



# A STATE OF DECAY, VOL. IV

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

APRIL 17, 2018



## ABOUT OHA

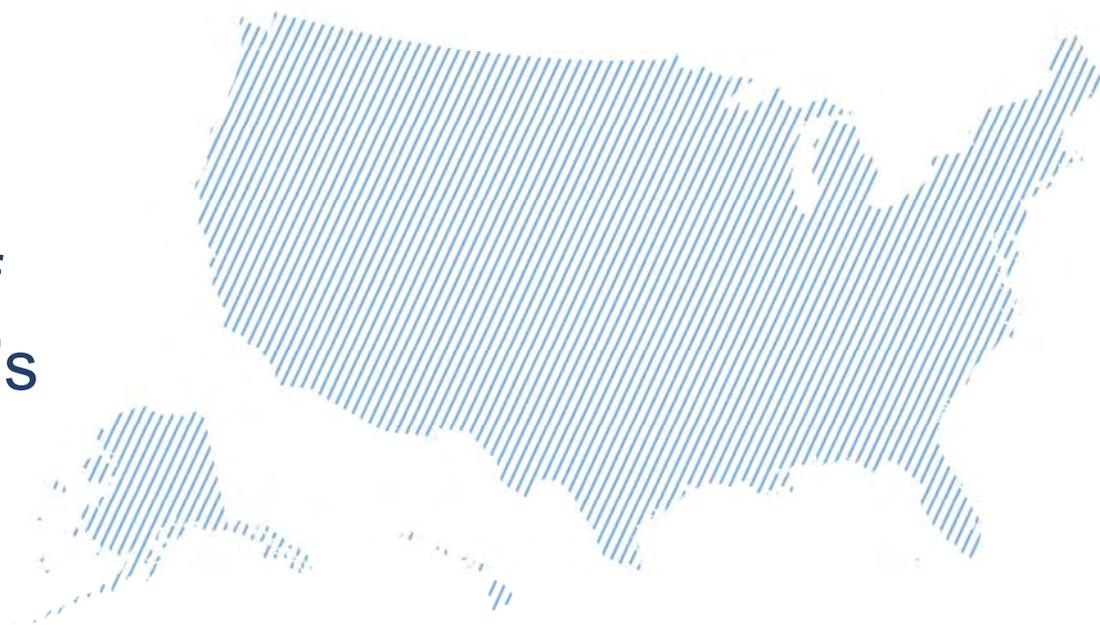
For over 60 years, Oral Health America sets out to be the nation's voice for **oral health equity for all**. It's not about a pretty smile — it's about whole body health.

OHA has **two signature programs**:  
Smiles Across America® & the Wisdom Tooth Project®

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# WHAT IS A *STATE OF DECAY*, Vol. IV?

OHA's fourth **state-by-state** report assessing the status of oral health for America's **65+ population.**



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# PRESENTERS



**Moderator:** **Bianca Rogers**, Public Affairs Manager, Oral Health America

## **Speakers:**

- **Beth Truett, MDiv**, President & CEO, Oral Health America
- **Karen Tracy**, Vice President, Strategic Alliances and Integrated Communications, The Gerontological Society of America
- **Conan Davis, DMD, MPH, FACD**, Assistant Dean, Community Collaborations and Public Health, University of Alabama School of Dentistry
- **Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH**, Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Services, University of Chicago Illinois School of Dentistry

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# AGENDA

- Report Overview
- Aging Network Perspective
- State Spotlight: Alabama
- Policy Recommendations
- Looking to the Future
- Tools for Advocates
- Q&A

**TWEET WITH US!**



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**@Smile4Health**

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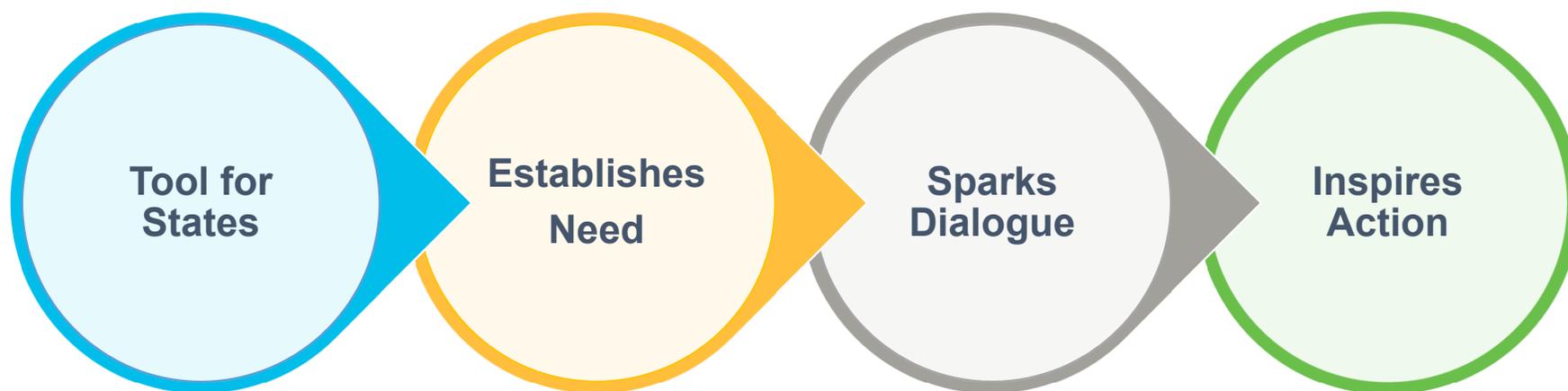
# **A STATE OF DECAY, VOL. IV**

