



**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**

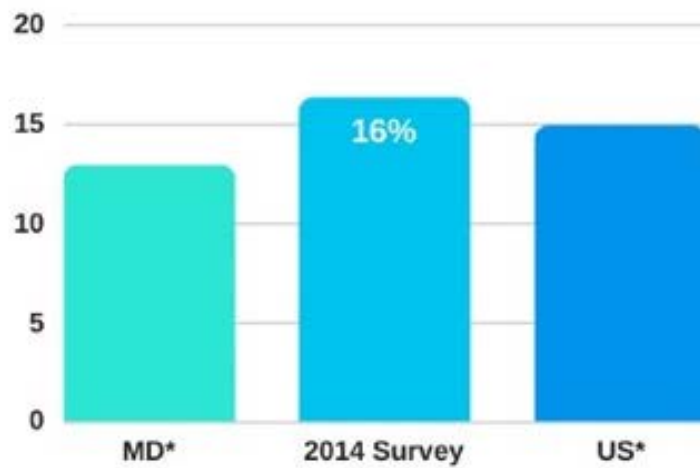
# **Making Oral Health a Priority for Older Adults**

**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.**

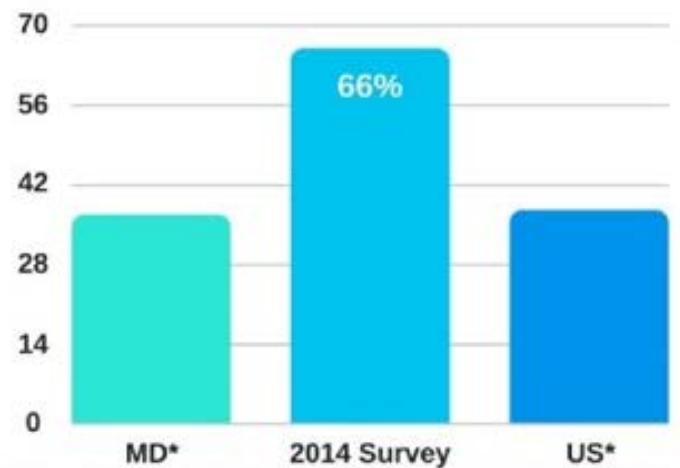
