

Table 37. Dental visits in the past year, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1997–2017

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_037.

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Characteristic	2 years and over			2–17 years			18–64 years			65 years and over ¹		
	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017
	Percent of persons with a dental visit in the past year ²											
Total ³	65.1	64.7	68.7	72.7	78.9	84.9	64.1	61.1	64.0	54.8	57.7	65.6
Sex												
Male	62.9	61.7	66.8	72.3	78.3	84.2	60.4	56.8	61.1	55.4	56.2	65.5
Female	67.1	67.5	70.4	73.0	79.6	85.6	67.7	65.4	66.8	54.4	58.9	65.7
Race ⁴												
White only	66.4	65.6	69.7	74.0	79.2	85.8	65.7	62.4	65.0	56.8	59.3	67.8
Black or African American only	58.9	58.8	64.8	68.8	79.0	83.2	57.0	53.1	60.0	35.4	40.6	53.0
American Indian or Alaska Native only	55.1	57.4	70.1	66.8	73.2	86.3	49.9	49.8	64.7	*	72.2	*
Asian only	62.5	66.5	66.1	69.9	74.8	83.2	60.3	64.6	63.5	53.9	61.9	53.1
Islander only	---	*	46.8	---	*	*	---	*	*	---	*	*
2 or more races	---	65.2	65.3	---	77.9	78.8	---	54.7	56.0	---	48.1	59.7
Black or African American and White	---	72.5	64.1	---	78.4	73.8	---	62.1	51.2	---	*	*
American Indian or Alaska Native and White	---	54.7	65.0	---	70.0	87.3	---	49.0	58.3	---	*54.5	*
Hispanic origin and race ⁴												
Hispanic or Latino	54.0	56.5	63.1	61.0	74.8	84.9	50.8	48.5	54.0	47.8	42.1	54.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	66.4	66.2	69.9	74.7	80.1	84.9	65.7	63.4	66.2	55.2	59.0	66.6
White only	68.0	67.6	71.5	76.4	80.9	86.2	67.5	65.4	68.1	57.2	60.9	69.1
Black or African American only	58.8	58.7	64.3	68.8	79.2	82.5	56.9	53.1	59.9	35.3	40.5	52.4
Percent of poverty level ⁵												
Below 100%	50.5	50.6	57.1	62.0	73.2	81.9	46.9	41.0	48.2	31.5	32.8	42.1
100%–199%	50.8	51.6	55.2	62.5	73.4	79.8	48.3	44.1	47.4	40.8	43.8	43.1
200%–399%	66.2	63.5	65.9	76.1	79.0	83.8	63.4	59.6	59.9	60.7	57.9	65.4
400% or more	78.9	79.3	80.5	85.7	88.0	91.4	77.7	77.5	77.6	74.7	77.2	82.2
Hispanic origin and race and percent of poverty level ^{4,5}												
Hispanic or Latino:												
Below 100%	45.7	50.8	58.1	55.9	74.3	85.1	39.2	34.7	40.7	33.6	32.4	43.9
100%–199%	47.2	50.8	59.5	53.8	71.1	82.2	43.5	40.2	48.3	47.9	39.5	51.0
200%–399%	61.2	59.1	63.5	70.5	76.5	84.8	57.5	54.1	55.5	57.0	46.0	60.6
400% or more	73.0	73.3	73.3	82.4	84.2	91.2	70.8	71.6	69.5	64.9	54.3	*
Not Hispanic or Latino:												
White only:												
Below 100%	51.7	49.3	56.7	64.4	69.1	80.2	50.6	44.4	51.9	32.0	36.4	44.6
100%–199%	52.4	52.7	52.1	66.1	75.3	79.2	50.4	47.2	45.6	42.2	45.4	43.3
200%–399%	67.5	64.7	66.8	77.1	79.6	83.3	65.0	61.4	61.1	61.9	59.8	67.3
400% or more	79.7	79.8	82.3	86.8	88.6	92.2	78.5	77.9	79.7	75.5	78.8	83.6
Black or African American only:												
Below 100%	52.8	52.0	58.3	66.1	78.0	82.9	46.2	39.7	49.5	27.7	20.9	36.4
100%–199%	48.7	50.0	58.0	61.2	75.9	78.5	46.3	41.5	52.7	26.9	33.6	37.5
200%–399%	63.3	61.2	65.9	75.0	81.2	83.5	60.7	57.2	61.4	41.5	45.3	60.4
400% or more	74.6	77.2	75.8	81.8	87.2	88.5	73.4	75.9	73.5	66.1	69.8	75.5
Level of difficulty ⁶												
A lot of difficulty or cannot do at all	---	43.4	48.4	---	40.1	52.5
Some difficulty	---	56.5	62.6	---	56.3	65.5
No difficulty	---	63.3	65.7	---	65.4	72.4

