



ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE

HEALTH, UNITED STATES, 2020–2021: ANNUAL PERSPECTIVE—ORAL HEALTH BY INCOME.

Health, United States synthesizes final data from multiple sources to highlight the complex and multifactorial nature of disparities in health outcomes.

Access to dental treatment differs according to where people live and their income

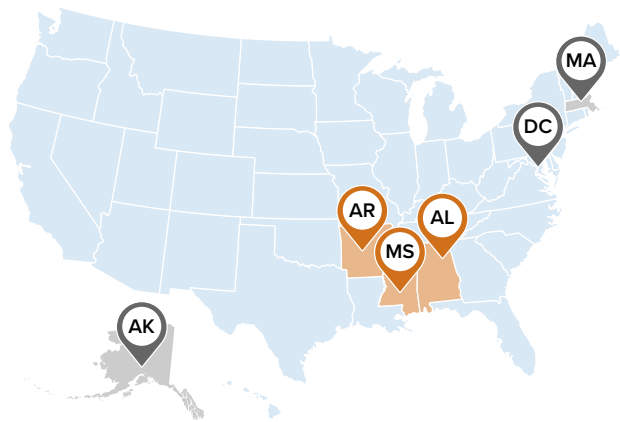
Unequal distribution of dentists creates shortages in some states



The national supply of dentists
↑ **increased**
from 2010 to 2020,
but

**60 MILLION
AMERICANS**

live in areas with a
shortage of dentists



In 2020, Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi had the **lowest rate of dentists** while Washington D.C., Massachusetts, and Alaska had the highest rate per capita

SOURCE: Health Resources and Services Administration. Health professional shortage areas dashboard. March 2021. data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas.

Income affects receipt of needed dental care

High out-of-pocket costs for dental care contributed to unmet need for dental care

Adults with **lower incomes** were less likely to receive needed dental care because of cost



The share of costs paid out of pocket was **5x as high** for dental care as for physician and clinical care in 2019

Unmet need for dental care in 2019 (adults aged 18–64)



Living below 100% of FPL



Living at 400% or more of FPL

FPL = Federal Poverty Level