# National Oral Health Adult Indicators

## Adults Aged 65+

### % Edentulous

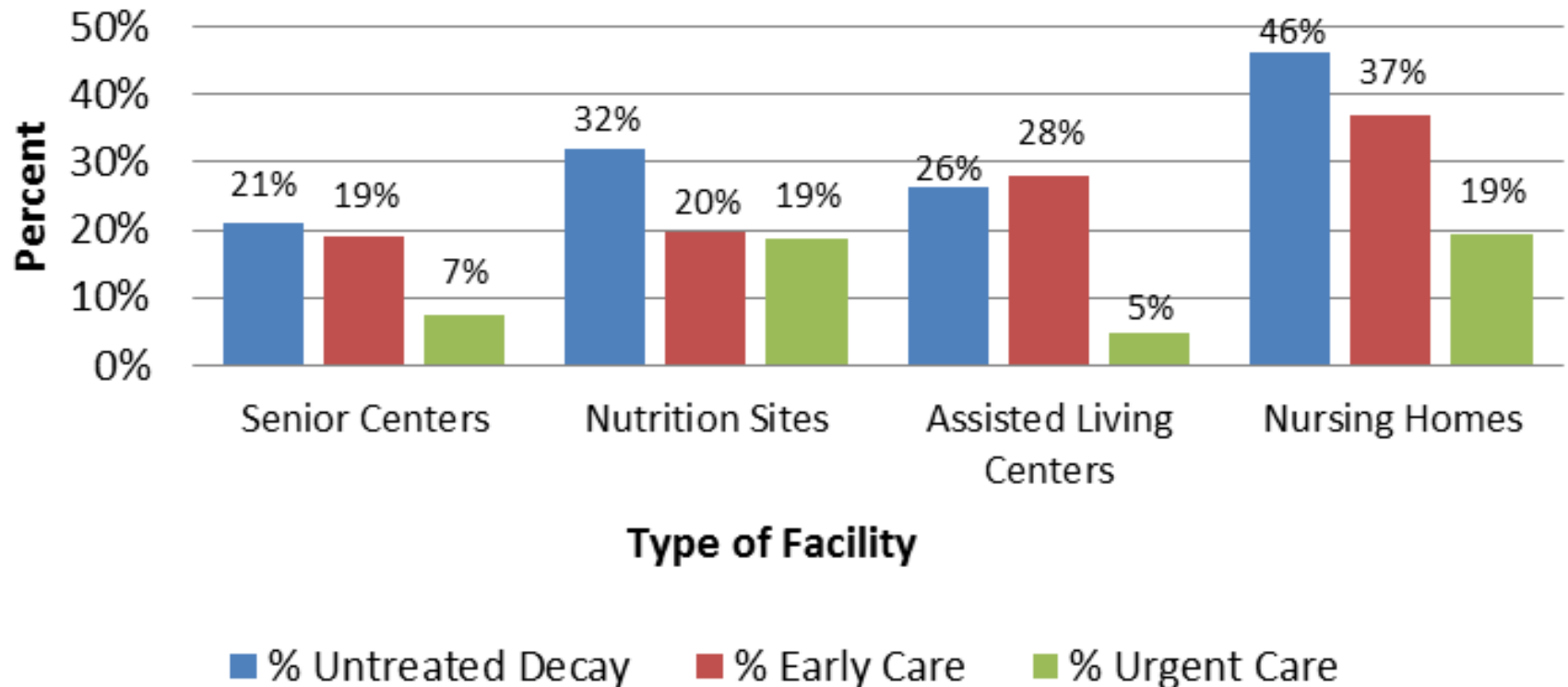


### % Lost 6 or More Natural Teeth

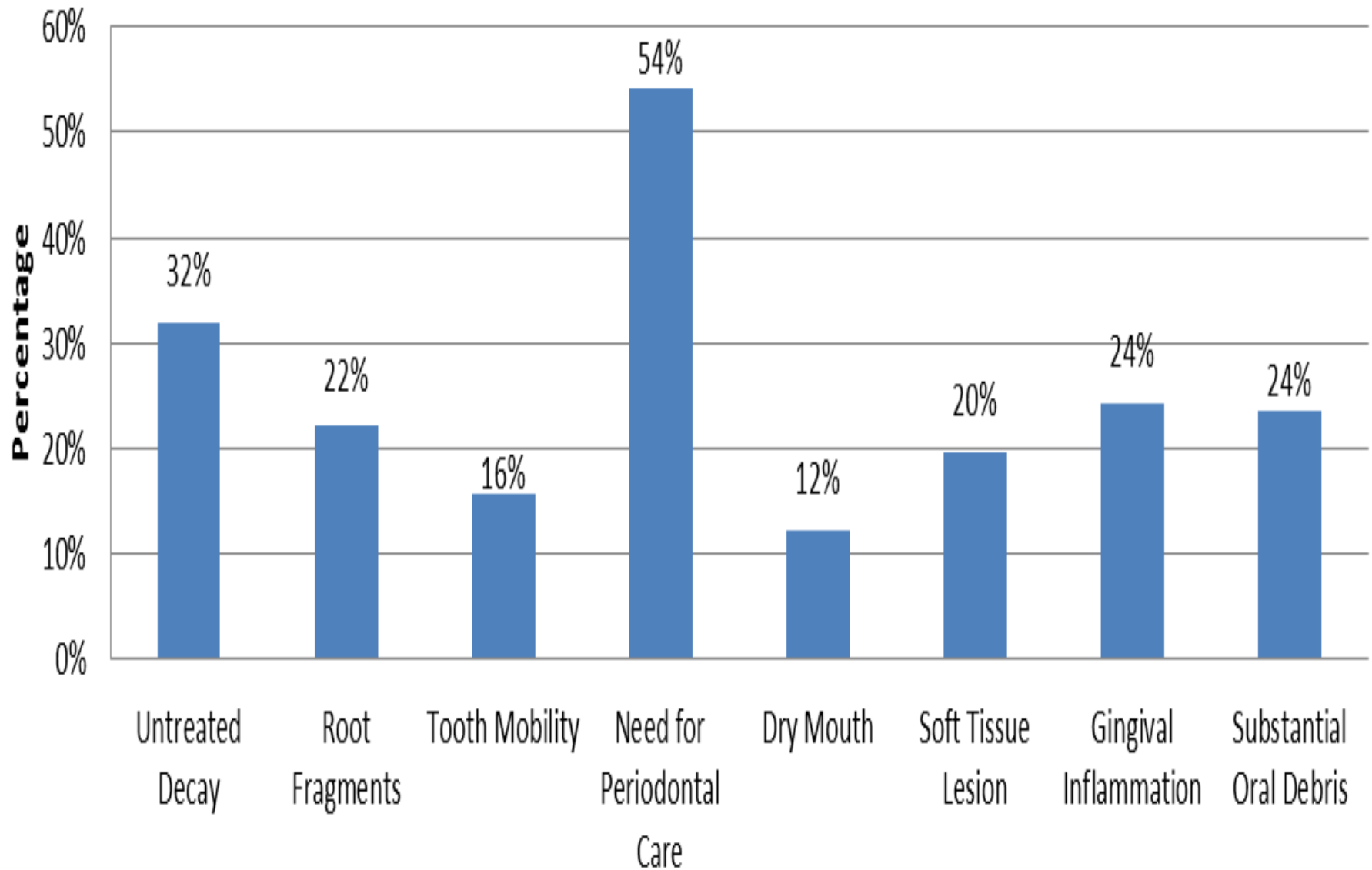