**Beth Truett, MDiv**

President & CEO, Oral Health America

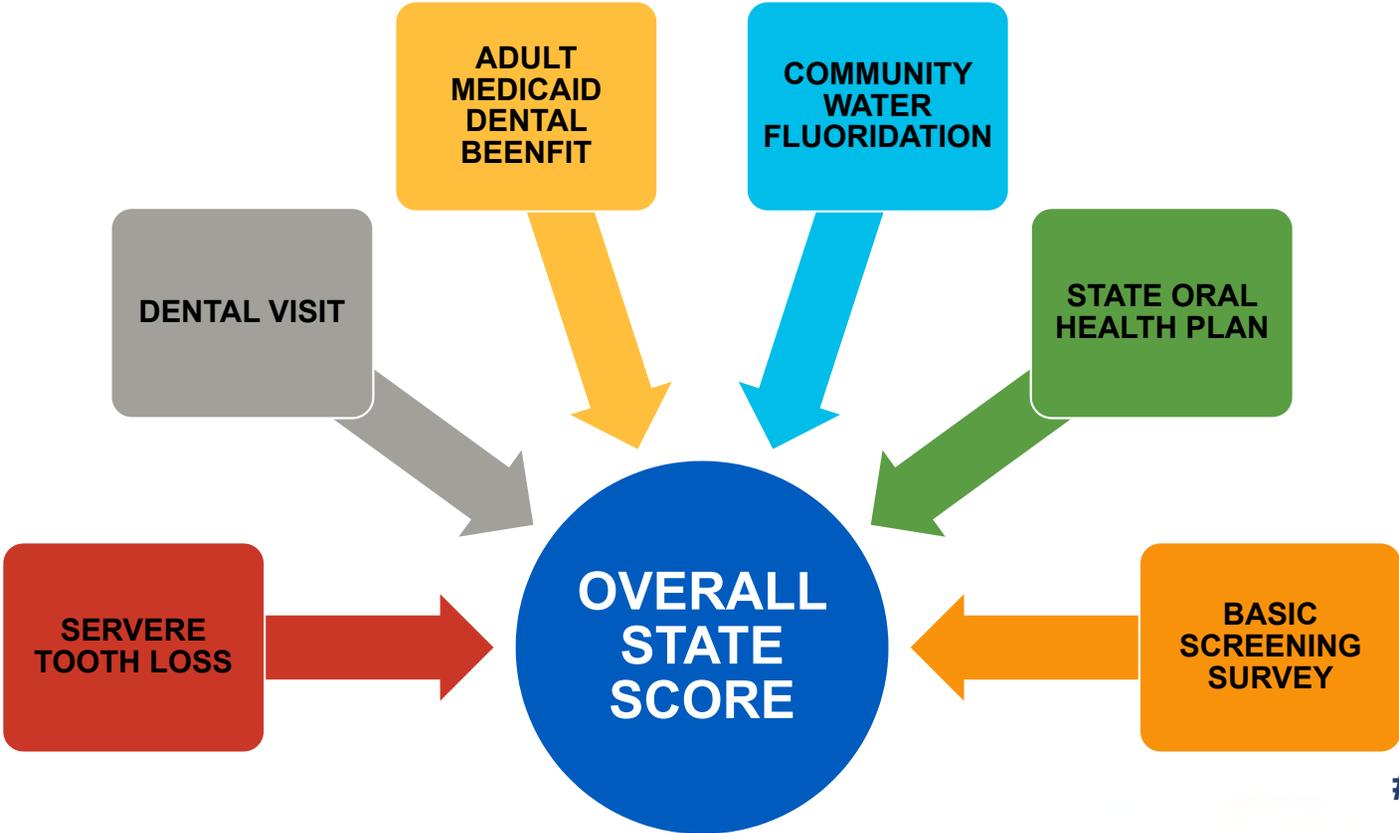
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# WHY RELEASE A 'REPORT CARD'?



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# STATE VARIABLES



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# NEW: NATIONAL ANALYSIS



Analysis of severe tooth loss and recent dental visits by considering associations with sociodemographic factors such as income, education, age, and gender.

## Key Results:

### Income

- Consistent, linear relationship b/w income and seeing a dentist and for having no severe tooth loss.
- As income levels rose, so did the probability of good oral health.

## Additional Observances:

### Gender

- Women somewhat more likely to see a dentist in the past year & not have severe tooth loss.

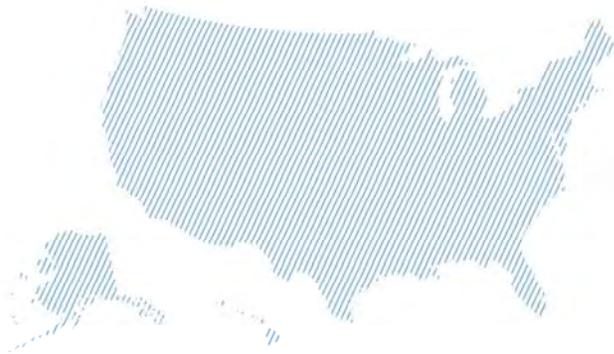
### Education

- Education correlated with better oral health. Those with high school or less education were more likely to not see a dentist & to have severe tooth loss.

### Marital Status

- Divorced, widowed, and separated more likely to have poor oral health than married individuals.
- Social isolation, depression, & lack of social support structures could be involved in this relationship, in addition to reduced income.