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Characteristic	2 years and over			2–17 years			18–64 years			65 years and over ¹		
	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017	1997	2010	2017
Percent of persons with a dental visit in the past year ²												
Geographic region												
Northeast	69.6	70.1	73.7	77.5	83.8	86.7	69.6	67.9	70.8	55.5	61.5	68.6
Midwest	68.4	67.3	69.5	76.4	80.8	83.3	67.4	64.3	65.6	57.6	58.2	67.0
South	60.2	60.9	64.4	68.0	77.4	83.1	59.4	56.5	58.7	49.0	54.1	61.1
West	65.0	63.9	70.6	71.5	76.1	87.8	62.9	60.2	65.5	61.9	59.8	68.4
Location of residence ⁷												
Within MSA	66.7	65.9	69.7	73.6	79.3	85.4	65.7	62.4	65.2	57.6	59.4	66.9
Outside MSA	59.1	58.4	61.3	69.3	76.4	81.4	58.0	53.8	55.7	46.1	51.3	57.9

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates was assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Prior to 2016 data, the reliability of estimates for earlier years was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSE). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).

- - - Data not available.

... Category not applicable.

¹Based on the 1997–2017 National Health Interview Surveys, about 19%–30% of persons aged 65 and over were edentulous (having lost all their natural teeth). In 1997–2017, about 69%–73% of older dentate persons, compared with 17%–30% of older edentate persons, had a dental visit in the past year.

²Respondents were asked, "About how long has it been since you last saw or talked to a dentist?" See Appendix II, Dental visit.

³Includes all other races not shown separately and unknown disability status.

⁴The race groups white, black, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and 2 or more races include persons of Hispanic and non-Hispanic origin. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The five single-race categories and multiple-race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group; the category 2 or more races includes persons who reported more than one racial group. Prior to 1999, data were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards with four racial groups, and the Asian only category included Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race, or if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. Starting with 2003 data, race responses of other race and unspecified multiple race were treated as missing, and then race was imputed if these were the only race responses. Almost all persons with a race response of other race were of Hispanic origin. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

⁵Percent of poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using U.S. Census Bureau poverty thresholds. Missing family income data were imputed for 1997 and beyond. See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty; Table VII.

⁶Functional limitation is defined by the reported level of difficulty in six functioning domains: seeing (even if wearing glasses), hearing (even if wearing hearing aids), mobility (walking or climbing stairs), communication (understanding or being understood by others), cognition (remembering or concentrating), and self-care (such as washing all over or dressing). Respondents with answers to one or more of the six questions were included in one of three mutually exclusive categories. Those responding "A lot of difficulty" or "Cannot do at all/unable to do" to at least one question were classified in the "A lot of difficulty/cannot do" category. Of the remaining, those responding "Some difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "Some difficulty" category, and those responding "No difficulty" to at least one question were classified in the "No difficulty" category. Those responding "Don't know" or "Refused" to all six questions were excluded. During 2010–2017, 1%–8% of respondents were missing data and excluded. See Appendix II, Functional limitation.

⁷MSA is metropolitan statistical area. Starting with 2016 data, MSA status is determined using 2010 Census data and the 2010 standards for defining MSAs. For more information, including the definition prior to 2016, see Appendix II, Metropolitan statistical area (MSA) for the applicable standards.

NOTES: Standard errors for selected years are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, sample child and sample adult questionnaires. Data for level of difficulty are from the 2010 Quality of Life and 2011–2017 Functioning and Disability questionnaires, family core. See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).