\*Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2014

## Untreated Decay & Treatment Urgency in Survey Participants

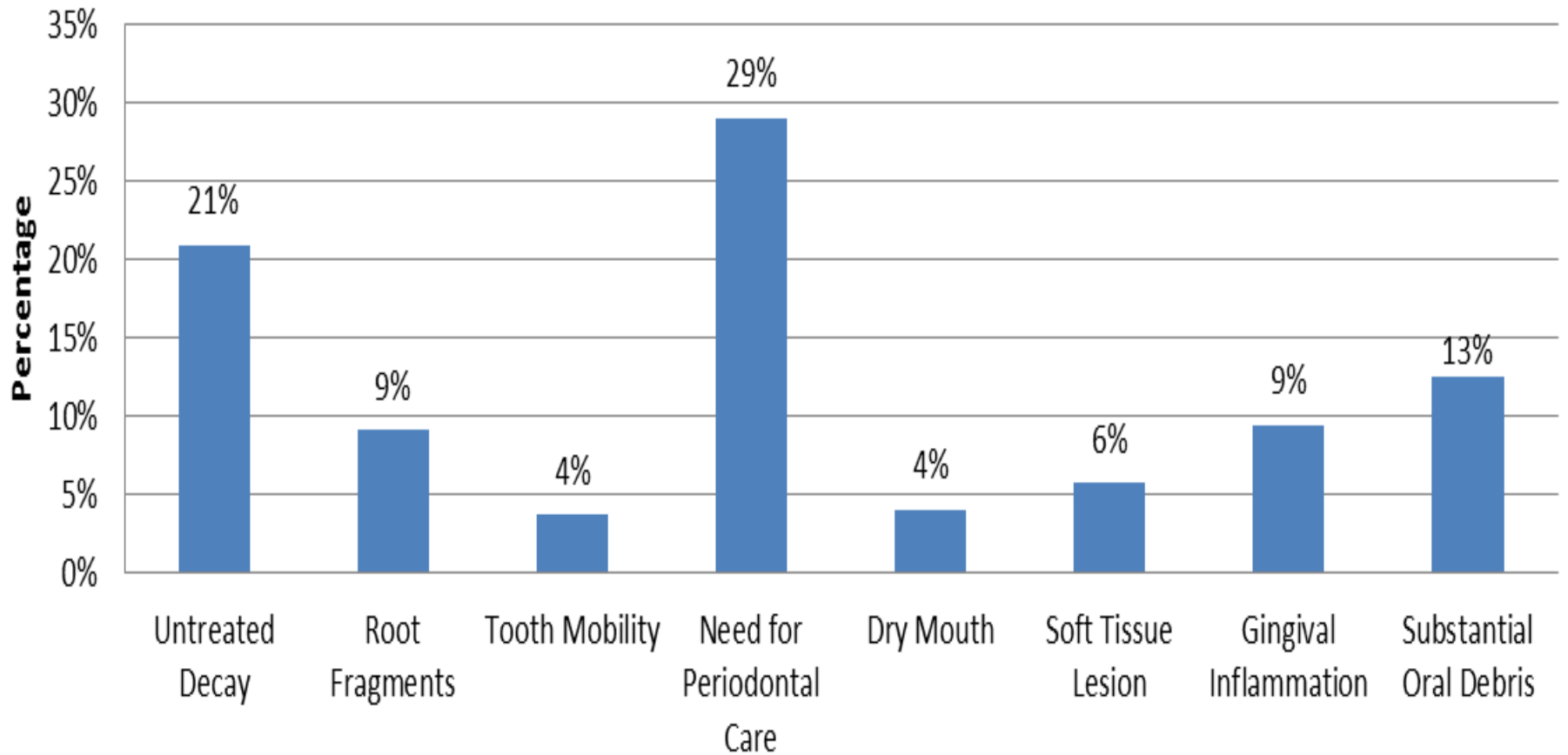


# Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Nutrition Sites)

