



**Making Oral Health a Priority
for Older Adults
Ten Oaks Ballroom
June 2, 2017**

Baby Boomers- 76 Million

The Times They Are- A - Changing



Making Oral Health a Priority for Older Adults

Oral health is multi-faceted and includes the ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow and convey a range of emotions through facial expressions with confidence and without pain, discomfort and disease of the craniofacial complex.

- It is a fundamental component of health and physical and mental well-being. It exists along a continuum influenced by the values and attitudes of individuals and communities;
- It reflects the physiological, social and psychological attributes that are essential to the quality of life;
- It is influenced by the individual's changing experiences, perceptions, expectations and ability to adapt to circumstances.

Making Oral Health a Priority for **Older Adults**

Age

- **55+**
- **65+**
- **“Young-Old” (65-74 years)**
- **“Oldest-Old” (85 years and older)**

Health and Functional Status

- **Successful Aging**
- **Usual Aging**
- **Fraility**

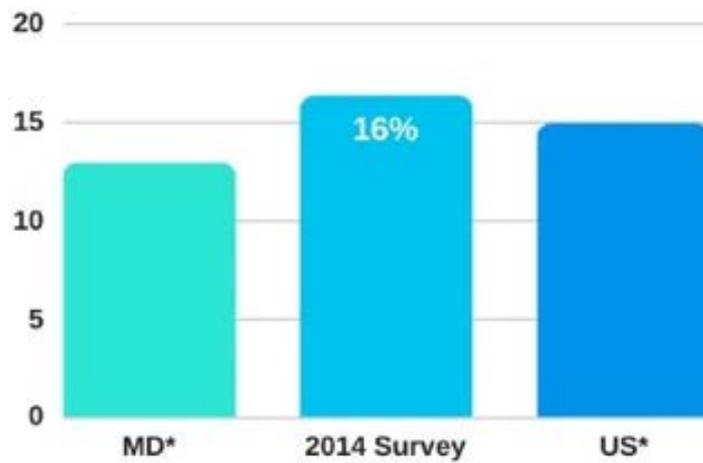
Making Oral Health a Priority for Older Adults

If something is a priority, it is the most important thing you have to do or deal with, or must be done or dealt with before everything else you have to do.