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# 2016 VS. 2018

2016					
<b>EDENTULISM</b>	<b>ADULT MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT</b>	<b>COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION</b>	<b>STATE ORAL HEALTH PLANS</b>	<b>BASIC SCREENING SURVEY</b>	
2018					
<b>SEVERE TOOTH LOSS (LOSS OF 6+ TEETH)</b>	<b>ADULT MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT</b>	<b>COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION</b>	<b>STATE ORAL HEALTH PLANS</b>	<b>BASIC SCREENING SURVEY</b>	<b>DENTAL VISIT (LAST 12 MONTHS)</b>

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# STATE VARIABLES: METHODOLOGY & SCORING

- Six variables, **equally weighted**, equals State Overall Score
- Uses **standard scoring** – standardizes data for comparative purposes
- Scores have **one scale**; highest ranking 100% and lowest 0%, with others in between

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# KEY RESULTS

## ORAL HEALTH STATUS

- 33% severe tooth loss
- Low-income visit dentist less frequently vs. high-income

## ADULT MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT

- 9 states cover all
- 6 states cover none
- (top 13 services used by 65+)

## COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

- 15 states with 90% or more of its communities receiving fluoridated water

## STATE ORAL HEALTH PLAN

- 34 states have SOHPs
- 31 include older adults
- 12 use SMART objectives

## BASIC SCREENING SURVEY

- 34 states completed a BSS or planning one
- 6 local pilot
- 10 statewide

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# STATE RANKINGS



FIGURE 1. STATE OVERALL SCORES ON PERCENTAGE SCALE

## Overall:

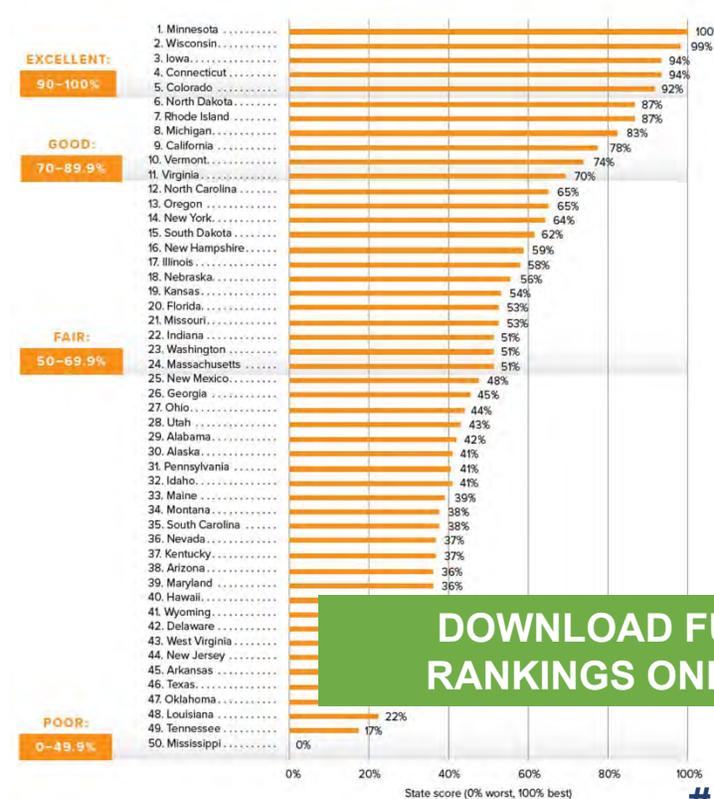
- 5 - Excellent (90-100%)
- 6 - Good (79-89.9%)
- 14 - Fair (50-69.9%)
- 25 - Poor (0-49.9%)

## Top

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa

## ... and Bottom

Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi



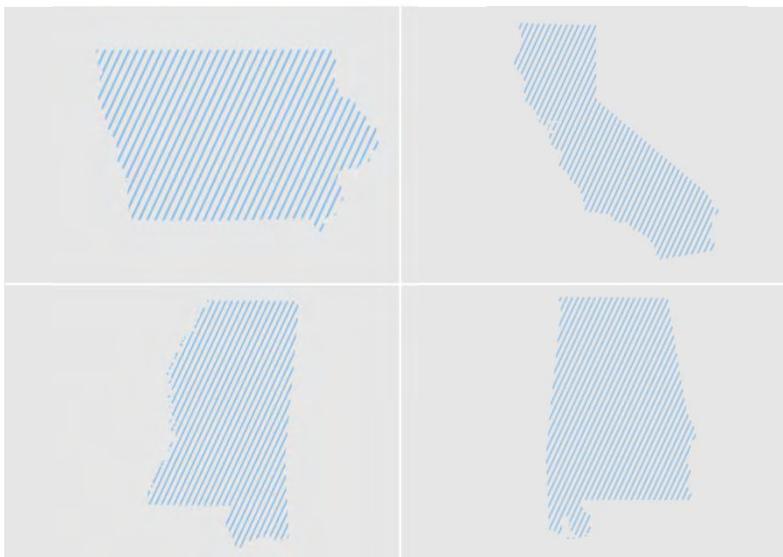
[DOWNLOAD FULL RANKINGS ONLINE](#)

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# MORE THAN A SCORE: STATE SPOTLIGHTS

Building on Solid Foundation, **Iowa** Jumps Into Top 5



Here to Stay! **California** Leaps to Number 9

Moving **Mississippi** Forward to a 'Culture of Health'

**Alabama's** Big Leap in 2018 State Rankings

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# Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging

*Karen K. Tracy  
Vice President,  
Strategic Alliances & Integrated Communications  
The Gerontological Society of America*



# The Gerontological Society of America

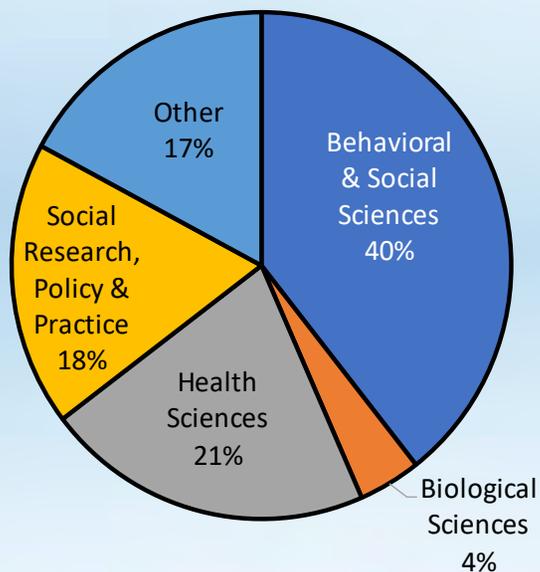
## *Advancing Innovation in Aging*

- Professional membership organization focused on the aging process across the lifespan
- Mission
  - Promote multi- and interdisciplinary research in aging
  - Translate and disseminate research findings
  - Foster application of research into policy development
  - Promote/advocate for education/awareness on aging across disciplines
- Annual scientific meeting and high-impact journals
- International and multidisciplinary membership (5,500)