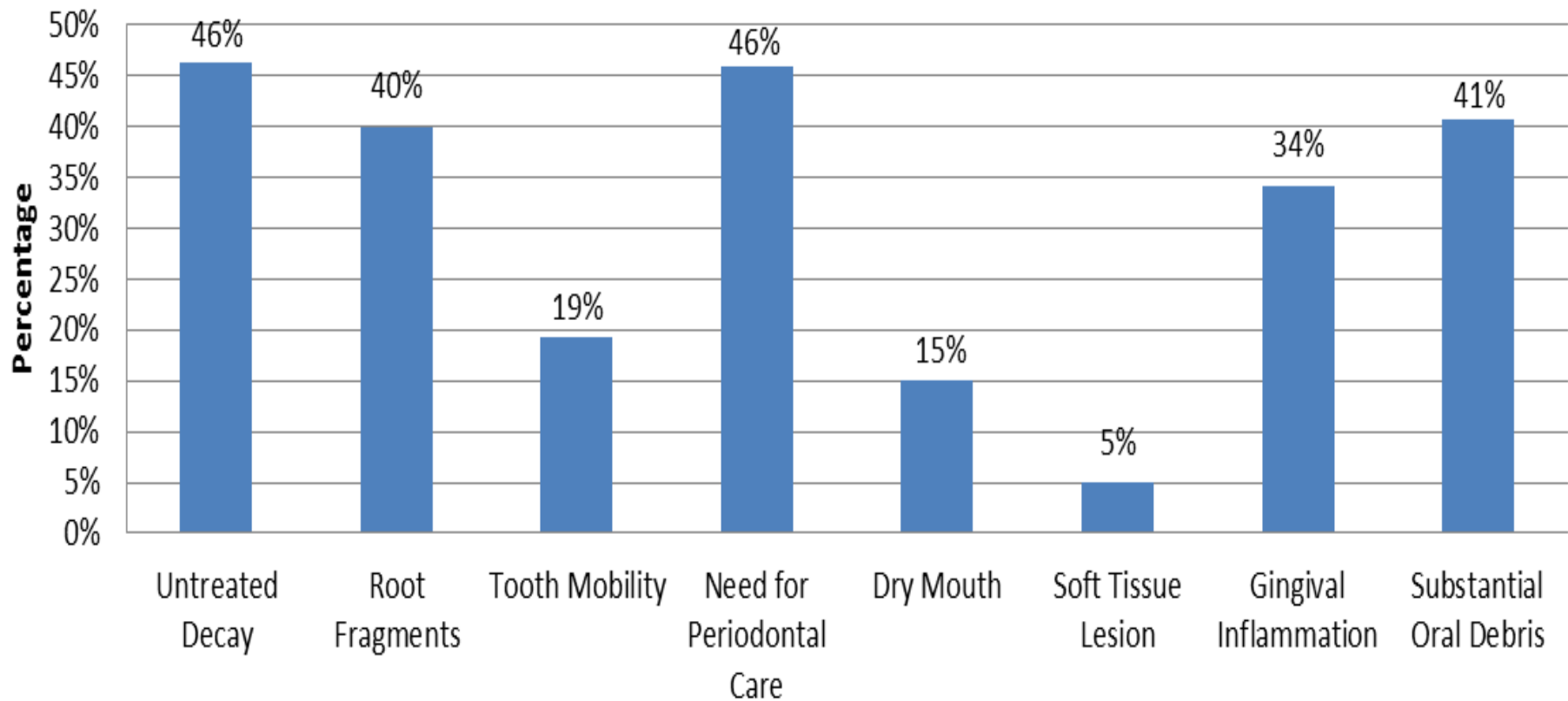




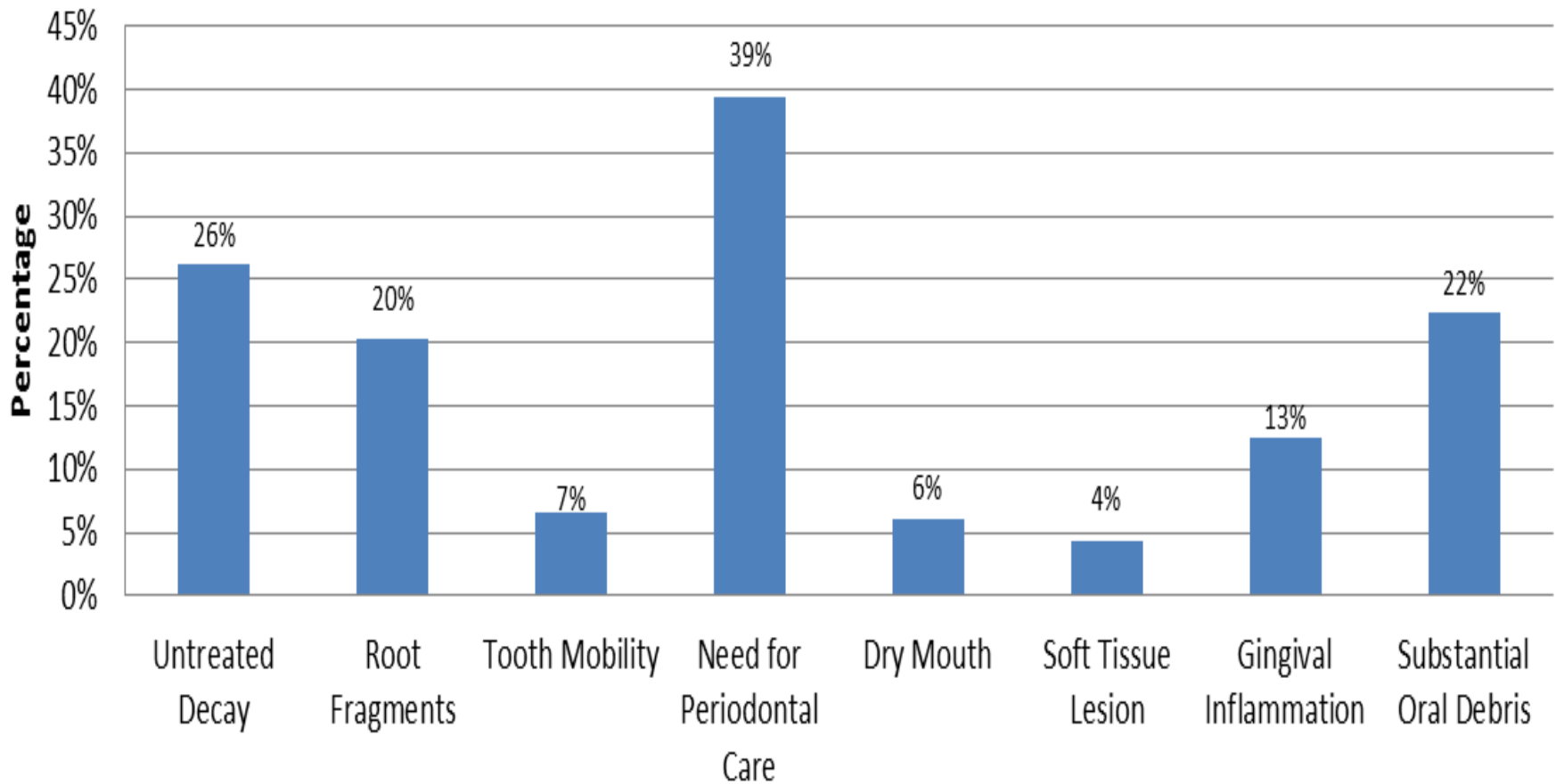
## Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Senior Centers)



