

Oral Health

Summary / Recommendations: In 2006, Louisiana residents who were older, Black, had lower levels of education and income, and were disabled, were more likely to report having permanent teeth removed than those who were younger, White, or had higher levels of income and education. Residents who reported being unable to work were much more likely to have had at least one permanent tooth removed, and also much more likely to report having all their natural teeth removed. Younger adults, White adults, those with higher education and income levels, and those who are employed were the most likely to have visited the dentist within the past year.

Oral health among adults, overall and by select categories Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Louisiana 2006

Characteristics+	Had Permanent Teeth Removed~			Visited Dental Clinic**		
	Sample Size*	%	95% CI	Sample Size*	%	95% CI
Total	3791	49.0	(47.5-50.5)	4441	63.5	(62.0-64.9)
Age						
18-34	326	24.3	(21.3-27.3)	855	66.7	(63.5-69.9)
35-54	1355	49.5	(47.3-51.7)	1894	64.4	(62.3-66.6)
55+	2110	76.6	(74.9-78.4)	1692	58.6	(56.5-60.7)
Gender						
Male	1269	47.8	(45.3-50.3)	1468	61.9	(59.4-64.4)
Female	2522	50.1	(48.4-51.9)	2973	64.9	(63.2-66.6)
Race						
White	2492	45.2	(43.5-46.9)	3337	67.5	(65.8-69.1)
Black	1013	58.8	(55.5-62.1)	778	53.4	(50.2-56.6)
Education						
< High school	729	71.1	(66.3-75.8)	321	37.6	(33.0-42.1)
High school grad	1425	55.6	(52.9-58.4)	1321	58.9	(56.3-61.5)
Some college/grad	1631	39.0	(37.1-41.0)	2795	73.2	(71.4-74.9)
HH Income						
<\$25,000	1370	64.8	(61.7-67.9)	809	44.1	(41.0-47.3)
\$25,000-\$49,999	915	49.1	(46.0-52.3)	1112	64.9	(61.8-68.0)
\$50,000+	796	35.5	(33.1-37.8)	1721	77.8	(75.7-79.9)
Employment						
Employed	1433	40.5	(38.4-42.7)	2310	68.5	(66.5-70.6)
Self- employed	1382	66.9	(64.2-69.5)	1233	60.2	(57.6-62.8)
Unemployed	534	39.9	(36.1-43.7)	677	61.3	(57.4-65.2)
Unable to work	428	79.2	(74.6-83.8)	202	40.7	(35.6-45.8)

* Percentages are based on weighted data estimates. Un-weighted sample size (Permanent teeth) = 3791
 Un-weighted sample size = (Dental visits) = 2320

+ In this analysis, data for each category are included only for persons for whom the data were available; excluded data were either unknown or refused..

~ The proportion of adults who reported ever had permanent teeth removed

**The proportion of adults who reported that have visited dental clinic in last 12 months

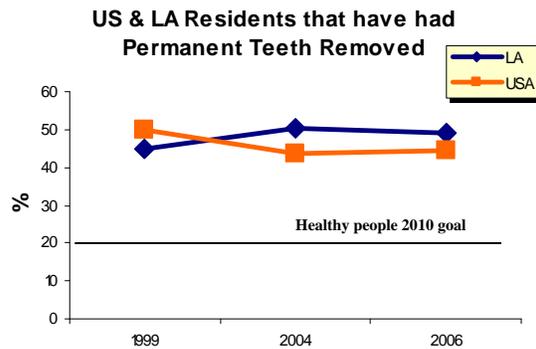
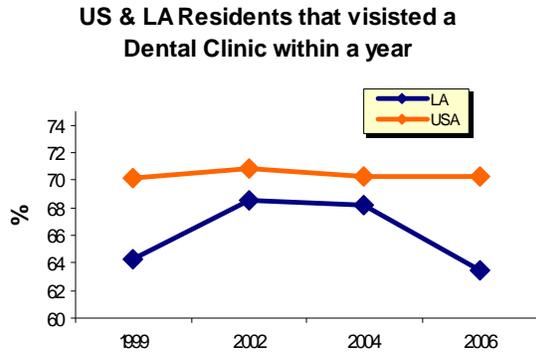
Oral health can have a significant impact on an individual's mental and physical health status (*Healthy People 2010*, 2000). Millions of Americans deal with oral diseases such as cavities and periodontal disease (*Healthy People 2010*, 2000).

Dental cavities are the most common disease in childhood (*Healthy People 2010*). It is essential to maintain proper dental care in order to prevent poor oral health outcomes, by visiting a dental health care professional twice a year (*Healthy People 2010*).

The *Healthy People 2010* goal related to oral health is to prevent and manage oral diseases and improve the quality and access to dental services (*Healthy People 2010*, 2000).

In 2006, 49.0% [95% CI: 47.5-50.5] of all Louisiana residents have had at least one permanent tooth removed. Of Louisiana residents 65 and older, 28.9% [95% CI: 26.3-31.6] reported having had all their natural teeth removed.

Black Louisiana residents aged 65 and older were much more likely to have had all their teeth removed, 47.7% [95% CI: 41.0-54.5], compared to 24.1 [95% CI: 21.3-27.0].



In 2006, 63.5% [95% CI: 62.0-64.9] of Louisiana adults reported visiting the dentist or dental clinic within the past year. As the age range increased, the proportion of adults who have seen a dentist or dental clinic decreased.

Employed residents were much more likely to have had a recent dental visit than were those unable to work: 68.5% [95% CI: 66.5-70.6] compared to 40.7% [95% CI: 35.6-45.8].

The proportion of Louisiana and US residents who have had at least one tooth removed did not change dramatically between 1999 and 2006, with Louisiana rates slightly higher. The proportion of older adults who had all their teeth removed decreased over that time period.

Unfortunately, Louisiana rates remained substantially higher than US rates. A higher proportion of residents had seen a dentist recently in 2002 and 2004, but in 2006 this proportion dropped down to the lower rate seen in 1999.

The *Healthy People 2010* objective for this measure is to reduce the proportion of older adults who have had all their teeth removed to 20%.