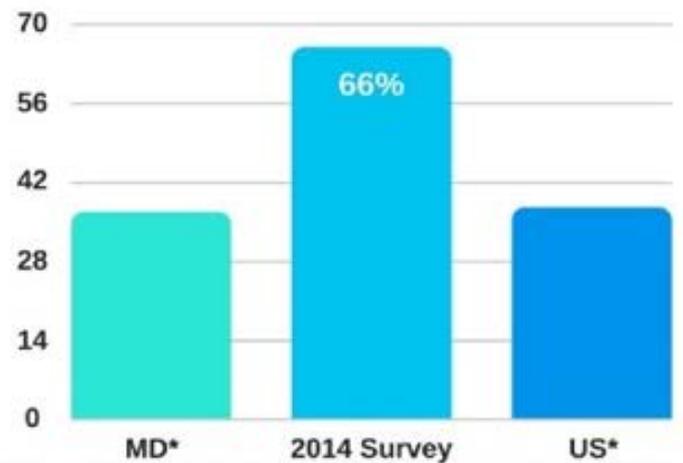
National Oral Health Adult Indicators

Adults Aged 65+

% Edentulous

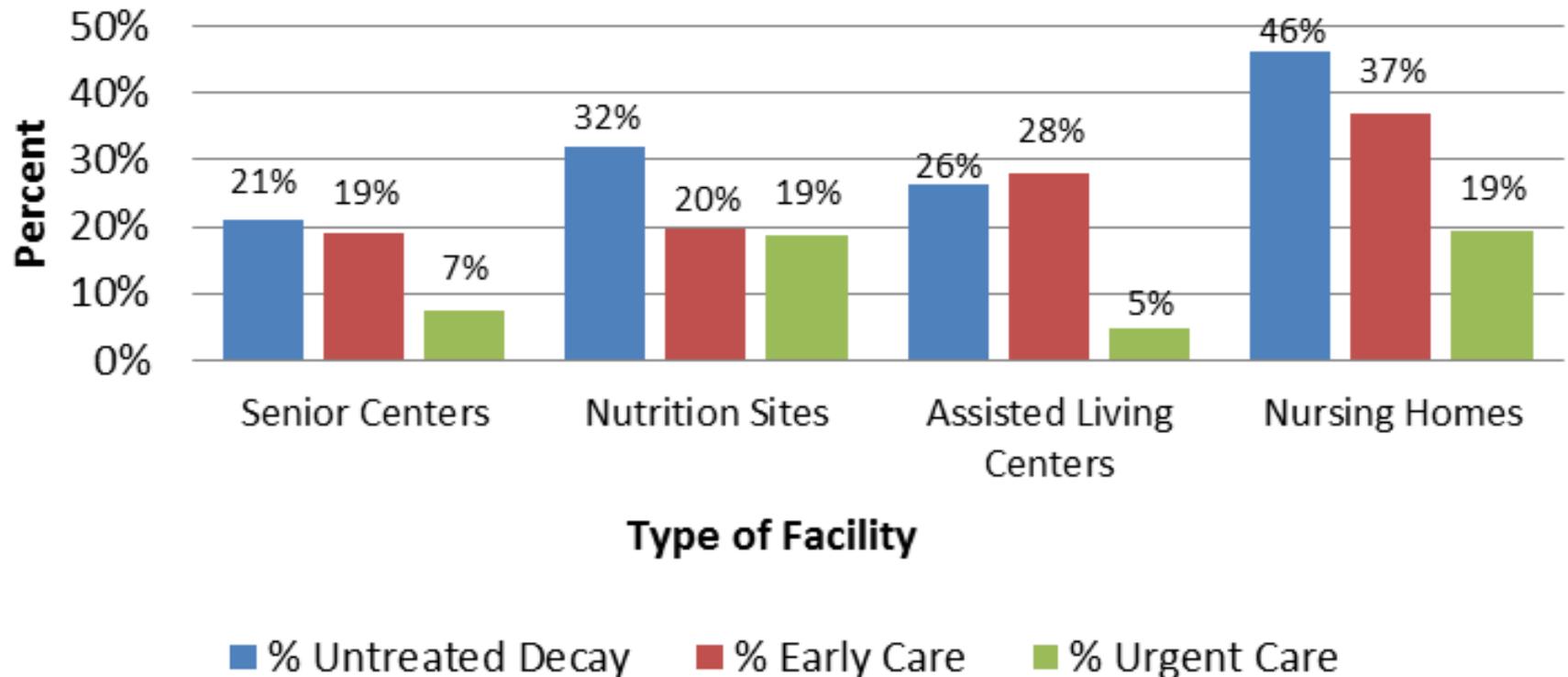


% Lost 6 or More Natural Teeth

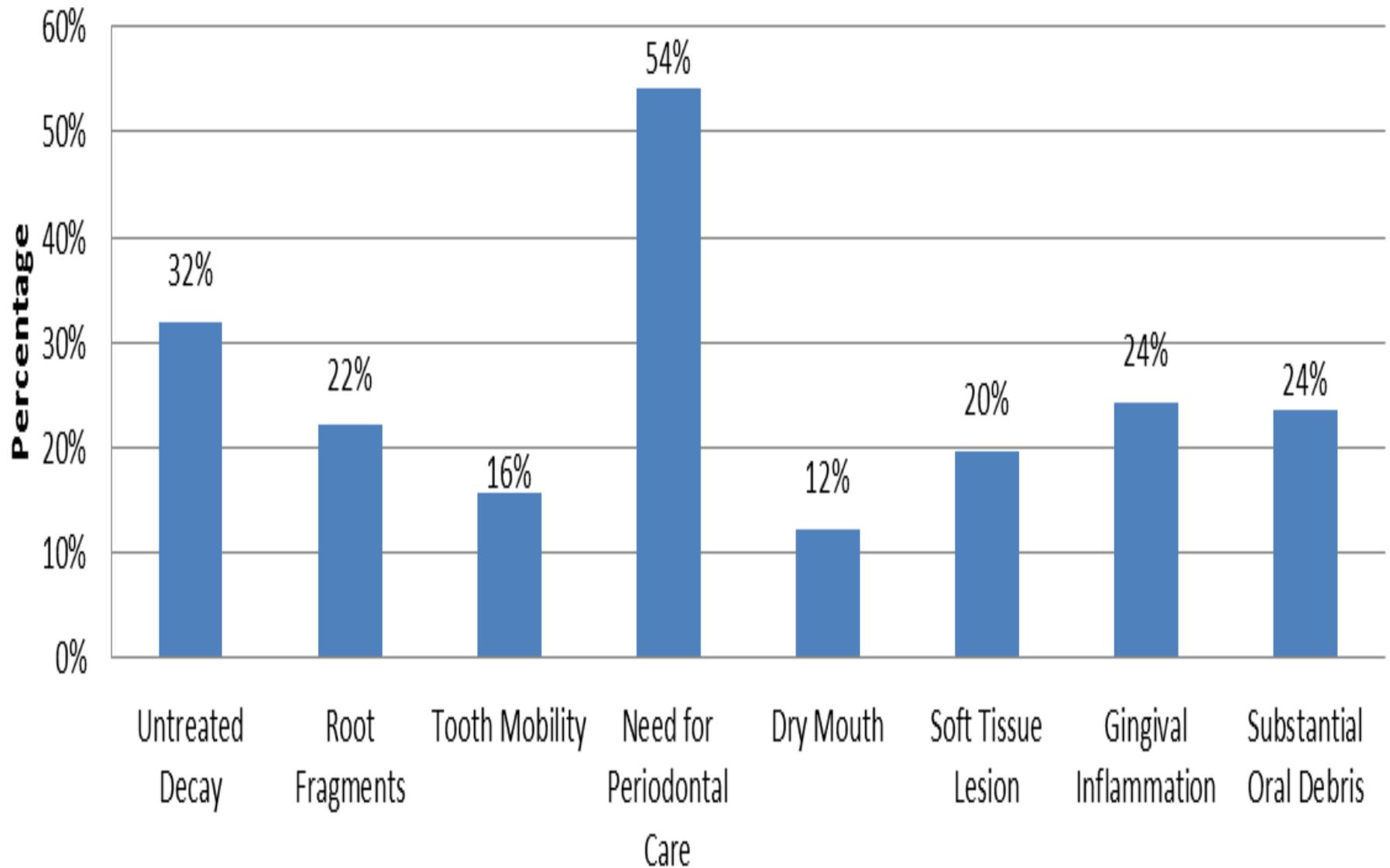


*Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014

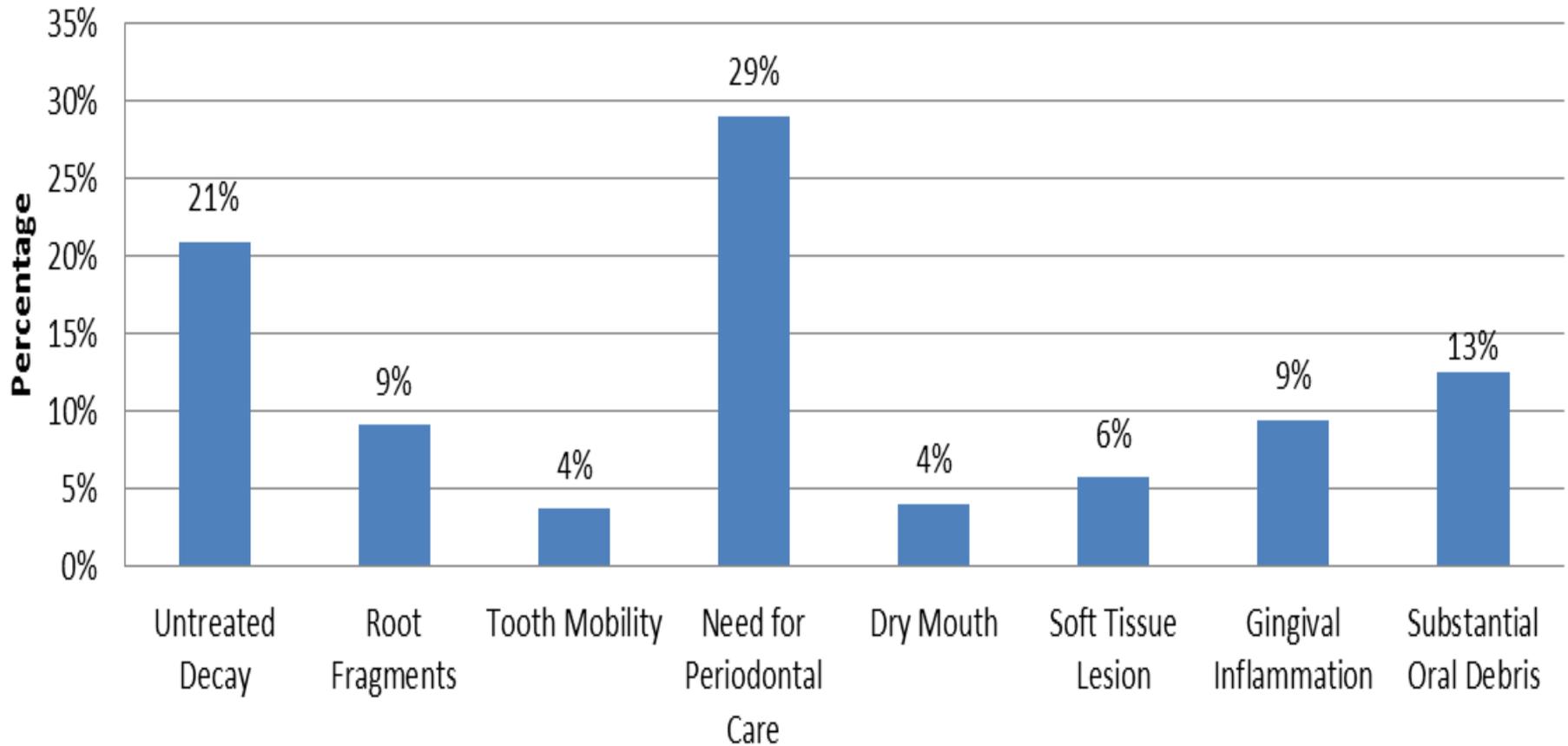
Untreated Decay & Treatment Urgency in Survey Participants