# GSA Membership (5,500)

## Affiliation (%)



In 2017, GSA welcomed more than 70 new Fellows from 19 countries



## GSA Membership (5,500)

42%	Behavioral & Social Sciences Section	Economists, epidemiologists, political scientists, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, humanists, social workers
4%	Biological Section	Individuals with interests that include molecular alterations that feature in the aging process to persons studying evolutionary forces that determine longevity
21%	Health Sciences Section	Physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, and other allied health professionals
18%	Social Research, Policy and Practice Section	Social workers, nurses, economists, sociologists, political scientists, clinicians, pastoral counselors and business people. (Translate research results into policy.)
17%	Not specified	

# GSA Strategic Alliances

## Convener, Collaborator, Connector, Communicator





ORAL HEALTH  
AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF  
HEALTHY AGING

- ✓ Tooth loss and poor oral health is not a part of normal aging
- ✓ Older adults frequently have medical conditions that worsen oral health as well as oral health problems that can worsen medical conditions.
- ✓ Some studies suggested that the number of natural teeth could be a predictor of longevity and that loss of teeth could signal increased risk for early mortality.
- ✓ A healthy mouth is associated with improved self-image, social, mental and physical health



To promote oral & general health and quality of life outcomes in older adults by focusing all members of the health care team – **medicine, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and other professions** – on interprofessional whole-person care that recognizes the inherent connection between oral and systemic health and is valued in the health care system.





## Key Stakeholders

AARP	Generations United
Administration for Community Living	Gerontological Advanced Pract Nurses Assn
Am Assn for Dental Research	The Gerontological Society of America
Am Board of Dental Public Health	The John A. Hartford Foundation
Am Dental Assn	Health Resources and Services Admin
Am Dental Education Assn	Nat'l Assn of Directors of Nursing Admin
Am Dental Hygienists' Assn	Nat'l Assn of Social Workers
Am Nurses Assn	Nat'l Council on Aging
Am Pharmacists Assn	Nat'l Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Res
Am Public Health Assn	Nat'l Institute on Aging
Assn of Am Med Colleges	Oral Health America
Assn of State and Territorial Dental Dir	Riderwood/Erickson Living
CDC	Special Care Dentistry Assn
CMS	US Dept of Health and Human Services
Eldercare Workforce Alliance	US Dept of Veterans Affairs



Focus on addressing interprofessional solutions for improving oral health in older adults

<b>Implementing Oral Health Education for all Health Professionals</b>	<b>Developing Interprofessional Practice Opportunities</b>	<b>Advocating for Medicare Coverage for Oral Health Services</b>	<b>Creating Oral Health Interprofessional Champions</b>	<b>Improving Oral Health in Communities of Need</b>	<b>Building a Coalition to Promote Oral Health</b>
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“A State Of Decay” Report

# Oral Health: An Essential Element of Healthy Aging

*Karen K. Tracy  
Vice President,  
Strategic Alliances & Integrated Communications  
The Gerontological Society of America*





