When Floridians Can’t Get Dental Care, It Hurts More Than Their Health.

And the Problem is Getting Worse.

Millions of Floridians can’t get affordable dental care in their communities. This is damaging to children’s and adults’ physical health, self-image and even can be life threatening. Many turn to hospital emergency rooms, which can only provide temporary relief through pain pills and antibiotics. Florida hospitals billed nearly $550 MILLION dollars for preventable dental issues in 2021. Taxpayers foot the majority of these costs. Florida’s oral health crisis has gone on far too long and it’s a cost no one can afford.

Brush up on Florida’s oral health crisis: www.FloridiansForDentalAccess.com
Florida's Oral Health Crisis is Among the Worst Nationwide

Far too many Floridians to live in pain, miss school or work, or develop life-threatening infections because they can't find affordable dental care in their community. Many rely on hospital emergency rooms for temporary treatment.

**KEY FACTS**

- Dental care is the #1 unmet health need worldwide.
- Oral health is linked to overall physical health.
- Many illnesses -- heart and kidney disease, low birth weight babies, systemic infections and even death -- have been correlated to poor oral health.
- Self-image problems and impaired school performance often result from poor oral health in children.
- Dental access is a health, equity and workforce problem that our collaboration of 60+ organizations is working to solve.

**COMMON BARRIERS**

- High out-of-pocket cost and lack of dentists nearby are leading barriers.
- 66 of Florida’s 67 counties have dentist shortages.
- Only 18% of Florida dentists accept Medicaid.
- A 2022 statewide poll showed a majority of Floridians (over 60%) haven’t seen a dentist in the past year due to high out-of-pocket costs.

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**FLORIDA LEADS THE NATION IN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN DENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>% OF CHILDREN RECEIVING DENTAL CARE LAST 12 MONTHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td># OF PEOPLE LIVING IN DENTAL SHORTAGE AREAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>% OF ADULTS WITH 1 ANNUAL DENTAL VISIT</td>
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**Did You Know?**

One in four Florida 3rd graders have untreated cavities, 6th worst in the nation.