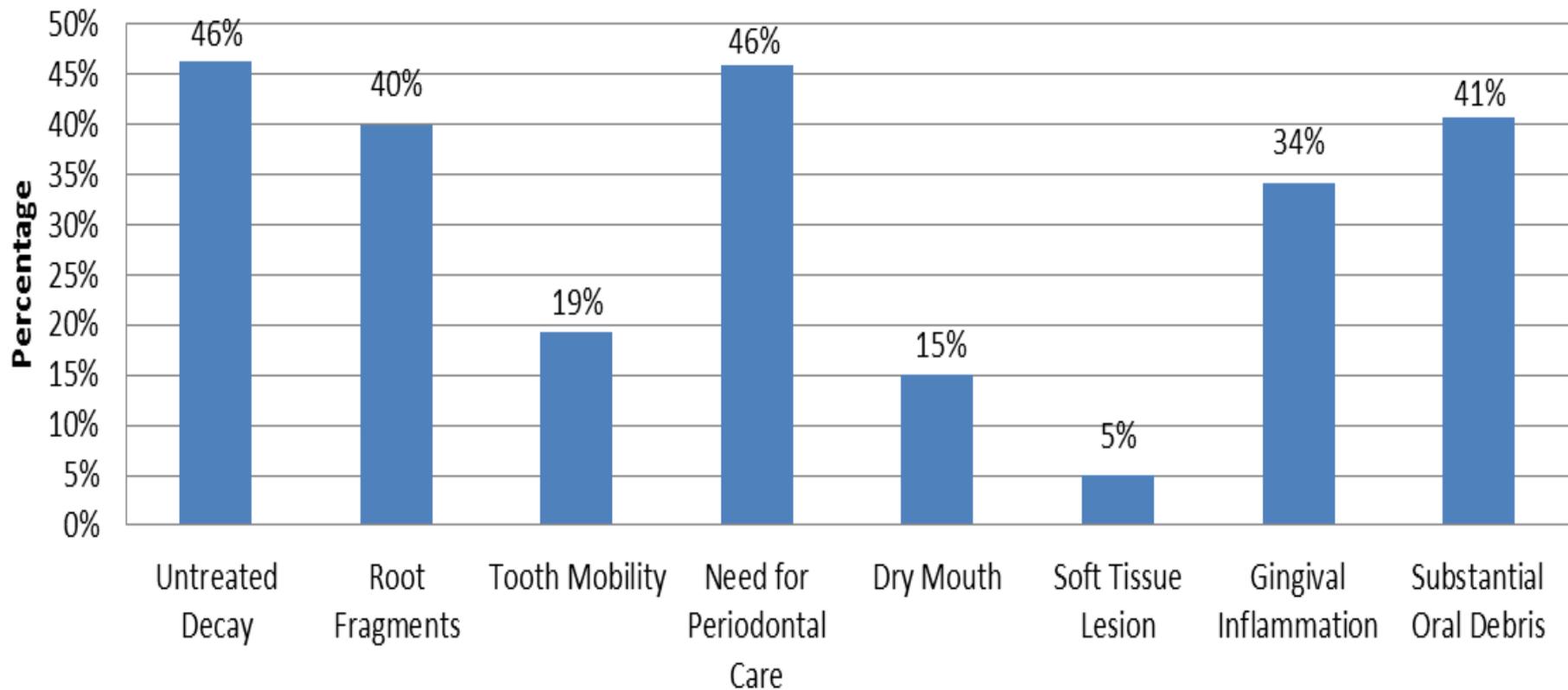
Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Nutrition Sites)



