**Oral Health Overview**



Oral health, regardless of age, is integral to overall good health. It is an important, but often overlooked aspect of an older adult’s general health. Daily oral hygiene, the ability to access routine professional oral health services, and oral health education are all key factors that can improve the oral health of older Americans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 25 percent all people age 65 and older have no remaining teeth. Nearly one-third of older adults have untreated tooth decay. Severe gum disease is associated with chronic disease and severe health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and respiratory disease.

The [aging and disability networks](https://acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks) are made up of local, state, and national organizations and committed advocates working to support older adults and people with disabilities. The network includes many programs and services that are offered at locations around local communities, such as senior centers, congregate meal sites, and community centers.

As aging network providers who work with older adults and communities where they reside, your role with oral health could include some of the following:

* Identifying that an older adult may be facing dental issues
* Referring an older adult to resources
* Establishing oral health community partnerships

Use the information below to support and assist older adults with their oral health.  Here is the link:

<https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health>.

[**1.   Identify the Problem and the Impact of Oral Health**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**2.  Oral Health Tips Sheets for Providers and Consumer**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**3.  Helping Older Adults Access Affordable Dental Care**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**4.  Community-Based Oral Health Partnerships**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**5.  Tips to Implementing a Community-Based Older Adult Oral Health Program**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**6.  Webinars**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**7.  Other Resources**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)

[**8.  Archive**](https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/oral-health)