

New research shows oral health remains a priority for U.S. adults, despite economic challenges



## **Key findings**

Public opinion is in favor of prioritizing oral health care, yet almost half of U.S. adults have delayed care due to inflation and rising costs.



95% of adults agree that oral health is essential to overall health. There is broad bipartisan support for federal insurance programs to cover dental care.



85% of adults, especially seniors, want Medicare to include dental care.

Almost 6 in 10 adults would continue to receive routine dental care to avoid major health care costs down the line, even if money were tight.



- Almost half of adult Americans including 42% of dental and health care workers - have delayed or canceled a dental cleaning in the past two years.
- Adults in lower income brackets were much more likely to delay oral health care than their higher-earning counterparts.
- The top reason to delay care for all adults is inflation and rising prices, regardless of income.

- 93% of Democrats and 80% of Republicans support dental coverage in Medicare.
- Almost two-thirds of seniors would be more likely to routinely visit the dentist if Medicare covered dental care.





68% of seniors believe that oral health is taken more seriously nowadays — and they haven't given up on their own oral health.



■ 86% of Democrats and 66% of Republicans support dental coverage in Medicaid.

The Delta Dental Institute's new survey assesses key audiences' understanding of the importance and impact of oral health. The survey was administered by FGS Global in October 2022, among 1,321 U.S. adults, including seniors (ages 65 and older), human resource professionals, and healthcare workers.

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