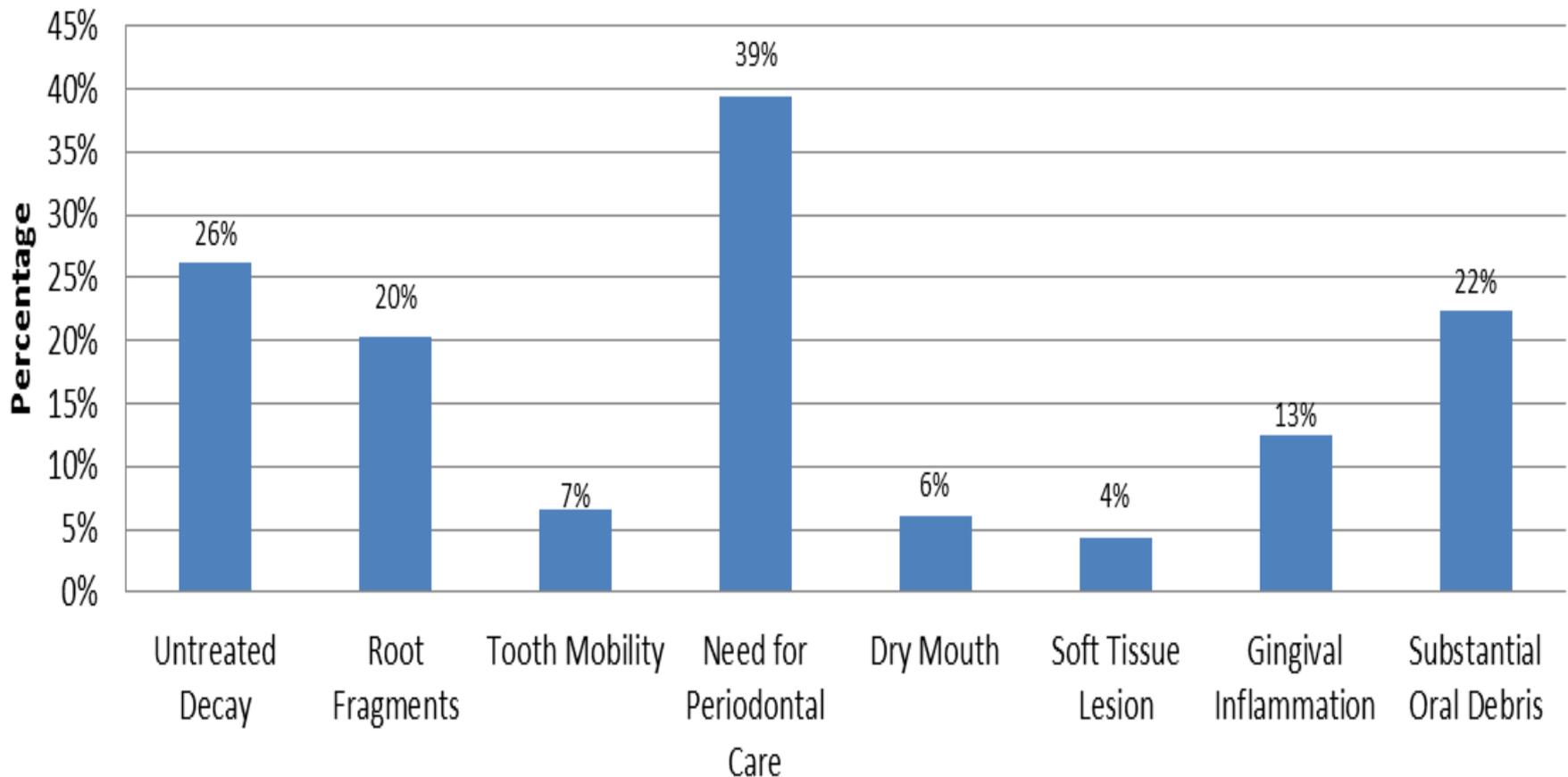
Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Senior Centers)



