

PINELLAS COUNTY ORAL HEALTH PROFILE

2013

Oral Health Guidelines

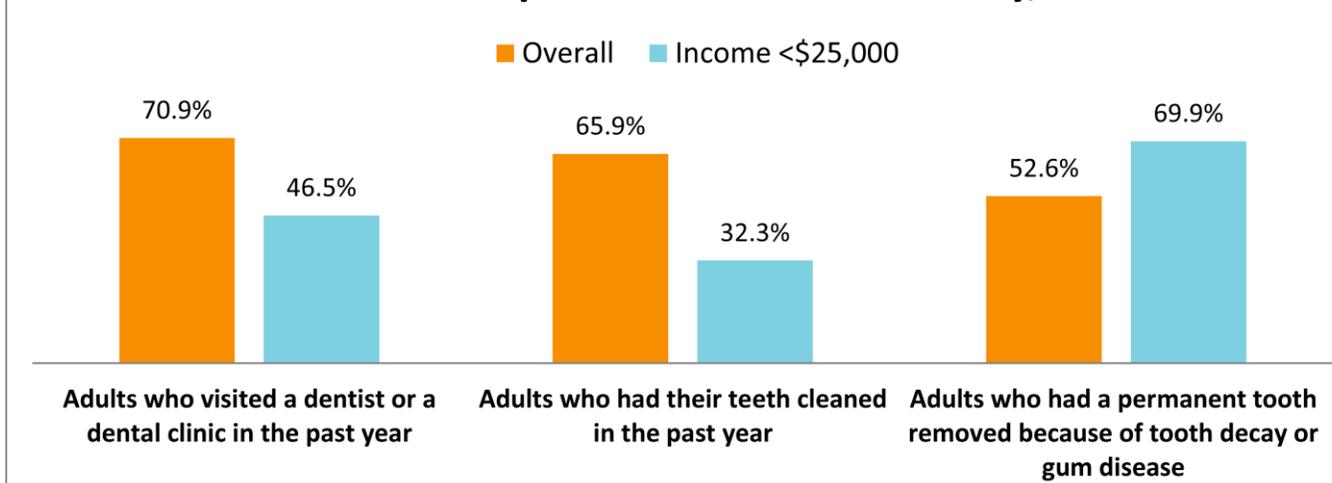
- “**Oral health**” refers to the health of your mouth and teeth.
- Adults should visit the dentist **twice a year** for a checkup, whether or not they are experiencing oral health problems.¹
- Children should also see the dentist every six months, beginning when their first tooth erupts or **no later than 12 months of age**.²
- According to the CDC, tooth decay affects children in the United States **more than any other chronic infectious disease**. Untreated tooth decay causes pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning.³



Oral Health in Pinellas: How Do We Compare to the State?

- **70.9%** of Pinellas adults visited a dentist or dental clinic in 2010, compared to **64.7%** of Florida adults.⁴
- **65.9%** of Pinellas adults received a cleaning in 2010, compared to **60.9%** in Florida overall.⁵
- Pinellas and Florida had similar rates of adults who had a permanent tooth removed because of tooth decay or gum disease: **52.6%** and **53.0%**, respectively.⁶
- **Although Pinellas often ranks better than state comparisons for oral health access, a closer look reveals that there are significant income-based disparities, as seen in the chart located below.**

Oral Health Disparities in Pinellas County, 2010⁷



FAST FACTS

6.7%

Percentage of Medicaid-eligible adults in Pinellas who received dental services in 2011⁸

27.2%

Percentage of Medicaid-eligible children in Pinellas who received dental services in 2011⁹

1,667

Approximate number of licensed dentists in Pinellas County in 2011¹⁰

25

Number of Pinellas dentists who accepted Medicaid in April 2012¹¹

4,884

Number of Pinellas residents who sought emergency room treatment for dental conditions typically considered avoidable with appropriate preventative and restorative care in 2010¹²

Maintaining Good Oral Health in Pinellas

The health of your teeth and gums is related to other health issues, like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Fast Facts (left) highlights information related to oral health access. The information below includes policies, data, and resources related to oral health in Pinellas County.

- ❖ Florida recently moved its Medicaid dental program for children to a managed care system. This means clients no longer have a co-pay, but they must see dentists within their network, and all services must be pre-approved. More information can be found at the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration's website: <http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/medicaid/pdhp/index.shtml>
- ❖ Medicaid does not cover preventive oral healthcare for adults; evaluations are limited to determining the need for dentures or for acute emergency service. A list of low-cost dental resources can be found in the Pinellas County Resource Guide for Dental Services at <http://www.tampabayoralhealth.com/pinellas-county-resource-guide.php>.
- ❖ In a June 2013 report, The Pew Charitable Trusts named Florida as the state where children on Medicaid are least likely to receive dental care. The report is posted on Pew's website: http://www.pewstates.org/uploadedFiles/PCS_Assets/2013/I_n_search_of_dental_care.pdf
- ❖ Pinellas County's drinking water has a fluoride level of 0.7 ppm, which is recommended for optimal dental health. This fluoride concentration can reduce the amount of cavities in baby teeth by as much as 60% and reduce tooth decay in adults by nearly 35%.¹³

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1. Cleveland Clinic Health Library. http://my.clevelandclinic.org/services/dental_care/hic_dental_check-up.aspx. Accessed 21 August 2013.
2. AAPD Guideline on Periodicity of Examination. http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/G_Periodicity.pdf. Accessed 21 August 2013.
3. CDC Children's Oral Health Overview. http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/children_adults/child.htm. Accessed 9 August 2013.
- 4, 5, 6, 7, 10. 2010 Pinellas BRFSS. <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/Brfss.aspx>. Accessed 9 August 2013.
- 8, 9, 11, 12. FLPHI Oral Health Access Profile: Pinellas County. <http://cdn.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/FloridaOralHealth2011/Pinellas%20Access.pdf>. Accessed 9 August 2013.
13. Pinellas County Utilities. <http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/fluoridation.htm>. Accessed 9 August 2013.

