



# Oral Health

## 2019 Community Health Survey of Larimer County Residents

Oral health is essential to overall health. Good oral health improves a person's ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions to show feelings and emotions. However, oral diseases, from cavities to oral cancer, cause significant pain and disability for many Americans. Good self-care, such as brushing with fluoride toothpaste, daily flossing, and professional treatment, is key to good oral health.

*Source: Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion;*

### Access to Dental Care

**77%**

of Larimer County adults have a regular place for dental care

**68%**

of Larimer County adults have health insurance that covers at least part of the cost for dental services

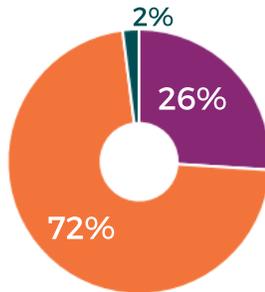
Do you have health insurance that covers at least part of the cost for dental services?

Lower Income\* (<250% FPL)



■ Yes  
■ No  
■ Don't know

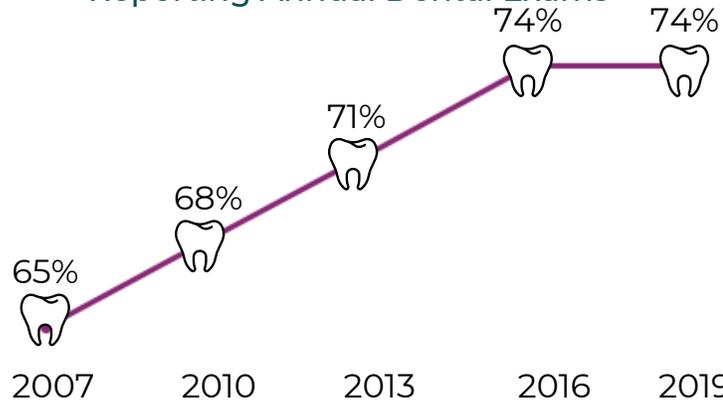
Higher Income (>250% FPL)



### Annual Dental Cleanings

According to the CDC, those who visit a dentist for a cleaning or checkup at least once a year are less likely to develop oral problems. In Larimer County, those who report getting an annual dental exam have been steadily increasing since 2007.

#### Larimer County Adults Reporting Annual Dental Exams



Of those reporting lower income status (<185%FPL), only 52% had a dental exam in the past year, compared to 79% of those reporting higher income (>185%FPL).

### Access to Dental Care for Low-Income Seniors\*



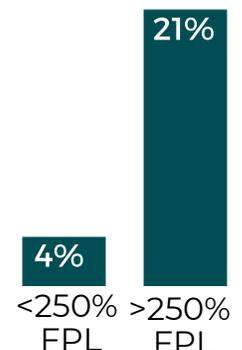
1 in 2 (54%) of seniors (65+) from lower income households (<250%FPL) have no insurance to help with the cost of dental care compared to 37% of adults age 18-64.

Medicare does not cover dental procedures and out-of-pocket costs may be out of reach for seniors from low income households on fixed incomes.

### Low Income Seniors\* and Dental Cleanings

Seniors from lower income households are 5x more likely to report their last dental exam or cleaning was never or more than five years than seniors from higher income households (21% vs 4%).

#### Seniors Reporting Dental Cleanings >5 Years Ago



# Oral Problems in Larimer County

**18%**  
of Larimer  
County residents  
report currently  
having a  
toothache or any  
other problem  
with teeth or  
gums.



Those reporting lower income (<250% FPL) were 2x times more likely to report current oral problems (15% vs. 31%).