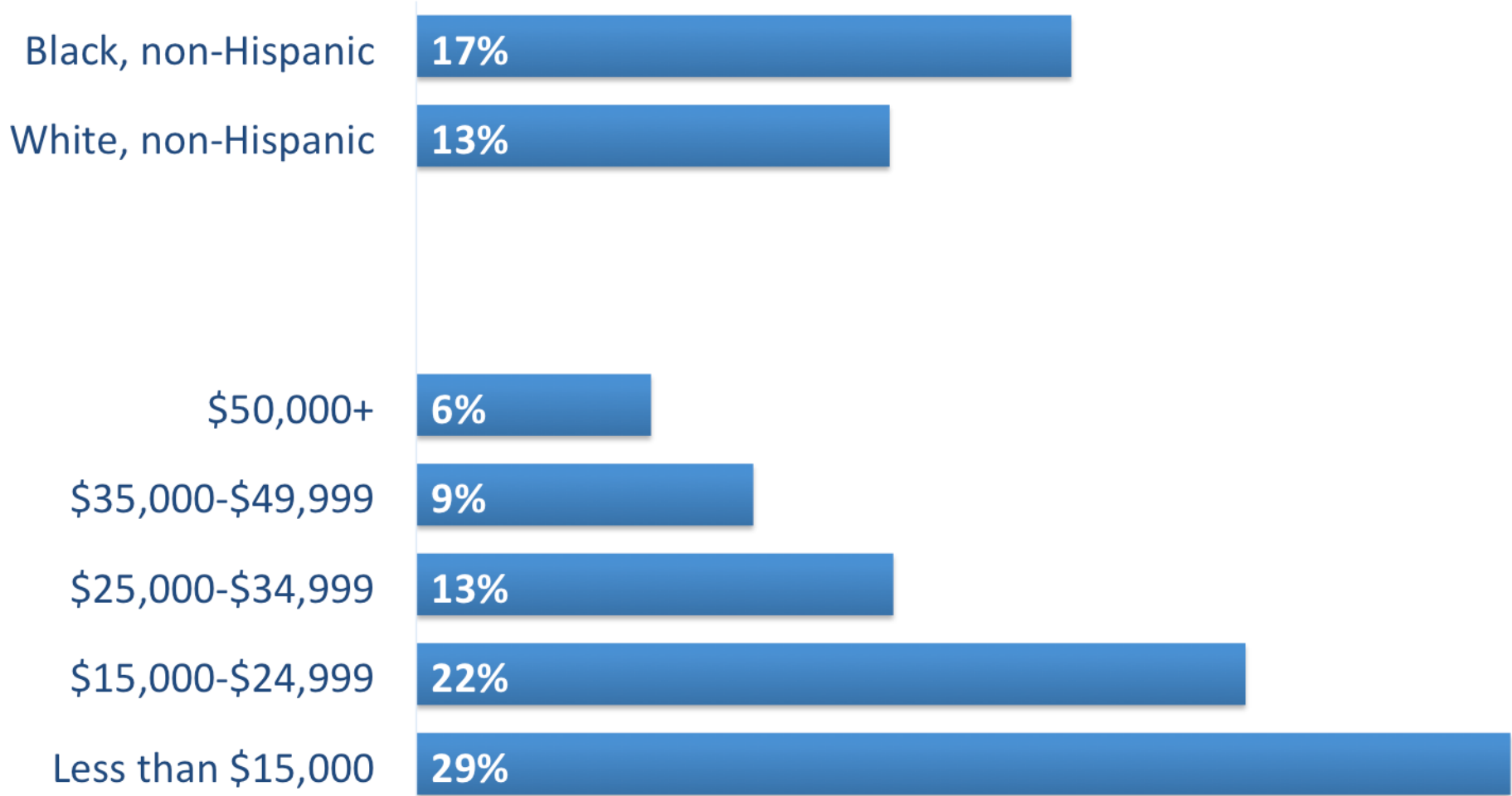
## Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Nursing Homes)



