

# Oral Health in Arizona

Oral conditions have a major impact on the whole-body health of Arizonans. Oral cancer has survival rates ranging from 83% to 23%<sup>5</sup>. Gum disease is shown to be linked to dozens of diseases, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and adverse birth outcomes like preterm birth and low birth weight<sup>6</sup>.

In the United States, tooth decay is a nearly universal experience, with 90% of adults having experienced it in their lifetime<sup>6</sup>. Additionally, gum disease affects almost half of adults aged 45 to 64 years, with 10% having severe periodontitis<sup>6</sup>. Unfortunately, a lack of extensive research at the state level obscures Arizonans' true oral health status and needs.

We know the need exists. Many Arizonans need help finding and receiving dental care, especially those with low income, who live in rural settings, or require specialized care.

**Good oral health should not be a luxury. People with healthy mouths are also more likely to have healthy bodies and minds. And when we have healthier people, we have a healthier Arizona.**

## Arizona Quick Facts:

Population<sup>1</sup> 7.3 million  
78% are adults

Median Household Income, 2021  
AZ<sup>1</sup> \$65,913 US<sup>2</sup> \$70,784

Percent Living in Poverty, 2021  
AZ<sup>1</sup> 12.8% US<sup>3</sup> 11.6%

### Leading Causes of Death<sup>4</sup>

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. COVID-19
4. Accidents
5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
6. Alzheimer's Disease
7. Stroke
8. Diabetes
9. Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis
10. Suicide



## INDICATORS

1 in 5 adults avoids smiling or feels embarrassed because of the condition of their mouth and teeth<sup>7</sup>.

1 in 4 adults with a low income report that their mouth and teeth are in poor condition<sup>7</sup>.

Among adults over 65, 28% are missing 6 or more teeth, and 13% have lost all teeth<sup>8</sup>.

61% of adults had seen a dentist in the past year<sup>8</sup>.

58% of population receives fluoridated water<sup>8</sup>.

The rate of oral cancer 9.1 per 100,000. The rate for males is 13.8, and females, 5.0<sup>9</sup>.

## PROVIDERS



Almost 3 million Arizonans live in Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas<sup>10</sup>.

55.9 Dentists per 100,000 Population<sup>11</sup>.

AHCCCS is the largest insurer in Arizona<sup>12</sup>, but only provides limited emergency dental coverage for adults<sup>13</sup>.

Innovative provider models in Arizona

- Dental therapy
- Affiliated practice dental hygienist
- Tele-dentistry



Arizona Oral Health Coalition