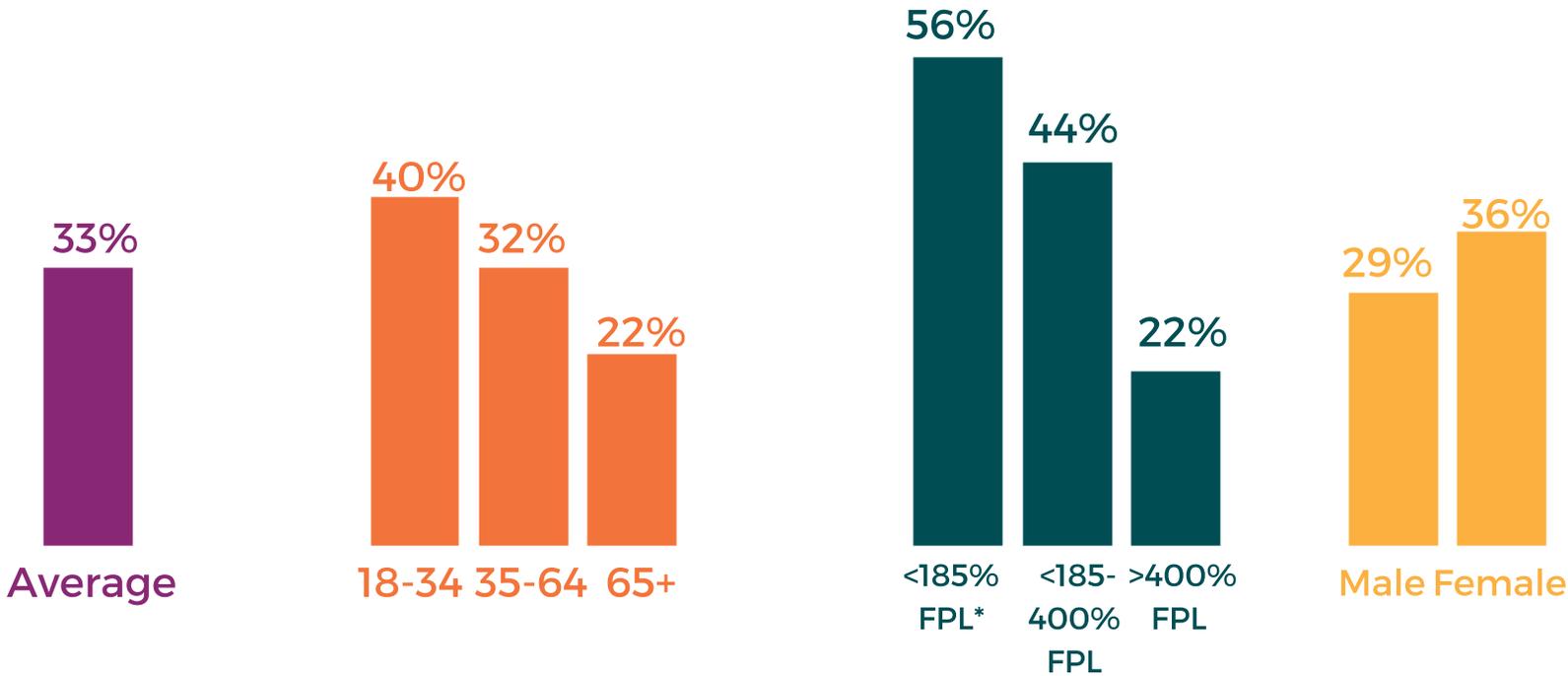


Larimer County adults who reported a dental exam in the past year were over 2x as likely to report NO oral problems (34% vs 13%)



Larimer County adults who use tobacco were twice as likely to report a current oral problem (16% vs 33%)

## Larimer County Adults Who Put Off Dental Visits Because of Cost



### \*FPL and Income Categories\*

FPL, or Federal Poverty Level, is a measure of household income. This survey was conducted in 2019 and used 2018 income breakouts. For example, a single person with a household income of less than \$30,350 would be categorized as "low-income" or <250%FPL.

## Need Affordable Dental Care ?

Visit us online at  
[healthdistrict.org/dental](https://healthdistrict.org/dental)  
or call  
**(970) 416-5331**

for information about our Family Dental Clinic and if you are eligible for free or discounted services.