### Variations in Use of Preventative Dental Services among U.S. Diabetic Adults, BRFSS 2010

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## **Learning Objectives**

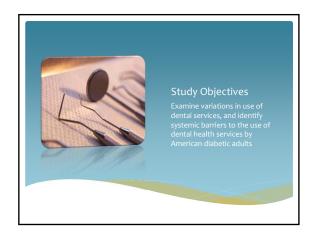
- 1. Describe the magnitude of dental health problems among diabetic adults in the United States
- 2. Describe dental health services utilization patterns among diabetic adults in the United States
- 3. Discuss strategies to eliminate the barriers to dental health services experienced by diabetics

## Background

#### Healthy People 2020 Objectives

- Increase the proportion of persons with diagnosed diabetes who attend at least one annual dental exam by 10% with a baseline target of 61.2%
- Promote and support the use of preventative dental services among the diabetic population¹
- Diabetics may be unaware of their risk level for oral complications such as dental caries, dry mouth, and periodontitis<sup>2,4</sup>
- Oral complications can be temporally related to diabetes<sup>3</sup>
- Glycemic levels and nutritional intake and absorption need monitoring<sup>5</sup>
- Preventive care can reduce oral complications, lead to the improvement of glucose metabolism and nutritional intake

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## Variables of Interest

#### Dependent

• Dental cleaning in the past 12 months

#### Independent

- Socio-demographic variables
  - Age, gender, race and ethnicity, marital status
- Predisposing variables
  - Body mass index, alcohol consumption, smoking cigarettes, and general health status
- Enabling Variables
  - Employment, Insurance, Income

## Methods

#### Data

• 2010 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

#### Study Population

- n= 57,480
- Diabetic men & women
- Age 18+

#### Statistics

- Frequency distributions
- Cross tabulations
- Multiple logistic regression

## **Descriptive Results**

Variable	No. Observations	Weighted Percent	
Age			
< 35 years	972	5.21 %	
35- 49 years	5,610	17.6 %	
50 - 64 years	20,867	38.1 %	
> 64 years	29,592	38.4 %	
Missing	439	0.66 %	
Race / Ethnicity			
White	40,840	62.1 %	
Black/African American	7,286	14.8 %	
Hispanic	4,849	14.9 %	
Others	4,505	8.2 %	



## Results

Significant predictors of dental services utilization (p ≤ 0.001):

- Education (completion of high school and/or college)
   Race/ethnicity (Black/African American)
- \* Income
- \* Unemployment\* Overweight\* Smoking cigarettes

- \* Insurance coverage \* General health status
- \* Lack of exercise

Significant predictors of dental services utilization  $(p \le 0.01)$ :

- \* Age (>64 years)
- \* Gender
- \* Marital status

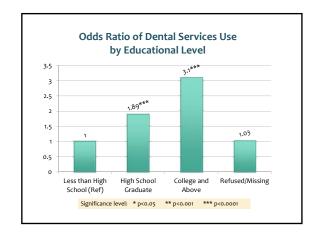
#### **Dental Services Use by Income** Dental Cleaning in past 12 months Last Dental Visit in Variable past 12 months Weighted % No. Obs. Weighted % No. Obs. Income less than \$20,000 4,783 7.78 % 6,198 9.94 % \$20,000 - \$34, 999 6,030 9.37 % 7,055 11.0 % \$35,000 - \$49, 999 8,509 15.4 % 9,108 16.4 % 5,582 13.2 % \$50,000 and more 5,395 12.8 % Other (missing) 6.74 % 4,846 7.77 % \*\*\* p <0.001

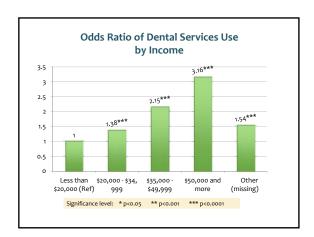
# Distribution of Dental Services Use by Gender

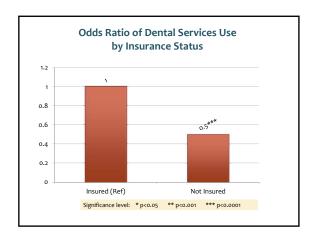
	Females		Males	
	No. Obs.	Weighted Percent	No. Obs.	Weighted Percent
Last Dental Visit in past 12 months				
Yes (12 months or less)	19,077	28.3 %	13,712	30.0 %
No	15,116	21.3 %	9,575	20.5 %
Dental Cleaning in past 12 months				
Yes	16,653	25.1 %	12,211	27.0 %
No	17,540	24.4 %	11,076	23.5 %
			*	** p <0.001

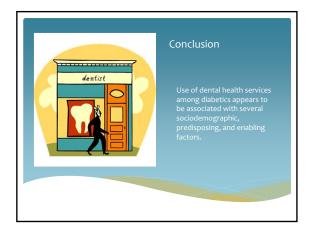
Dental Services Use
by Education Level

100%
80%
40%
20%
20%
18.1%
20.1%
College and Refused/ Missing
School Education Above









## References

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