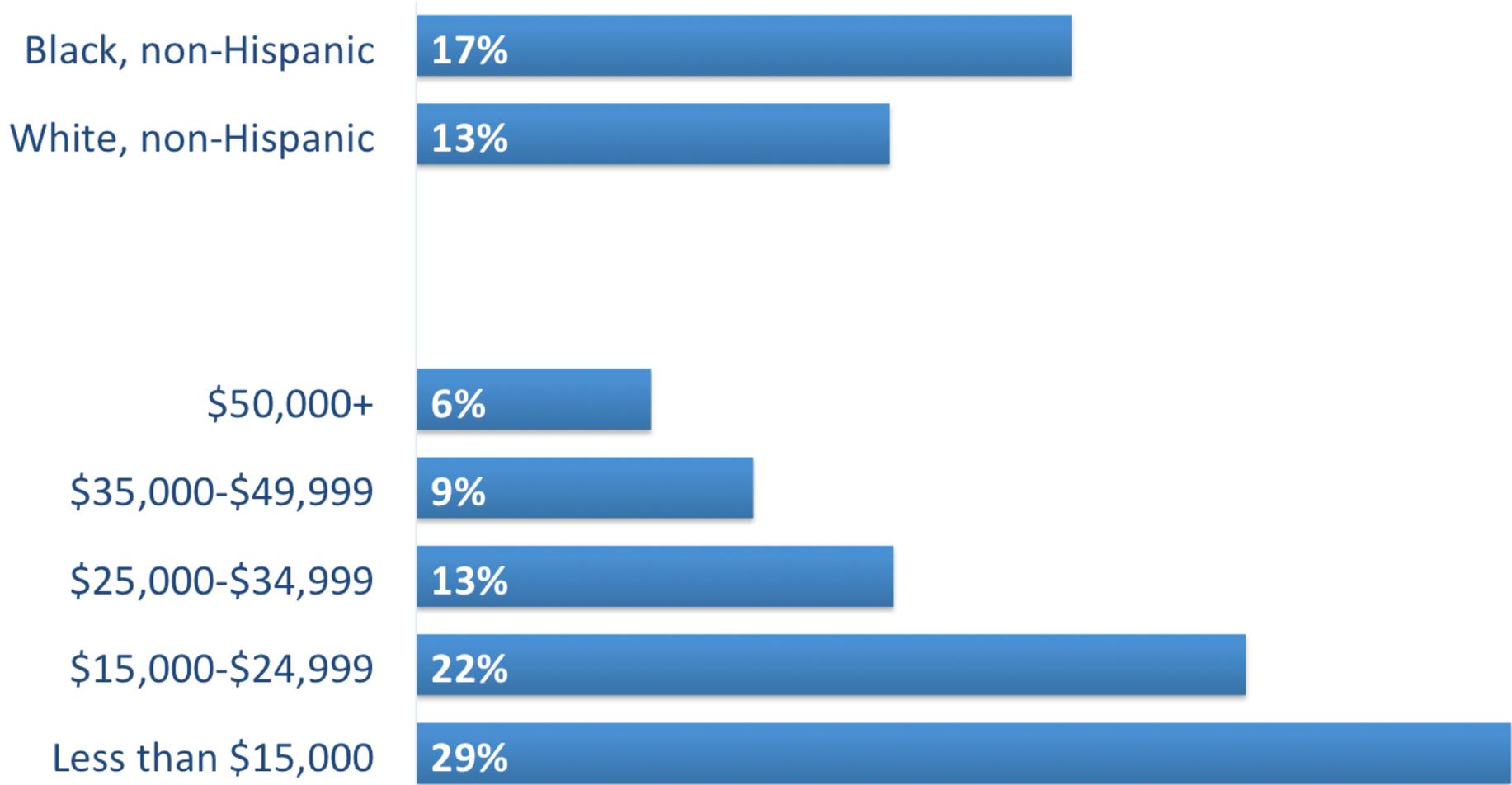
Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Nursing Homes)



Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Assisted Living)

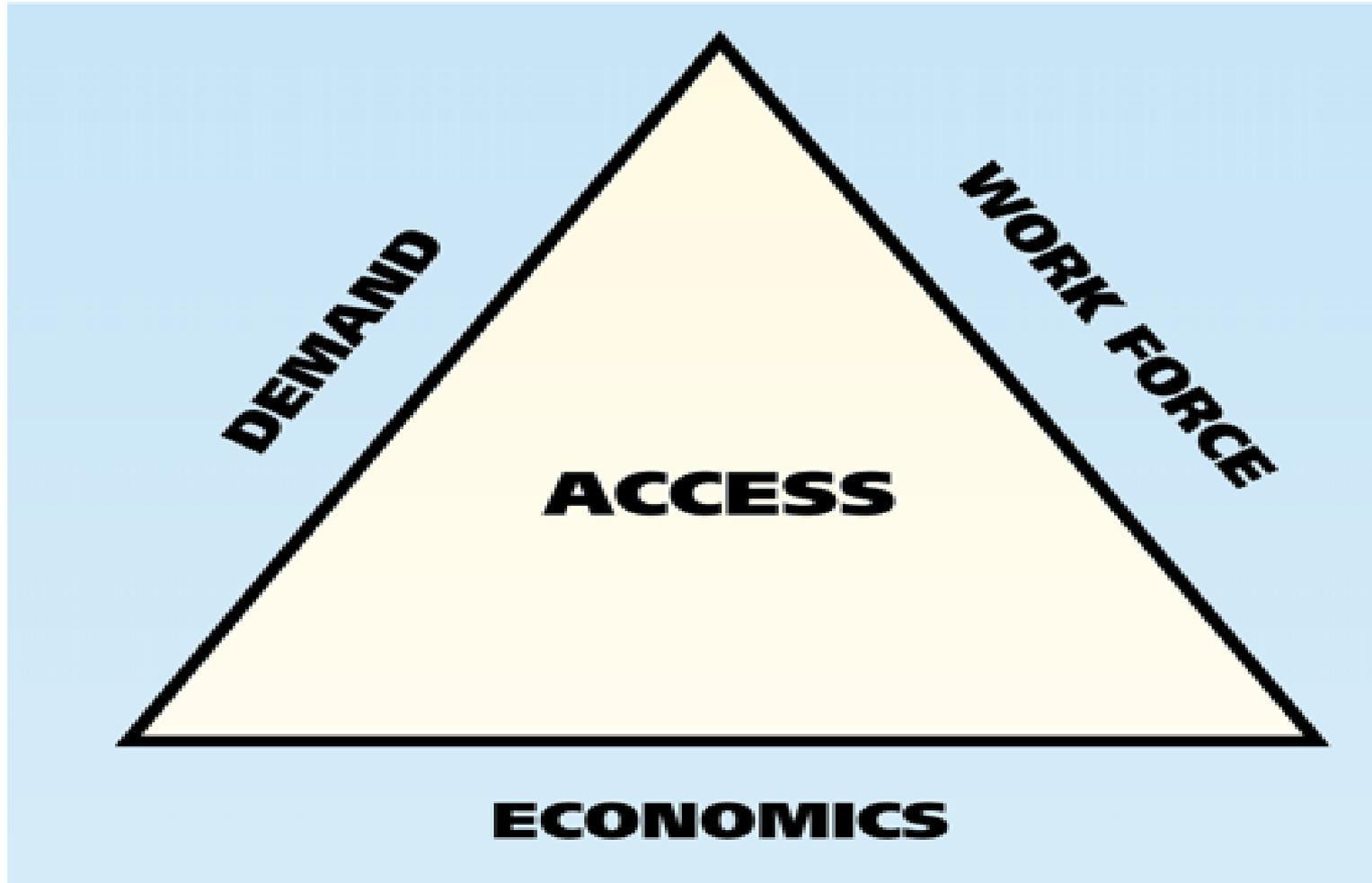


Adults aged 65+ with All Natural Teeth Extracted by Household Income and Race/Ethnicity





Access Determinants



Vulnerable Populations

Assure access to oral health care for those who are vulnerable.

- Identify social, economic, environmental and programmatic barriers to oral health.
- Pursue strategies to overcome barriers to oral health and improve oral health outcomes.
 - Create system-level improvements to treat at-risk populations such as the uninsured adults, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.
- Identify and engage community organizations to champion oral health access and disease prevention activities at the local level.
- Deliver care in traditional and non-traditional community-based settings (where the people are).
- Build information and referral systems to link at-risk and vulnerable populations to care.



Dental Workforce to Meet Future Demand

Assure that the oral health workforce composition is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire population.

- Maximize the availability of oral health care by utilizing providers to the full extent of their training and/or licensure.
 - Examine scope of practice and supervision requirements to determine if changes are necessary.
- Train providers to deliver culturally competent care.
 - Ensure that members of the workforce have access to training that will enable the delivery of culturally accessible, integrated care.



Integrate oral health care into a comprehensive health care system.

- **Assure that oral diseases, including caries, periodontal disease and oral/pharyngeal cancer, are recognized and integrated into chronic disease programs.**

- **Maximize successful disease and injury prevention strategies.**
 - ✓ **Reduce the incidence of caries, oral/pharyngeal cancers, and Ensure prevention strategies include healthy nutrition, tobacco cessation and preventive education.**

Policy

Increase partnerships and collaborations to build and maintain a coordinated advocacy initiative to improve oral health systems in Maryland.

- Recruit and engage a diverse group of stakeholders in promoting the importance of oral health.
- Develop a comprehensive list of potential stakeholders including, but not limited to those who engage in training and/or providing oral health care, those who engage in training and/or providing primary care, those who provide services to vulnerable populations, funders, and policy makers.
- Foster partnerships among agencies and organizations to include oral health in general health programs.
- Develop and recommend oral health policy initiatives for implementation statewide.

Oral Health Literacy

Key to Everything?

Increase the awareness of the importance of oral health to general health across all sectors of Maryland population, to build both systems and individual behavioral change.

- **Issue-Focused Advocacy**
- **Public Awareness: Decrease the prevalence of oral disease among Maryland's underserved seniors**
- **Build strategic alliances and expand Maryland's oral health literacy network**
- **Institutionalize a consistent, evidence-based, culturally competent and actionable oral health message platform among a network of providers, policymakers, MDAC Partners and private funders.**
- **Grassroots outreach activities**

Adult Financing of Dental Care

Develop financing strategies that support coverage and reimbursement for oral health services.

- Expand Medicaid coverage to include dental benefits for eligible adults.**
 - ✓ Implement pilot programs to address the needs of specific vulnerable adult populations.**
- Promote commercial dental insurance for families.**
- Include oral health coverage in comprehensive insurance programs.**
- Maximize opportunities within the Affordable Care Act to increase access to oral health care.**

It is Not a Dental Problem; It is a Societal Problem



Collective Impact





Maryland Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov>