

# ORAL HEALTH EQUITY

## A NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN COLORADO

CCHI 2022

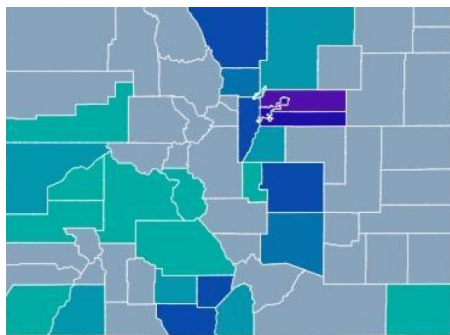


### RESPONSES

- **422 COMPLETE RESPONSES**
- **AGED FROM 18-86**
- **DIVERSE INCOME AND EDUCATION LEVELS**
- **RACIAL MAKEUP REPRESENTATIVE OF COLORADO**



### WHO'S REPRESENTED?



Deeper colors indicate higher number of responses, gray denotes no responses from that county.

### THE ASSESSMENT

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI) conducted a survey to assess Coloradans' oral health needs and experiences to inform CCHI's 2023 policy agenda.



### STORIES FROM COLORADANS

#### PERCEPTION

"Being poor, you get treated differently."  
Age 41 | Alamosa, CO

#### ACCESS

"Pain in a tooth with a crown. It is taking 8 days to get an appointment that fits with my schedule, so I can avoid missing work."  
Age 57 | Golden, CO

#### QUALITY

"I stopped going because they didn't listen to me and they gave me partials (dentures) that hurt."  
Age 70 | Denver, CO

#### AFFORDABILITY

"All parts of dental care are expensive I believe out-of-pocket costs are currently the most expensive."  
Age 28 | Del Norte, CO



Colorado Consumer  
Health Initiative



303.839.1261



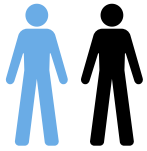
inform@cohealthinitiative.org



www.cohealthinitiative.org

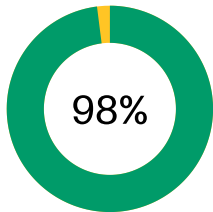
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

People understand and feel that oral health is important, but the system doesn't represent them, is hard to access, and expensive.



Over 50% are living with oral pain or feeling self-conscious about their oral health.

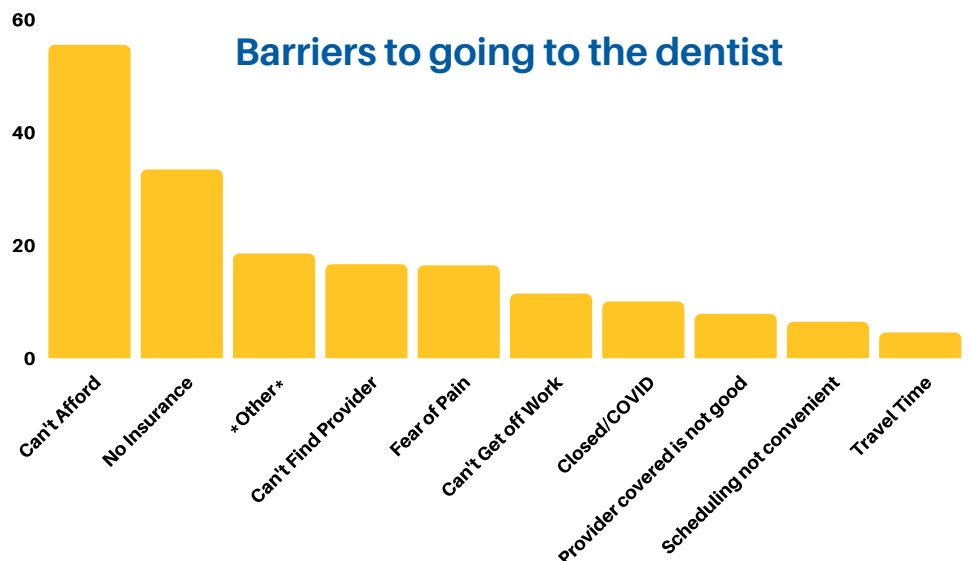
Despite the desire for good dental health, Coloradans report high rates of poor or below average dental health, mouth pain, self-consciousness about mouth appearance, and changes to their day-to-day lives caused by dental health issues.



On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being very important and 5 being not important at all, 74% selected "Very Important" and 24% selected "Important", **showing 98% of those surveyed, believe oral care is important.**

While respondents have a strong history of dental visits and routine care, access is a challenge, primarily driven by financial concerns **with 73% saying it's too expensive.**

*\*Just under 13 percent reported no barriers. Reasons provided in the "Other" section included: language barrier, provider did not like me, not priority, child care, judgment, fear, COVID.*



**Fear and anxiety, stemming from judgmental providers and staff, are also strong factors preventing patients from getting care.**

**50%**

of those surveyed felt that the time between scheduling an appointment and seeing a provider **was too long.**

**2+ MONTHS**

was the average length of wait time for a routine cleaning appointment, **with 37% waiting 4 months or more.**

**1 IN 4**

of those who have not sought needed care **cite fear, judgment, anxiety, or pain as a factor.**

**47%**

**of patients needing immediate care had to wait over 1 month for an appointment.** Only 20% of patients seeking immediate care for dental problems were able to get an appointment within days.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Policy makers and advocates should make oral health policy a priority to improve health, well-being, and equity for all Coloradans. These survey results underscore the gaps in access, affordability, and quality of care. **Share your experience with oral health by visiting [cohealth.co/sharehealthstory](https://cohealth.co/sharehealthstory), or get involved with our Oral Health Equity Coalition at [cohealth.co/OralHealthCoalition](https://cohealth.co/OralHealthCoalition).**



Colorado Consumer Health Initiative



303.839.1261



[inform@cohealthinitiative.org](mailto:inform@cohealthinitiative.org)



[www.cohealthinitiative.org](https://www.cohealthinitiative.org)