# UAB

## School of Dentistry

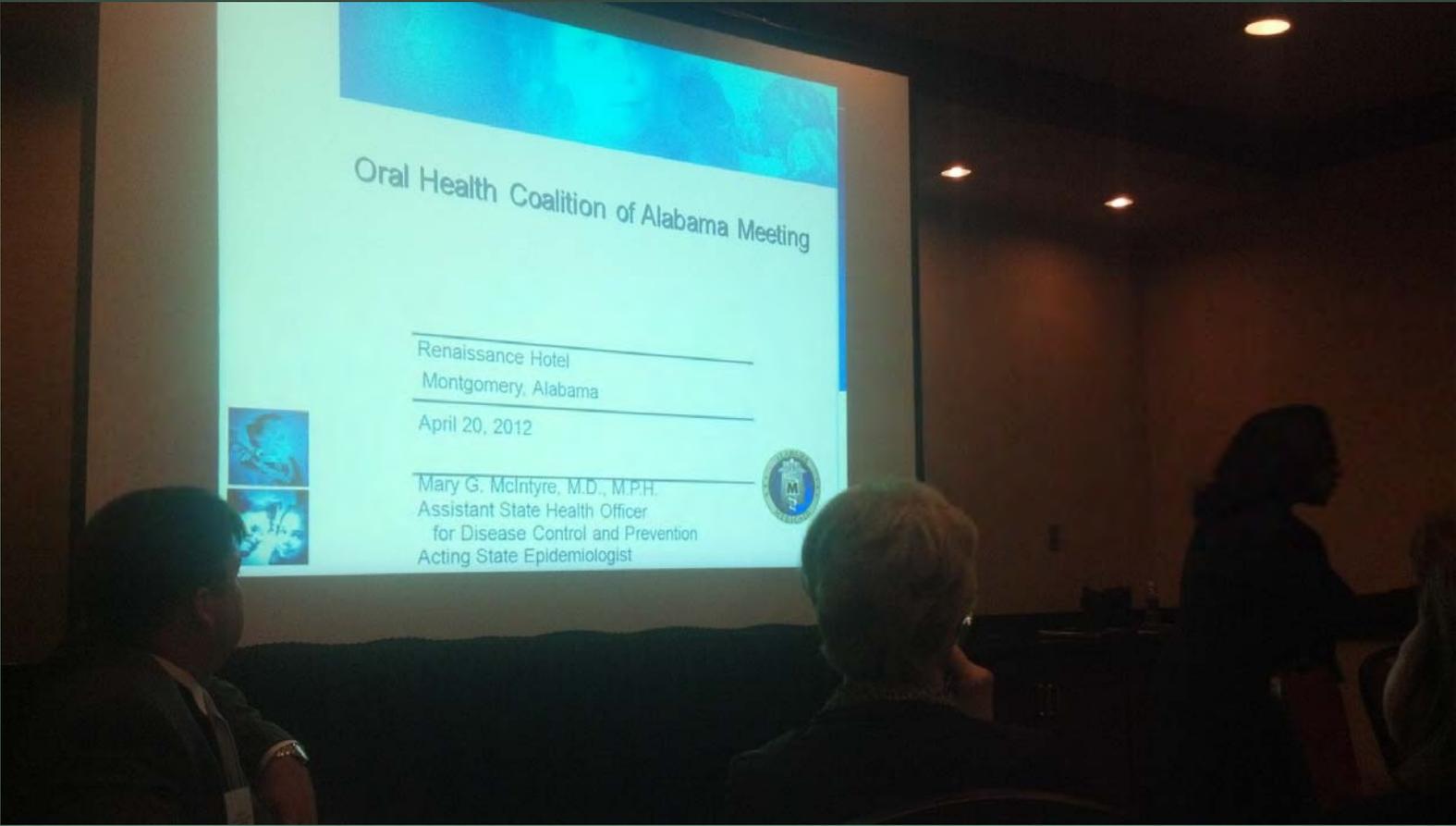
the university of alabama at birmingham



**Conan Davis, DMD MPH**

**Assistant Dean, Community  
Collaborations and Public Health**







## Alabama 5-Year State Oral Health Plan 2018 – 2023

### GOAL 1: Increase Access to Oral Health Care

*By September 30, 2023, increase access to oral health care among underserved and/or hard to reach populations.*

Objective 1.1 Decrease the proportion of young adults, adults, and older adults who are without dental insurance and increase the utilization rate by those with dental insurance.

1.1.1 Promote adult oral health benefits in the Alabama Medicaid and the Medicare Programs.

1.1.2 Expand efforts to insure persons without dental coverage.

1.1.3 Use public service announcements and other innovative outreach methods (e.g., social media, Alabama Department of Public Health video production studio, distance learning, and telehealth resources) to educate the public on the benefits of dental care and insurance.

1.1.4 Influence decision makers to affect policy.

1.1.4.a Influence the public

1.1.4.b Increase access to care



**Governor Ivey’s “State of the State” Speech (January 2018) included remarks about funding for the rural loan repayment and scholarship programs for dentists (through the Board of Dental Scholarships legislation)**

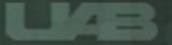
1 SYNOPSIS: This bill would require a public water  
2 system which proposes to initiate any permanent change in the  
3 fluoridation status of its water supply, including the removal  
4 of fluoride or reduction from the optimal level as defined by  
5 the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to  
6 notify the State Health Officer no less than ninety (90) days  
7 prior to any vote or discontinuance.

8 A BILL

9 TO BE ENTITLED

10 AN ACT

# UAB Community Rotations



## *Geriatric Outreach Rotation* (GOR)

- Supported by Alabama Department of Senior Services
- Weekly each Spring semester educational program, demographic survey, clinical screening exams, cleanings (portable equipment), home-bound care







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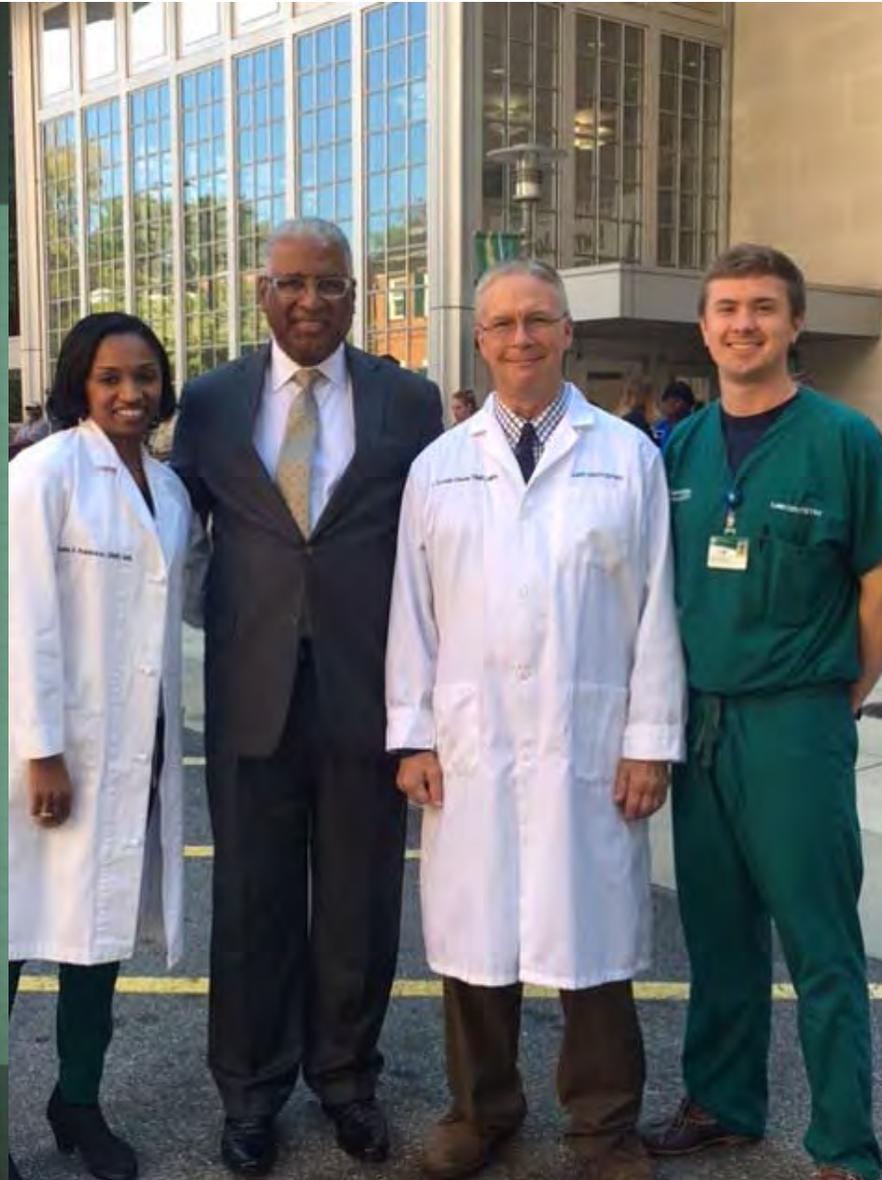
abama at birmingham