## Oral Health Indicators of Participants (Assisted Living)

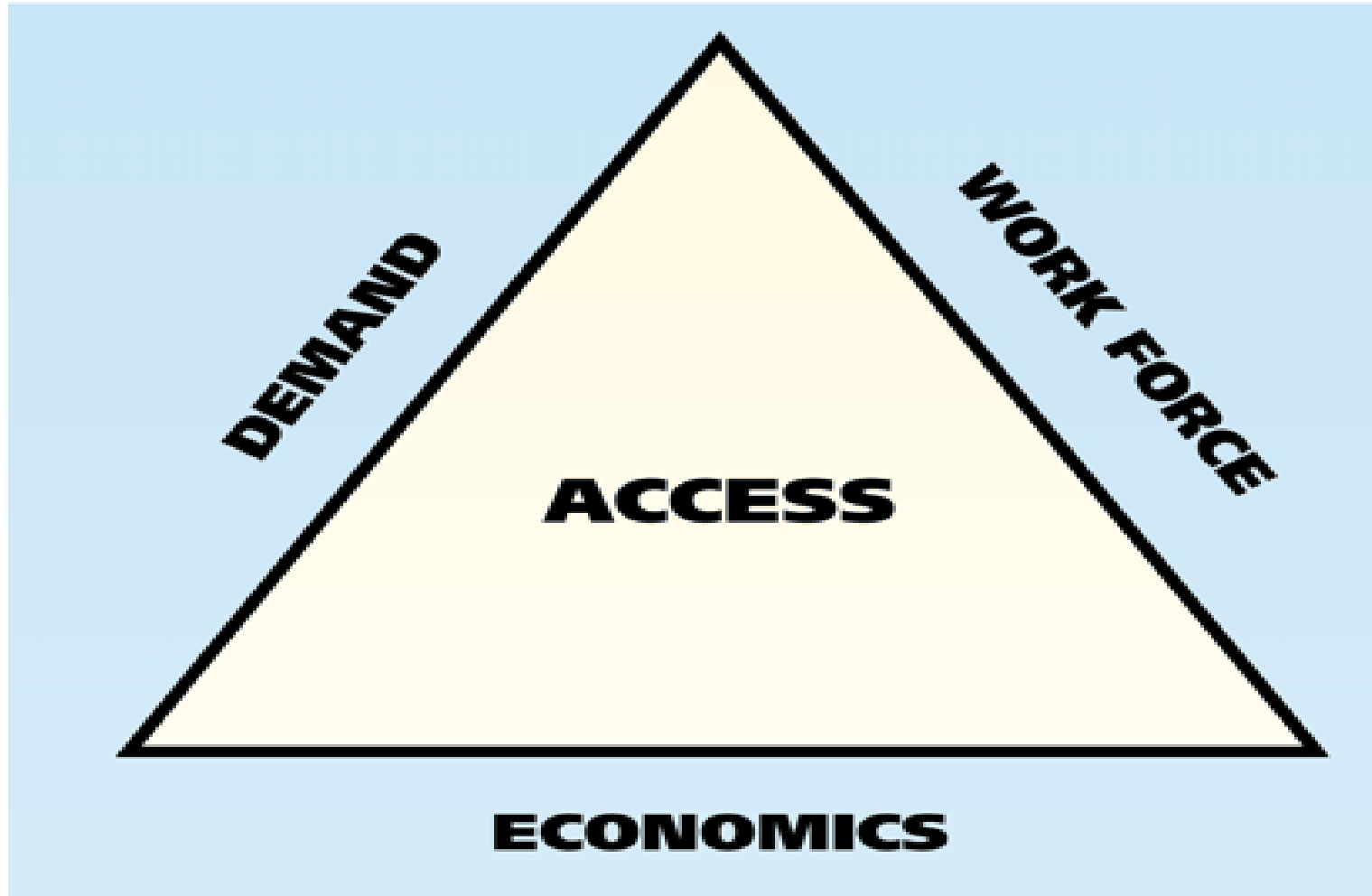


# Adults aged 65+ with All Natural Teeth Extracted by Household Income and Race/Ethnicity





# 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>