

## We want your opinions on dental care!

*We are interested in learning about dental care. This survey is voluntary and your answers will be kept confidential. You do not even need to give us your name. The information we gather will be used by researchers studying dental care, but there will be no way for them to know who said what. There are no right or wrong answers, and nothing you say will have any impact on your visit here today, or in the future. We are just interested in your experiences and opinions.*

**1. How often do you go to the dentist?** (check one)

- At least once a year
- About every 2 years
- Less often than every 2 years
- Only when needed, no regular schedule
- Don't know

**2. If you care for children** (younger than age 18), **on average, about how many times a year do they go to the dentist?** (check one)

- No children (please go to the next question)
  - At least once a year
  - About every 2 years
  - Less often than every 2 years
  - Only when needed, no regular schedule
  - Don't know
  - Children are too young to go to the dentist (or today is child's first visit)

**3. In the past 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your household needed to see a dentist but didn't go?**

- Yes    No    Don't know

4. If you answered NO or DON'T KNOW to question 3 (there WASN'T or you WEREN'T SURE if there was a time when you, or someone in your household, needed to see a dentist but didn't), SKIP to question 5.

If you answered YES to question 3 (you, or someone in your household, DID need to see a dentist but didn't):

**Why did you, or someone in your household, not go to the dentist when needed?** (check all that apply)

- Didn't have time
- Would cost too much
- Couldn't find a dentist who took Medicaid or our insurance
- Didn't know a dentist to call
- Couldn't get an appointment
- Would have to travel too far, or didn't have a way to get there
- Didn't have anybody to care for children or other family member
- Afraid, nervous, don't like needles
- Some other reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

5. **Why are you here today?** (check all that apply)

- Came with somebody else (not seeing the dentist myself)
- Regular checkup, or to get teeth cleaned
- To have teeth filled
- Trouble with gums
- To have teeth pulled
- Toothache
- Loose tooth
- To adjust, repair or have dentures made
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't want to say

6. If you have an appointment here today, SKIP to question 7.

If you came with somebody who has an appointment, but you don't have one yourself:

**Do you feel you are currently in need of dental treatment?**

- Yes    No    Don't know

7. **How would you describe the condition of your teeth and gums?** (check one)

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Very good
- Don't know

8. When you are waiting in the dentist's office for your turn, how do you feel? (check one)

- Relaxed
- A little uneasy
- Tense
- Anxious
- So anxious that I sometimes break out in a sweat or almost feel physically sick

*Now we're going to ask a few questions about different types of medical and dental providers.*

9. Do you know what physician assistants and nurse practitioners are?  Yes  No

*In case you didn't know, or weren't sure – or just to make sure we're talking about the same people – physician assistants (sometimes called PAs) and nurse practitioners (sometimes called NPs) have special training that lets them do many of the things doctors do. They can do physical exams on patients, diagnose and treat illnesses, order tests, and sometimes write prescriptions. They work with a collaborating or supervising doctor.*

10. Have you ever seen a PA or NP for medical care?  Yes  No  Don't know

11. Do you know what a dental hygienist is?  Yes  No

*Again, just to make sure we're talking about the same person, a dental hygienist is the one who usually cleans your teeth and checks them before the dentist comes in. They might talk to you about how to take care of your teeth. Usually it's the hygienist who takes the x-rays, and they might also be the one who gives you a shot to make your teeth and gums go numb before you get a filling.*

12. Have you ever had your teeth cleaned by a dental hygienist?  Yes  No  Don't know

13. Do you know what a dental therapist is?  Yes  No  Don't know

***A dental therapist is like a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, but for dentistry. They are in between a hygienist and a dentist because they can do all the things a dental hygienist can do, and some of the things a dentist can do. Dental therapists are allowed to assess the situation, do fillings, pull teeth, and a few other procedures. They are not allowed to do complicated procedures or treat more serious problems in your mouth. Only a dentist can do that. Dental therapists are taught to fill and pull teeth the same way dentists are, and they need to pass an exam to get licensed just like a dentist does. They work under the supervision of a dentist, and can talk with him in person or by phone or other electronic means if questions come up. Right now, dental therapists work in about 50 other countries. They also work in Minnesota. Other states are thinking about allowing them to work, to try to make it easier for people to get dental care.***

***Now we are going to ask some questions about dental therapists. We're interested in learning whether you think you would be comfortable seeing one in different kinds of situations. If you care for children, we're also interested in learning whether you think you would be comfortable taking your child to see a dental therapist.***

**14. If Michigan had dental therapists, do you think you personally would feel comfortable seeing one:**

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| to have a simple cavity filled?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to have a tooth taken out?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to get a shot to make your teeth and gums go numb?                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to put on caps or crowns that stick permanently to your teeth?    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to get advice or information about your teeth?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to explain treatment options for problems with your teeth?        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| in an emergency for these things, if a dentist weren't available? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

**15. If you care for children (younger than age 18), do you think you would feel comfortable taking your child to see a dental therapist:**

No children (please go to the next question)

- |   |                              |                             |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| to have a simple cavity filled?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to have a baby tooth taken out?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to get a shot to make their teeth and gums go numb?               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to put on caps or crowns that stick permanently to their teeth?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to get advice or information about their teeth?                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| to explain treatment options for problems with their teeth?       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| in an emergency for these things, if a dentist weren't available? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

16. If you answered YES to all parts of questions 14 and 15 (you ARE comfortable with dental therapists), SKIP to 19.

If you answered NO to any part of questions 14 or 15 (you are NOT comfortable):

**What is the reason you think you would be uncomfortable with a dental therapist?** (check all that apply)

- Worried about the quality of care
- Don't know enough about them
- Already have a dentist
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Now, we're going to ask about some things that might, or might not, change your mind. We're going to ask about your opinion both for yourself, and then if you care for children, for them.**

17. Do you think you, personally, might be willing to see a dental therapist if:

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| you could get a dental appointment more quickly?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| it cost less to see a dental therapist than a dentist?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| it was easier to get to an office where a dental therapist worked?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| the dental therapist accepted Medicaid (or other insurance you have)?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| a dentist you'd seen told you that they had made up the treatment plan, and that the dental therapist they were working with was able to do the work you needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

18. If you care for children (under the age of 18) do you think you might be willing to take them to a dental therapist if:

No children (please go to the next question)

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| you could get your child a dental appointment more quickly?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| it cost less to see a dental therapist than a dentist?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| it was easier to get to an office where a dental therapist worked?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| the dental therapist accepted Medicaid (or other insurance you have)?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| a dentist you'd seen told you that they had made up the treatment plan, and that the dental therapist working with them was able to do the work your child needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

19. In general, do you think it would be a good idea to let dental therapists work in Michigan?

- Yes  No

20. Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**21. Are you:**

- Male
- Female

**22. Are you:**

- African American / Black
- Caucasian / White
- American Indian / Alaskan Native
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Other

**23. Are you:**

- Hispanic / Latino
- Middle Eastern / Arabic
- Neither

**24. What is your age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**25. What is the highest level of school you have completed?** (check one)

- Not a high school graduate (no diploma or GED). What was the last grade you completed? \_\_\_\_\_
- High school graduate or GED
- Some college, but less than a bachelor's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Graduate or professional degree

**26. What type of dental insurance do you, or others in your household, have?** (check all that apply)

- Medicaid (or other dental insurance from the state)
- Private (employer-provided) dental insurance
- Uninsured
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't know

**27. What is your zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_

*You're done! Thank you for your time!*