



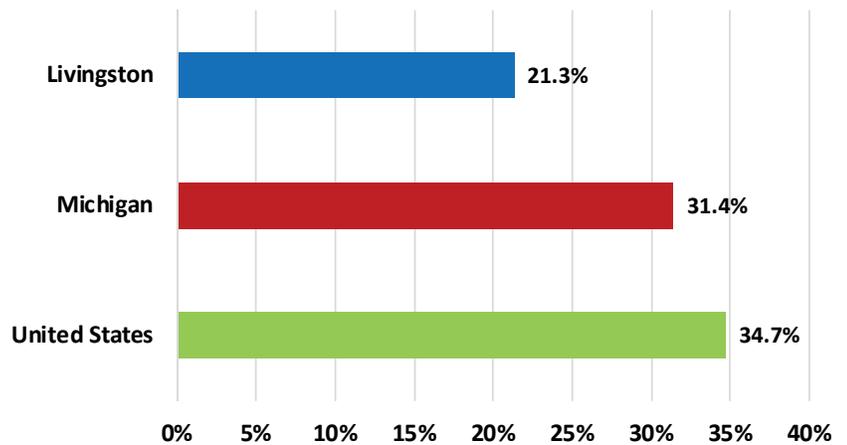
## ORAL HEALTH

Maintaining oral health is important for one's overall health. Without proper oral hygiene, bacteria in the mouth can reach levels that might lead to oral infections, such as tooth decay and gum disease. Tooth decay, gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancers are the most common oral diseases that account for the majority of social and economic costs of dental care in Michigan. This issue will examine the oral health status of Livingston County residents, as reported in the 2014 Livingston Community Health Status Assessment, compared to state and national data.

### DENTAL VISIT:

Regular dental care includes preventive dental services such as teeth cleaning, and permits early diagnosis and treatment of tooth decay and gum disease. In 2014, 21 percent of Livingston County adults reported not having a dental visit in the past year (31,619 residents). This is significantly better than the Michigan average of 31 percent and the national average of 35 percent within the same year.

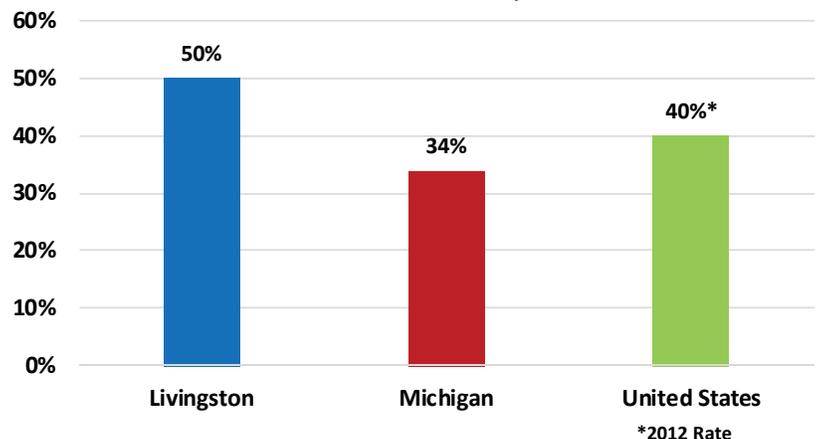
**No Dental Visit in Past Year, 2014**



### DENTAL INSURANCE:

Residents without dental insurance (50 percent) were more than three times more likely to report no dental visits in the past year than those with dental insurance (14 percent). In Michigan, an estimated 34 percent of adults reported having no dental insurance. Among those without dental coverage, only half of those individuals reported having had a dental checkup within the past year.

**No Dental Insurance, 2014**

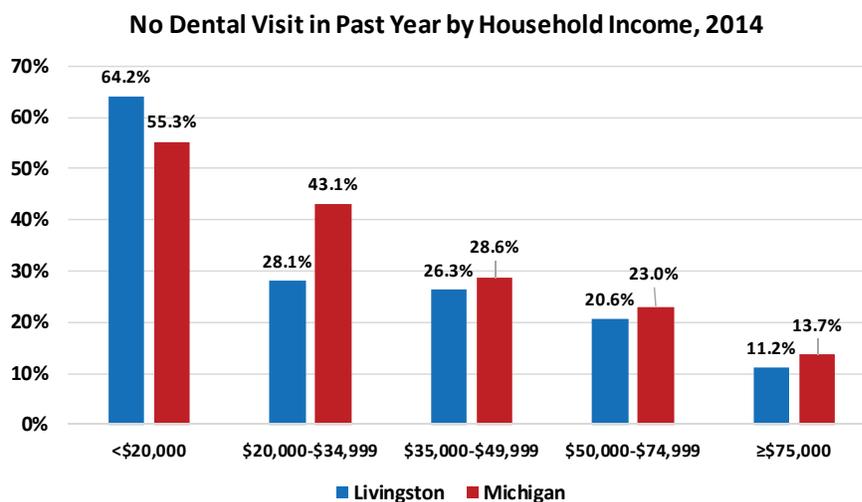




## ORAL HEALTH

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

The prevalence of not having had a dental visit within the past year decreased with increasing household income in both Livingston County and Michigan. Sixty-four percent of adults with a household income less than \$20,000 reported no dental visits, while 11 percent of adults with a household income of \$75,000 or greater reported no dental visits in Livingston County. The rate of no dental visits in Livingston County was consistently lower at every level of household income when compared to Michigan, except for residents living in poverty (less than \$20,000). At this level, Livingston County had a higher rate of no dental visits than Michigan (64 percent and 55 percent, respectively).



### CHILDREN AND DENTAL CARE:

The American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that children have their first dental visit by age one to establish a dental home, assess risk, and provide an opportunity to educate caregivers on the prevention of caries and oral trauma. In 2012, over half (52%) of Michigan children age one to five years did not have a preventive dental care visit during the past year and approximately 6.3% of children age one to five years had at least one oral health problem.

In 2012, 9.3% of Medicaid-enrolled children (less than age two) received an Oral Evaluation in Livingston County. This ranks 13th amongst Michigan's 83 counties. Only 3.6% of Michigan Medicaid-eligible under two years of age received an Oral Evaluation during the same time period. Some studies have concluded that children are more likely to visit the dentist if their parents receive dental care on a regular basis. Consequently, children who have their first dental visit later in life are less likely to have subsequent preventative visits and more emergency visits.

If you would like more information or to leave feedback, please visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LivHealthFeedback>

2014 MiBRFSS; 2014 Livingston BRFS; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health; Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WRFS); 2014 State Fluoridation Reports; 2020 Michigan State Oral Health Plan, Michigan Oral Health Coalition Livingston County Department of Public Health; American Dental Association; American Academy of Pediatrics; Massachusetts General Hospital for Children

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