THE ORAL HEALTH OF ADULTS RESIDING IN NEBRASKA’S ASSISTED-LIVING AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

FACILITY TYPES:

- Assisted-living (AL) facility: A facility that provides shelter, food and non-nursing care to residents because of age, illness or physical disability
- Long-term care (LTC) facility: A facility where nursing care or related services are provided to residents of the facility

WHO TOOK PART IN THE SURVEY

- 544 Residents aged 35-104 years (mean=81)
- 13 Assisted-living facilities
- 17 Long-term care facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand programs that provide educational and preventative dental services at AL and LTC facilities, especially in rural counties.
- Develop programs that provide corrective and emergency dental services at AL and LTC facilities, especially in rural counties.
- Provide enhanced training to AL and LTC staff about the importance of daily oral hygiene services.
- Create a referral system between AL and LTC facilities and local health departments for residents with urgent dental needs.
- Consider the use of silver diamine fluoride treatment by public health hygienists for patients with transportation barriers.

ORAL HEALTH STATUS

- PEOPLE WITH FEWER THAN 20 TEETH HAVE TROUBLE EATING HEALTHY FOOD
  - 56% The percentage of residents with severe tooth loss
  - 28% The percentage of residents with no natural teeth

- TOOTH DECAY AND GUM DISEASE CAN CAUSE PAIN AND LIFE-THREATENING INFECTIONS
  - 47% The percentage of residents with teeth who have untreated decay
  - 31% The percentage of residents with teeth who have severe gum (periodontal) disease

- RESIDENTS IN RURAL COUNTIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO NEED DENTAL CARE
  - 52% of rural residents need restorative dental care compared to 37% of urban residents
  - 40% of rural residents need periodontal (gum) care compared to 15% of urban residents

- MANY LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY RESIDENTS HAVE NO DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

Medicare does not cover most dental care and Medicaid only covers a limited number of dental services

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Office of Oral Health and Dentistry
www.dhhs.ne.gov/dental

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DATA SOURCE: NEBRASKA ORAL HEALTH SURVEY OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, 2019