Covered Dental Care is
MY REASON TO SMILE

A recent survey conducted with **208 Marylanders** found that nearly half of surveyed adults have not seen a dentist in the last two years. With the newly expanded Maryland Healthy Smiles dental benefits, more accessible oral care is possible.

After years of working collectively with partners to advocate the Maryland General Assembly to add dental coverage to Maryland Medicaid, **all adults enrolled in the full Medicaid program now have comprehensive dental benefits through the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program.** The Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC), the state's leading non-governmental oral health policy and advocacy organization, is working to encourage Marylanders who are eligible to receive the newly expanded Maryland Healthy Smiles dental benefits to make dental appointments. MDAC is also encouraging more dentists to see adult patients with Medicaid coverage.

In 2023, MDAC surveyed 208 Marylanders from all across the state to help inform our outreach campaign and learn more about their awareness of dental benefits under Medicaid, their oral health care habits, the importance of seeing a dentist, barriers to getting dental care, and more.
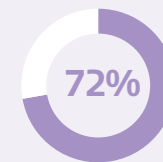
Let's make Maryland a place where every smile is A HEALTHY SMILE!

Visit **MyReasonToSmile.org** to learn more about the NEW Maryland Healthy Smiles dental benefits and find participating providers near you.

MDAC
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

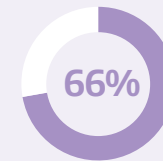## Understanding Marylanders' Oral Health Care Needs

83% of respondents said they currently **have health insurance** with **86%** having Medicaid/HealthChoice.

59% of respondents were **aware** that adults who **have or qualify for Medicaid** in Maryland are now able to receive **dental care with no copays.**

72% of respondents without health insurance **did not know if they were eligible** for the Maryland Medicaid Program or not.

66% of respondents were **aware of the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program.**
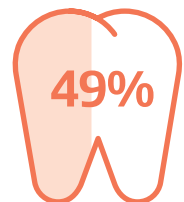

29% **24%** **101 respondents**

Survey respondents who **have not been to the dentist in the past two years** reported the top two reasons were:

no dental insurance (29%)

not knowing what type of dental care is covered by their insurance (24%)

73% of respondents who have not seen a dentist in the past two years said they were more likely to see a dentist if these issues were removed.

What's Keeping Marylanders from Going to the Dentist?

49% of respondents have **not seen a dentist** in the past two years (101 respondents).

Maryland Needs More Dentists Who Accept Medicaid

4,236 active dentists are currently in Maryland, but only 29% see patients with Medicaid insurance.*

The lack of dentists seeing adult patients with Medicaid coverage is a large barrier to care, but numbers are improving.

Currently, of the 4,236 active dentists in Maryland…

1,175 dentists have treated at least one adult Medicaid patient (27%).**

1,680 dentists are credentialed to accept adults with medicaid (29%).**

*2022 Maryland Dept. of Health Oral Health Legislative Report
**2023; Maryland Dept. of Health 1/11/2024