

DOWNEAST DISTRICT:

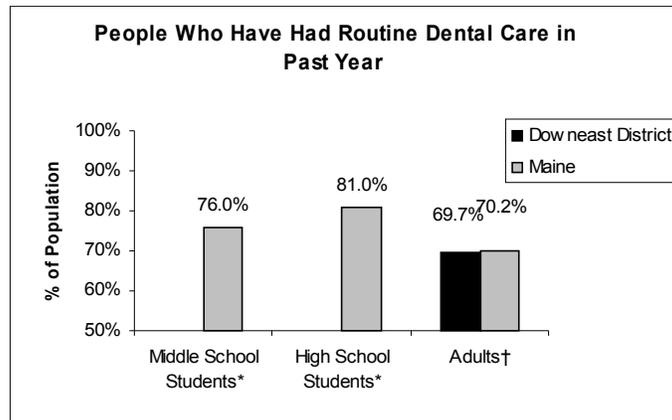
Oral Health

Oral Health Status and Access to Care

Oral health is an important part of the overall health of our bodies. Poor dental hygiene and lack of preventive care can lead to dental disease, which can have serious adverse effects on physical health, contribute to other health problems and even to social exclusion. Most oral health problems can be prevented through proper dental hygiene, routine oral health care visits, oral health education, school based dental sealant programs, and fluoridation of community water systems.

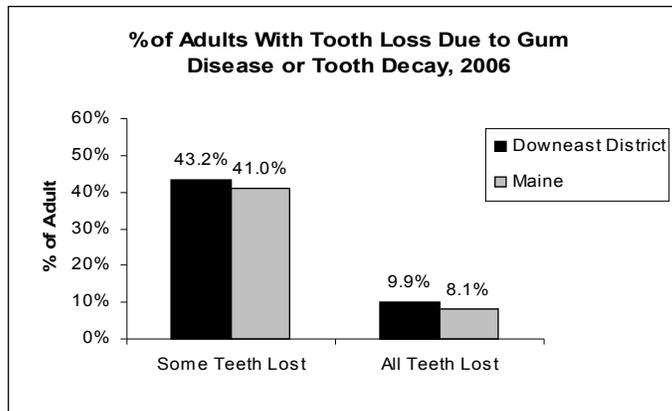
Access to oral health care is of particular concern across Maine as many Maine dentists are near retirement age, and not all dentists accept Medicaid patients including children. The aging of Maine’s population in a retirement state will create more need for oral health care services so that seniors can resolve oral health problems and continue to eat properly. Medicare does not cover dental care services.

Contact the Maine Oral Health Program at www.maine.gov/dhhs/bohdcfh/odh.



*Source: 2005 YRBS; Note: district-level data not available

†Source: 2006 BRFSS



Source: 2006 BRFSS: # of permanent teeth lost due to tooth decay or gum disease

	Downeast District Percent (± Margin of Error)	Maine State Percent (± Margin of Error)
Middle School Students Who Have Had a Routine Dental Visit in Past Year ¹	N/A	76
High School Students Who Have Had a Routine Dental Visit in Past Year ¹	N/A	81
Adults Who Have Had a Routine Dental Visit in Past Year ²	69.7 (±5.5)	70.2 (±1.8)
Adults Who Have Lost Teeth Due to Gum Disease or Tooth Decay ²		
Some teeth lost	43.2 (±5.9)	41 (±1.8)
All teeth lost	9.9 (±3.3)	8.1 (±1.0)

1. Source: 2005 YRBS: Note: district-level data not available

2. Source: 2006 BRFSS