Adult Oral Health
in the District of Columbia
From the 2017 District of Columbia Oral Health Surveillance System (DC OHSS)

Health Outcome: Loss of Natural Permanent Teeth

Ages 18-64  70.3% have all of their natural permanent teeth.
Ages 45-64  51.1% have lost 1 or more natural permanent teeth.
Ages 65 & older  33.1% have lost 6 or more natural permanent teeth.

(Sources: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Survey Data, 2014)

Health Outcome: Oral Cancer

Adult Oral Health in the District of Columbia

Healthcare Access: Last Dental Visit

* People with diabetes are at special risk for periodontal (gum) disease

- Within the past year: US Adults 63.8%, DC Adults 70%, DC Adults with Diabetes 59.8%
- Past 2 years: US Adults 12.2%, DC Adults 13.8%, DC Adults with Diabetes 16.5%
- Past 5 years: US Adults 10.6%, DC Adults 8.9%, DC Adults with Diabetes 12%
- 5+ years ago: US Adults 11.3%, DC Adults 5.6%, DC Adults with Diabetes 8.3%
- Never: US Adults 1.1%, DC Adults 0.6%, DC Adults with Diabetes 0.9%


Health Behaviors Related to Oral Health

SMOKING

- 46.1% of DC residents report currently being a smoker.
  - Smoking can lead to tooth staining, gum disease, tooth loss, and mouth cancer.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO USE

- 1.8% of DC residents currently use chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus.
  - Chewing tobacco causes rapid tooth decay, gum disease, receding gum, and oral cancer.

HEAVY DRINKING

- 8.1% of DC residents are heavy drinkers*
  - Alcohol is a risk factor for oral and other cancers.
  - **Consuming 8 or more drinks per week for a woman or 15 or more drinks per week for a man.