

Achieving Oral Health Equity In Tampa Bay



Promoting oral health as essential to lifelong good health and well-being.

Achieving Oral Health Equity in Tampa Bay (AOHE), an initiative of the Tampa Bay Healthcare Collaborative focuses on creating significant systems and public policy change. As a member of the Oral Health 2020 Network, we are committed to health equity and social justice – ensuring good oral health for all.

As part of this effort, TBHC administered over 600 surveys, facilitated 6 focus groups and conducted numerous interviews with stakeholders to better understanding the community's current attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs regarding oral health and dental services. Highlights of the findings are shared in this document.

Importance vs. Condition



91% of respondents agree that oral health is important



50% of respondents describe the condition of their teeth and gums as 'poor' or 'fair'



38% of respondents avoid "smiling and laughing" due to the condition of their teeth

Knowledge vs. Behavior

92% believe regular checkups will prevent dental health problems

however

35% only visit the dentist when they have a toothache

33% of respondents reported visiting the dentist within the **last 6 months**



27% reported it had been **1-2 years**



20% reported it had been **2-4 years**



2% reported **never** visiting the dentist



**13% of respondents did not know and 5% selected other*

Identifying Barriers to Accessing Dental Care

Survey respondents were asked to identify barriers to getting dental care and/or reasons they delayed or avoided scheduling a dental appointment.

The following areas were identified:



50%

of respondents reported delaying care due to **cost**



Equity and Social Justice

Residents were asked if they had ever felt discriminated against by a dentist or dental professional because of certain characteristics.

13% of the respondents felt discriminated based on **insurance**



7% of respondents felt discriminated against because of **race**



12% of respondents felt discriminated based on **income**



5% of respondents felt discriminated due to **age**



69% reported not feeling discriminated against



26% of respondents felt that their **race** impacts their ability to access quality dental care

**Note – total exceeds 100%, respondents were able to select ALL that apply*

