

The 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey (VHHIS) was conducted from February through June 2018. Data was collected from 3,002 Vermont households and included information on all members of the household. This data brief focuses on Vermonters aged 65 and older who are enrolled in Medicare.

Dental visits in the last year

Of Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare, those with dental insurance were more likely to report a dental visit in the last year than those without dental insurance.

Preventive Dental Visit in Past Twelve Months

Has Dental Insurance	84%*
Doesn't Have Dental Insurance	64%

Dental Visit in Past Twelve Months for Specific Concern

Has Dental Insurance	44%*
Doesn't Have Dental Insurance	30%

* Significantly different compared to those that did not have dental insurance.
Data Source: Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey (2018)

Reasons for Not Visiting the Dentist

Not having any teeth was the primary reason for not visiting the dentist in the past 12 months for Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare.

No teeth	41%
Cost of Care	23%
Don't have dental coverage	11%
Feel don't need regular dental care	10%

‡ Respondents could provide up to 6 answers to this question.
Responses reported by less than 10% of respondents are not shown.
Data Source: Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey (2018)

KEY POINTS

For Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare:

- **Less than a third (29%) reported having any kind of insurance coverage that pays for dental care in 2018.**
- **Those with dental insurance were more likely to visit the dentist than those without dental insurance.**

15% of Vermonters aged 65+ have lost all their natural teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease.¹

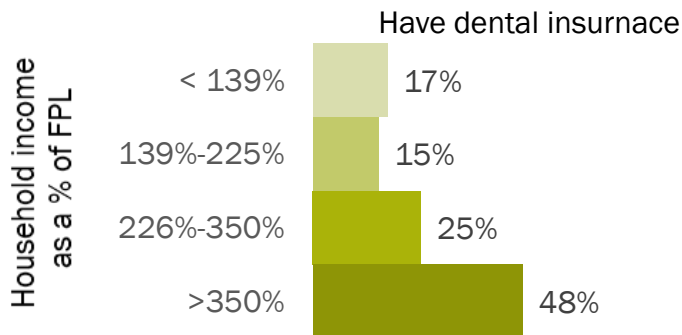
Although some people without teeth may not think that they need to visit the dentist, it is important to keep gums healthy as well.

The next most common reasons for not visiting the dentist were cost of care and not having dental insurance.

Dental Insurance

Less than a third (29%) of Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare reported having any kind of insurance coverage that pays for dental care in 2018.

Those with higher household incomes are more likely to have dental insurance, of Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare .



Data Source: Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey (2018)

Of the 29% of Medicare-enrolled Vermonters aged 65+ with dental insurance, most have private dental insurance.

Private insurance	76%
Medicaid	15%
Medicare, Military, or other	9%

Data Source: Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey (2018)

Out of Pocket Costs

38% of Vermonters aged 65+ enrolled in Medicare spent more than \$500 out of pocket on dental and vision care in the last 12 months.

There was no significant difference between those with and without dental insurance.

References:

¹ Data source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2016)

For more information: Denise Kall, Denise.Kall@vermont.gov