**UAB DENTISTRYcares**  
**Community Day**

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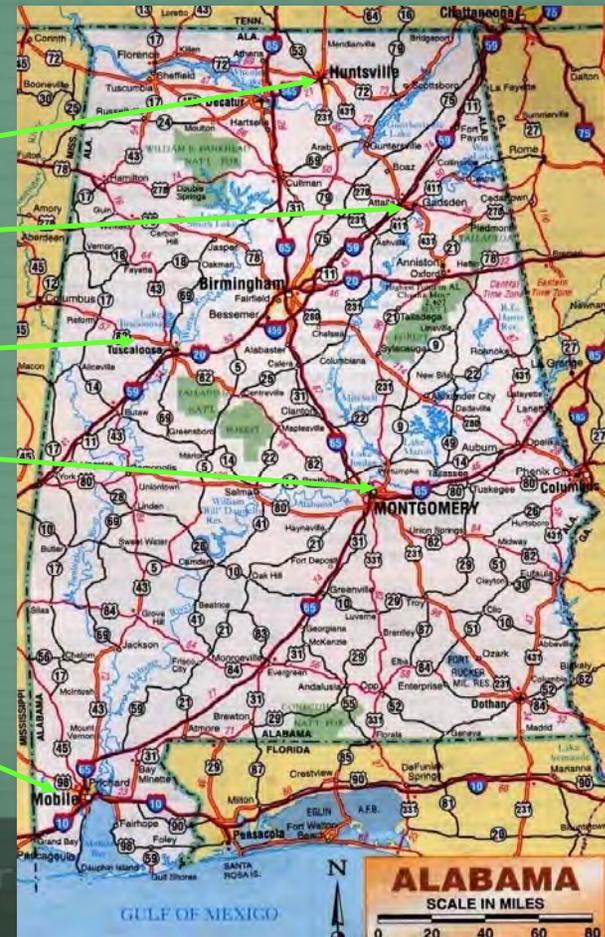


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# The NHSC SEARCH Program

- **Huntsville - HEALS Dental Clinic**
- **Gadsden – and Center clinics**
  - Quality of Life Clinics
- **Tuscaloosa - Maude L. Whatley Health Services, Inc.**
- **Montgomery - Montgomery Primary Care Health Center – and Haneyville clinics**
- **Mobile -**
  - Franklin Primary Health Care
  - Poarch Creek Indian Clinic, Atmore



UAB - Community - School of Dentistry | Alabama Dental Practice Resource Service

## Alabama Dental Practice Resource Service

The Alabama Dental Practice Resource Service is part of a study commissioned by the UAB School of Dentistry with money from HRSA to provide new and graduating dentists with an overview of the current oral health care landscape in Alabama for the purpose of identifying areas in need of additional dental practice locations.

### Demographics

This map displays dentists who were licensed to practice in Alabama in 2017 along with the total population per Alabama county in 2017 as estimated by the US Census.

There were a total of 2,165 dentists licensed to practice in Alabama in 2017. In 2017, there were 4.8+ million Alabama residents; this equates to approximately 4.5 dentists per 10,000 Alabamians. While a majority of the counties in Alabama are considered rural, most of Alabama's licensed dentists are located in the heavily populated...

Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS



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# **A STATE OF DECAY, VOL. IV**

**Caswell Evans, DDS, MPH**

Associate Dean for Prevention and Public Health Services,  
University of Chicago Illinois School of Dentistry

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# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



- Based on issues highlighted in the report
- Purpose: to assist advocates in approaching decision-makers on policies that improve older adults' oral health
- Advocacy tools available online & ready to be tailored



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# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

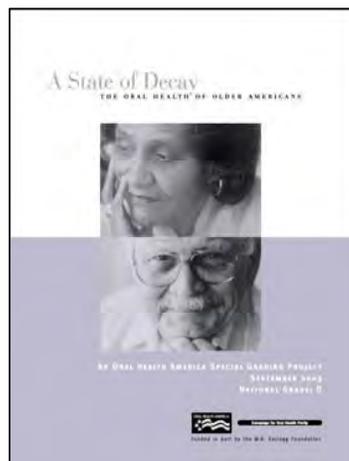
- **REINSTATE, ESTABLISH, OR MAINTAIN AN EXTENSIVE ADULT MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT**
  - Saves states money
  - Otherwise left to costly alternatives
- **INTEGRATE COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL COVERAGE IN MEDICARE**
  - Consumers want it
  - Oral health is a key indicator to overall health
  - Poor oral health lowers self-confidence
- **SUSTAIN OR EXPAND COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION**
  - Most simple and equitable preventative intervention
  - Cost effective

