



EVERY SMILE COUNTS FOR OLDER ADULTS

THE ORAL HEALTH OF VULNERABLE OLDER ADULTS IN CONNECTICUT

The 2022 Every Smile Counts for Older Adults survey is a statewide oral health survey conducted through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Office of Oral Health to assess the oral health status of vulnerable older adults in Connecticut. 84.5% of survey respondents were age 65 or older.

LTC = Long-term Care Facility

CM = Congregate Meal Site



Many vulnerable older adults in Connecticut's LTC facilities do not have any natural teeth and many do not have dentures to facilitate eating.

22% had *no natural teeth* (edentulous).

45% *did not* have a full set of dentures

Many vulnerable older adults in Connecticut show signs of periodontal disease.

44% of residents of LTC facilities *need periodontal care*
with
37% having gingival inflammation

13% of CM site participants *need periodontal care*
with
8% having gingival inflammation

59% of *Hispanic* LTC residents need periodontal care

49% of *Black* LTC residents need periodontal care

42% of *White* LTC residents need periodontal care

Vulnerable older adults in Connecticut's LTC facilities have significantly more untreated dental decay, substantial tooth loss, and no natural teeth compared to the general population of older adults in the United States.

30% of Connecticut's dentate LTC residents *have untreated dental decay* (double the national average)

61% of Connecticut's LTC residents are *more likely to have substantial tooth loss*
and
22% *no natural teeth*

Connecticut's dentate CM site participants:

8% are *less likely* to be edentulous

34% have substantial *tooth loss*

11% have *untreated* dental decay

Nearly 40% of the vulnerable older adults screened at the CM sites do not believe their teeth or dentures are in good condition.

Approximately half of the Black and Hispanic participants at CM sites report fair or poor oral health:

46%

BLACK

53%

HISPANIC

34%

WHITE

15% of those screened at the CM sites reported barriers to accessing dental care.

56% reported *problems affording* dental care

21% reported *problems getting appointments* when they need it



Connecticut Department of Public Health
Office of Oral Health
410 Capitol Avenue, MS # 11 DNT
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph/oralhealth

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