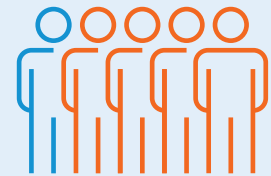
The Dental Home — Having a Usual Source of Dental Care

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%).



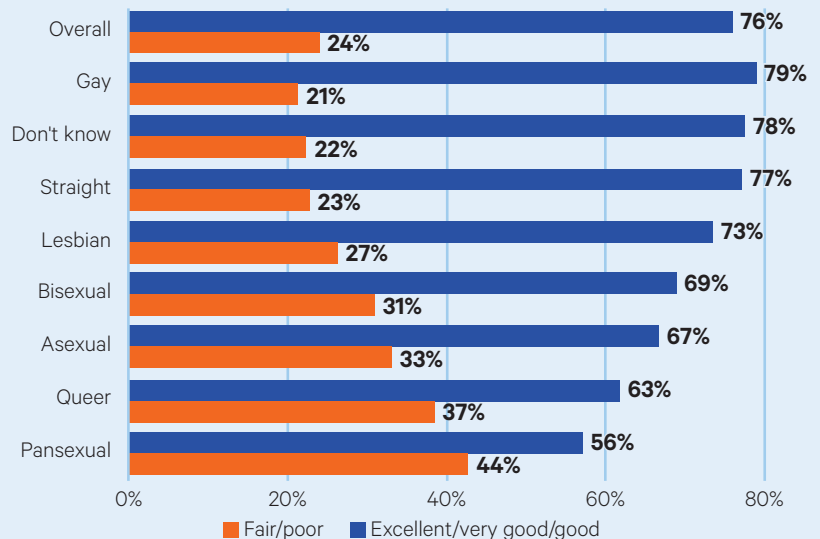
Self-Rated Oral Health



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

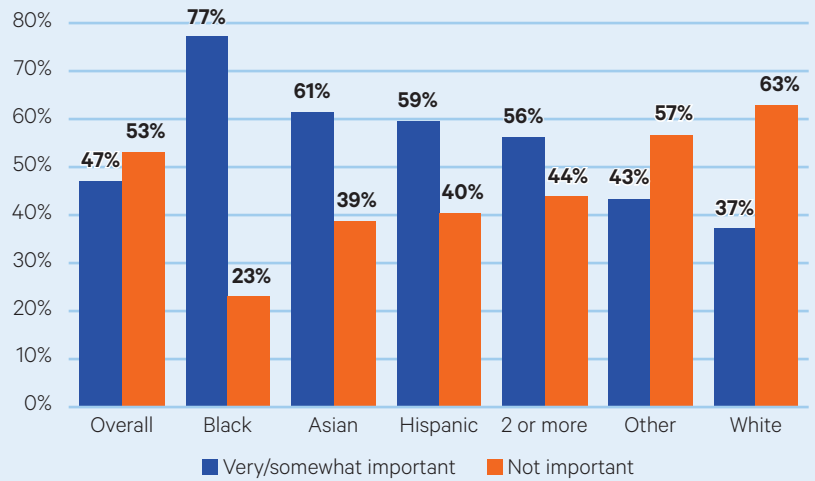
Adults were asked, “When making decisions about dental care, how important is it to you that a dentist embraces your cultural preferences (i.e., values, beliefs, norms) in their treatment recommendations?”*

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?



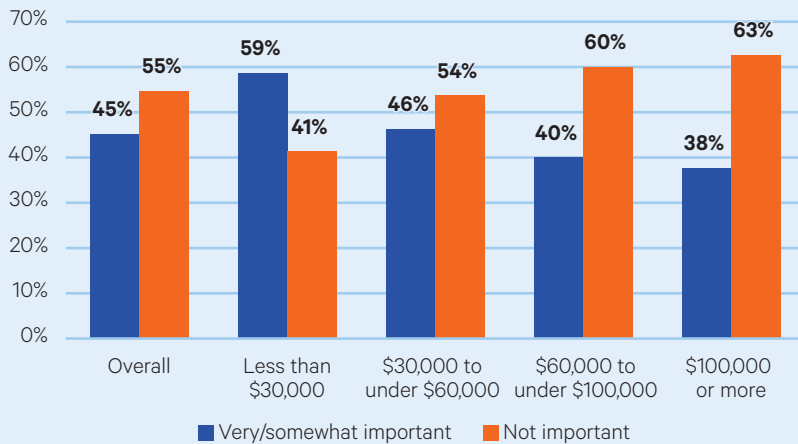
Overall, 53% of adults said this was “not at all important” to them.

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.



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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