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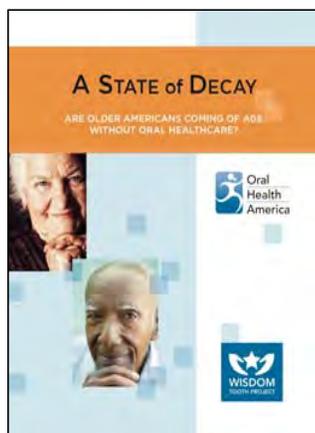
# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **INCLUDE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR OLDER ADULTS IN ALL STATE ORAL HEALTH PLANS**
  - Key to establishing a vision for improving oral health among older adults
  - Population health approach
- **CONDUCT BASIC SCREENING SURVEYS OF OLDER ADULTS IN ALL STATES**
  - Informed decisions backed by data
  - Data comparisons across states

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



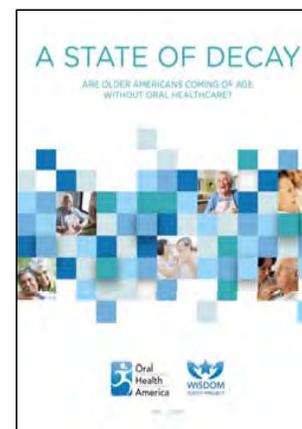
2003



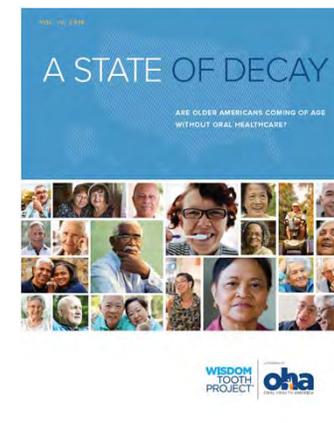
2013



2020



2016



2018

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# **A STATE OF DECAY, VOL. IV**

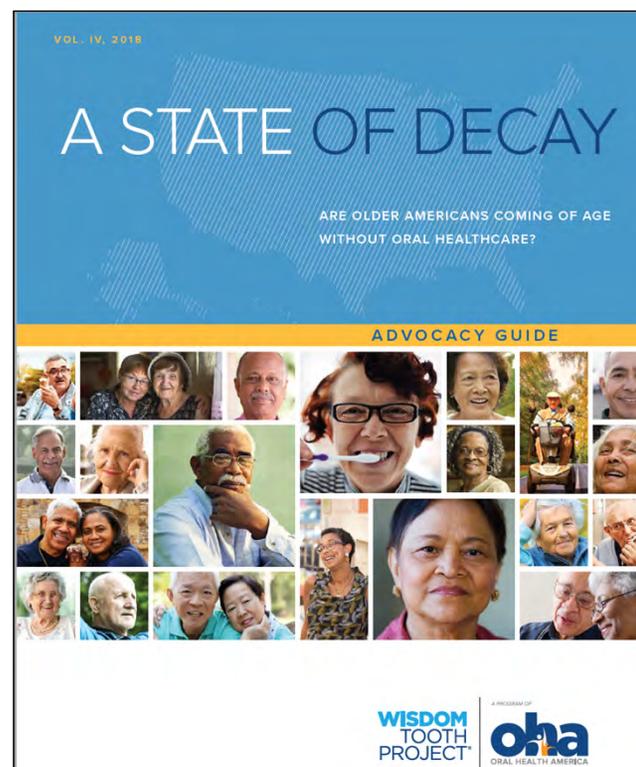
**Bianca Rogers**

Public Affairs Manager, Oral Health America

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# TOOLS TO ADVOCATE

- Key Messages
- Sample Press Release
- How To Talk About Your Score
- Step-by-Step Guide & Template:  
Policy Priorities  
One Pager
- Social Media & Graphics
- Infographic



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# KEY MESSAGES

## IF YOU'RE: WRITING A BLOG

← **General background & context for report**

***A State of Decay, Vol. IV* is a state-by-state analysis of variables that affect the oral health of older adults in the United States.** By 2029, the baby boomer generation will include older adults ranging from ages 65 to 83. While the 65+ population will fall under the same Medicare system, the needs of the oldest and youngest baby boomers will look very different. The purpose of this report is to assist states, advocates and public health coalitions to shine a light on the adversities at the state and national level and rally others to change both conditions and outcomes for older adults.

**Key Theme:**  
**States are taking action.** →

**Since the last report in 2016, an increasing number of states are taking action to advance the oral health outcomes of older adults.** The fourth volume of *A State of Decay* highlights the overall progress in areas including community water fluoridation, expansion of adult Medicaid dental benefits, completion of Basic Screening Surveys and State Oral Health Plans with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Limited) objectives for older adults.

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# HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SCORE



## IF YOU'RE: APPROACHED BY MEDIA

Setup/Intro  
Provided



### Fair: 50-69.9%

Oral Health America's *A State of Decay*, Vol. IV report recognizes our state's investment in maintaining good oral health for older adults. Our state received a ranking of fair, and it is clear we have work to do in order to ensure all older adults have good oral health.

The 2018 *A State of Decay* report reinforces the value of prioritizing the oral and overall health of older adults in our state. It also points to the areas in which we can improve. We commit to **[include specific examples of improvement if you have them]** do more to ensure older adults are healthy and can maintain good oral health throughout their lives.

Add Tailored  
Explanation



Determine which variables impacted your state's ranking most. Point out what your state is doing well but make sure to note which areas it can work on. If you have a specific plan of action to address the shortcomings, include them!

For example: **[State]** is committed to improving the oral health of older adults and has been successful in providing optimally fluoridated water and some Medicaid dental services. Currently, there is no State Oral Health Plan with SMART objectives for older adults, but we hope to bring together a state coalition of aging, dental and medical professionals in the coming year.

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE & TEMPLATE



## IF YOU'RE: APPROACHING A DECISION-MAKER

Example  
One-Pager



### OLDER ADULTS COMING OF AGE WITHOUT ORAL HEALTHCARE

*With an expected 72.1 million seniors living in the United States by 2030, Oral Health America's A State of Decay, Vol. IV, illustrates progress in some areas while continued action is needed to ensure America's growing population of seniors age healthily and independently.*

### INTEGRATE COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL COVERAGE IN MEDICARE

**Background:** Currently, 55 million Americans access healthcare services through Medicare; however, Medicare does not cover routine or preventive dental services.

