

Achieving Oral Health Equity The Mandate for Total Health



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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Participants will understand the **level of disparities** based on racial discrimination that threaten life and well-being underrepresented individuals in seeking oral health equity.
- Participants will become familiar with **workforce and policy options** that will insure oral health equity for all in the United States within the foreseeable future.

ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

- Non-Hispanic blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians and Alaska Natives generally have the poorest oral health of any racial and ethnic groups in the United States.
- Blacks, non-Hispanics, and Mexican Americans aged 35–44 years experience untreated tooth decay nearly twice as much as white, non-Hispanics.

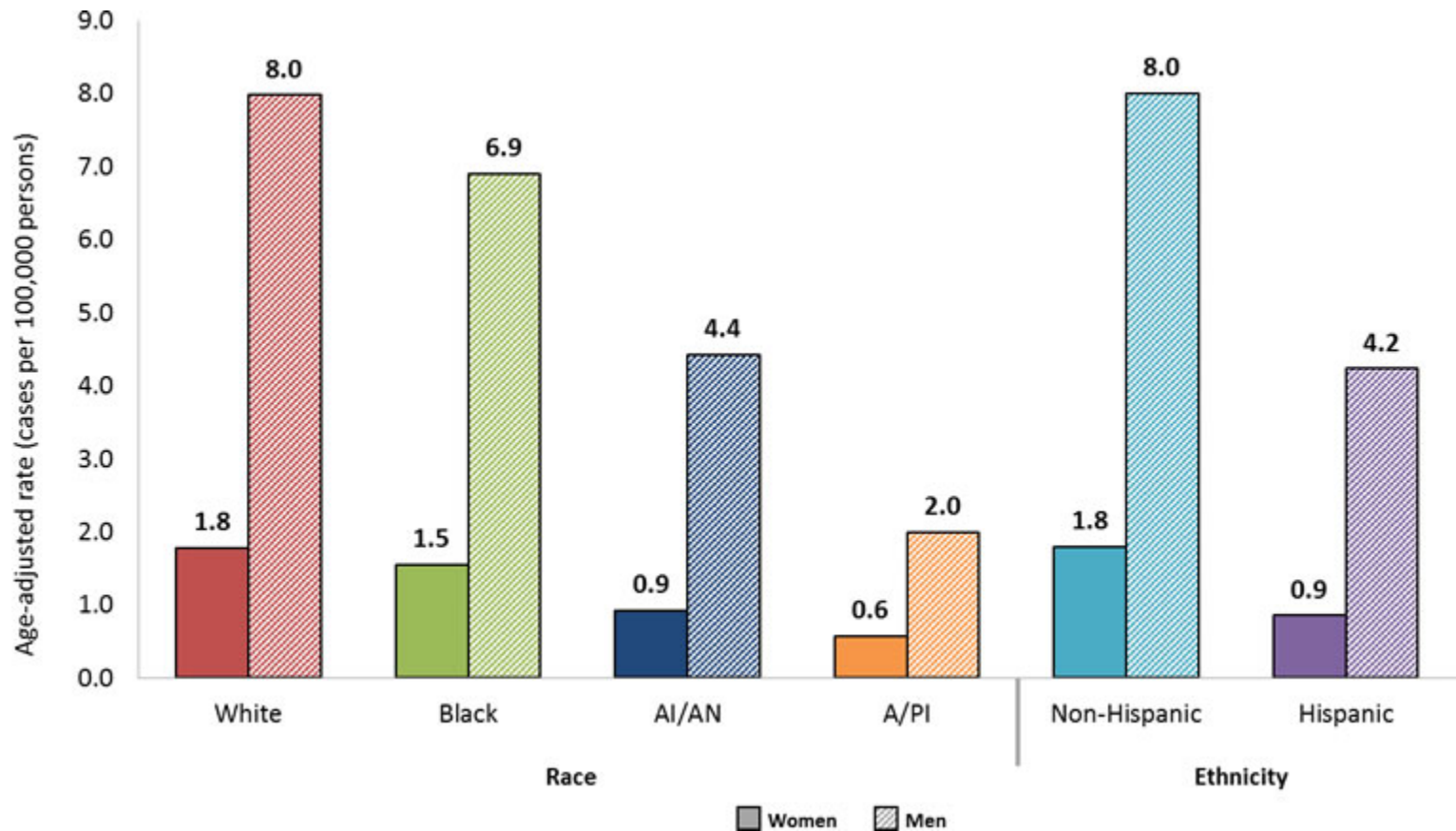
ADULTS AGED 65+ WHO HAVE LOST MORE TEETH DUE TO TOOTH DECAY OR GUM DISEASE (%)

White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Multiracial
35.6	55.5	34.5	35.7	43.5

Deathly Disparity

The 5-year survival rate is lower for oral pharyngeal (throat) cancers among black men than whites (36% versus 61%).

HPV-Associated Oropharyngeal Cancers in the U.S. 2008–2012



Untreated Dental Caries by Race and Age, U.S., 2011-2012

Race	Age		
	20-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
White	22.1	22.1	15.5
Black/African American	41.4	43.2	40.9
Hispanic/Latino	38.0	44.1	48.3

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2014

Dentists and Patients by Race/ Ethnicity

% PATIENTS

	WHITE	HISPANICS	BLACK	ASIAN
<u>DENTISTS</u>				
WHITE	76.6%	8.5%	10.5%	3.2%
HISPANIC	43.6%	45.4%	9.8%	3.0%
BLACK	27.0%	7.9%	61.8%	2.3%
Asians	47.5%	14.5%	11.5%	25.1 %

Race of First-Year in Dental School 2004-2014 (% Accepted)

<u>Race</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2014</u>
• *AI/AN	24	16
• Asian	816	1,376
• *Black	241	256
• White	2,354	3,166
• *Hispanic	253	500
• %URM*		9.7%

Dental Care Health Care Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)

Numbers of Providers Needed

- U.S. 7,208
- CBC States 4,547 63% of Total
- Black Belt 2,985* 41% of Total

**Includes Arkansas and Tennessee that do not have CBC representatives*

WHAT IS A DENTAL THERAPIST?

- Dental Therapists have begun in recent years to play a major role in the field of oral health by providing access to care in medically underserved communities
- Dental Therapists primarily provide clinical oral health evaluations as well as preventive and restorative dental care to their patient populations¹
- Establishing positions for these therapists in dental health professional shortage areas (DHPSAs) has been noted as a successful, cost-effective solution to addressing the oral health disparities in impacted states²

1. Kim, F. 2013. Economic viability of dental therapists. http://www.communitycatalyst.org/doc_store/publications/economic-viability-dentaltherapists.pdf.

2. Evans, C. 2011. The principles, competencies, and curriculum for educating dental therapists: a report of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Panel. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, 71, S9-S19.

IF THE PHYSICIAN IS ASSISTED BY..

- Physician
- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Practitioner
- B.S.N. trained nurse
- R.N.
- L.P.N.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION/PROBLEM SOLVING

American Journal of Public Health... Call for Papers
innovations in the oral health care workforce;

- racial and ethnic diversity in the workforce consistent with the demographic changes of the nation;
- the impact of race/ethnicity and racism on access to oral health care;
- practice modernization and modification that responds affirmatively to the existing public and private payment realities;
- gaps in research, policy, and practice implications; best-practice models; and implications for leadership.

For More Information...

The Satcher Health Leadership Institute

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