- ✓ **Consumers Want Coverage.** Despite cost concerns, 93% of older adults claim dental coverage is a top priority compared with other non-covered services such as long-term care, vision, and hearing<sup>1</sup>.
- ✓ **Oral Health Impacts Overall Health.** Individuals with chronic conditions who regularly received recommended dental care, cleanings, or periodontal treatment saved an average of \$1,307 on their medical claims compared with those with chronic conditions who did not receive recommended dental care or no dental care at all<sup>2</sup>.
- ✓ **Quality of Life.** Older adults believe teeth impact more than health. Poor oral health affects your image and how you feel about yourself.

### SUSTAIN COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION

**Background:** Community water fluoridation is the controlled adjustment of fluoride in a public water supply to optimal concentration. It is beneficial across the lifespan, helping prevent tooth decay among all members of the community.

- ✓ **Prevention First.** Community water fluoridation is the most simple, equitable, cost-effective way for millions of Americans to protect their teeth and receive preventive oral health care.
- ✓ **Cost-Effective.** For most cities, every \$1 invested in water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs<sup>3</sup>.
- ✓ **Publicly Recognized.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention named the "fluoridation of drinking water" as one of "10 great public health achievements" of the 20th century<sup>4</sup>.

*While improvements in oral health across the lifespan have been observed in the last half century, long-term concern is warranted for the 10,000 older adults retiring each day. Including a dental benefit in Medicare and sustaining community water fluoridation **strengthens our communities and supports our mission of equitable access to oral health.***

**Oral Health America** is a national non-profit organization with a mission to change lives by connecting communities with resources to drive access to care, increase health literacy and advocate for policies that improve overall health through better oral health for all Americans, especially those most vulnerable. We envision a future where every person can attain a healthy mouth.

**QUESTIONS?** For more information, please visit [oralhealthamerica.org](http://oralhealthamerica.org) or contact our Public Affairs Team, at [advocacy@oha-chi.org](mailto:advocacy@oha-chi.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Oral Health America & American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. (2017). Results of instant-feedback qualitative sessions conducted by Wakefield Research on June 20 and 22, 2017, among Americans 50+. Retrieved from <https://oralhealthamerica.org/blog/2017/11/oha-ad-release-new-infographic-on-dental-coverage-in-medicare>.

<sup>2</sup> United Healthcare. (2013 Mar). Medical Dental integration Study. Retrieved from [https://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdotcom/en/Private%20Label%20Administrators/100-12683%20bridge2Health\\_Study\\_Dental\\_Final.pdf](https://www.uhc.com/content/dam/uhcdotcom/en/Private%20Label%20Administrators/100-12683%20bridge2Health_Study_Dental_Final.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Cost savings of community water fluoridation. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/cost.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Burt, B.A. (2002). Fluoridation and social equity. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, 62(4), 195-255.

Step-by-step  
instructions



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# SOCIAL MEDIA & GRAPHICS

## IF YOU'RE: SHARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA



### FACEBOOK

- Where does your state stand on oral health for older Americans? Check out @Oral Health America's new report, A State of Decay to find out. [astateofdecay.org](http://astateofdecay.org)

### TWITTER

- Where does your state stand on oral health for older Americans? Check out @Smile4health's #AStateofDecay report to find out [astateofdecay.org](http://astateofdecay.org)
- Big improvements have been made since 2016 – read more about how Alabama and Iowa prioritized older adults' oral health in the State Spotlight section of #AStateofDecay, Vol IV. [astateofdecay.org](http://astateofdecay.org)

# #AStateofDecay

## A STATE OF DECAY

VOL. IV, 2018

ARE OLDER AMERICANS COMING OF AGE WITHOUT ORAL HEALTHCARE?



One-third of older adults have lost six or more teeth 33%

**Lower income** older adults visit the dentist less frequently compared to their higher income counterparts

**MEANING...**

- Difficulty chewing nutritious foods like fruits and vegetables
- Loss of self-confidence
- Increased risk of chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease and gum disease

**GOOD NEWS!** State advocates have taken action to better the oral health of older adults.

<p><b>Adult Medicaid Dental Benefit</b></p> <p>OF THE TOP 13 DENTAL SERVICES USED BY ADULTS 65+ UNDER MEDICAID</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">9</span> states cover all</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">6</span> states cover none</p>	<p><b>Community Water Fluoridation</b></p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">15</span> states with <b>90% or more</b> of its communities receiving fluoridated water</p>	<p><b>State Oral Health Plan</b></p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">34</span> states have SOHPs</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">31</span> include older adults</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">12</span> use SMART objectives</p>	<p><b>Basic Screening Survey</b></p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">34</span> states either have completed a BSS for older adults or are planning to do so</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">6</span> completed a local pilot BSS between 2013–2017</p> <p><span style="font-size: 2em; color: white;">10</span> completed a statewide BSS between 2013–2017</p>
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Prioritize the oral health of older adults with these **POLICY RECOMENDATIONS:**

- Reinstato, establish, or maintain an **extensive adult Medicaid dental benefit**
- Integrate **comprehensive dental coverage in Medicare**
- Sustain or expand **community water fluoridation**

- Include **specific objectives for older adults in all State Oral Health Plans**
- Conduct **Basic Screening Surveys of older adults in all states**



Data from OHA's A State of Decay, Vol. IV report available at [astateofdecay.org](http://astateofdecay.org)

Oral Health America  
180 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601 • 312-836-9900 • [oralhealthamerica.org](http://oralhealthamerica.org)

**WISDOM TOOTH PROJECT**

in partnership with 



**QUESTIONS?**

**astateofdecay.org**

**#AStateofDecay**

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**Bianca Rogers**

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# THANK YOU

Let's improve the oral and overall health of all Americans together!



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