

Dental Check-up | Adult

Definition | Percent of adults not visiting a dentist or dental clinic in the last 12 months.

Importance | Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health problems: infection, damage to bone or nerve, and tooth loss.¹ It is recommended that adults and children see a dentist on a regular basis. Professional dental care helps to maintain the overall health of the teeth and mouth, and provides for early detection of pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions.²

Where are we | In 2010, 23.4% of adults in Douglas County reported not visiting the dentist during the last year. The proportion of adults not visiting the dentist increased from 2008 to 2010. The proportion of adults not visiting the dentist in the last year was less in Douglas County than the state of Kansas and the U.S.

Health Disparities | Among adults in Kansas in 2008:

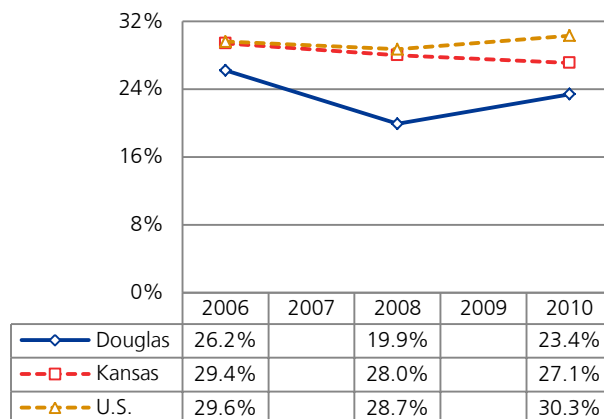
- Visiting the dentist in the last year increased as education level increased.
- Visiting the dentist in the last year increased as income increased.
- Visiting the dentist was higher in women.
- Visiting the dentist was lower for ages 25-34.

Healthy People 2020 Goal | Not Available

Additional Information | Good self-care, such as brushing with fluoride toothpaste, daily flossing, and professional treatment, is key to good oral health. Health behaviors that can lead to poor oral health include tobacco use, excessive alcohol use, and poor dietary choices.³

Trend Analysis

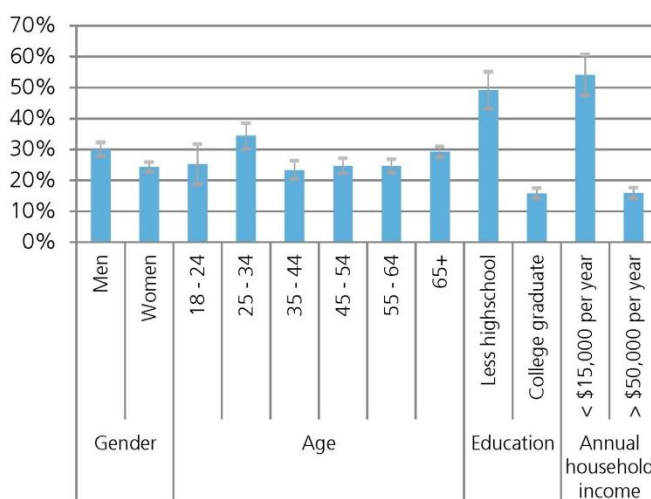
Percent more than 12 months since last visit to dentist or dental clinic⁴



Disparity Analysis

Disparities in percent more than 12 months since last visit to dentist or dental clinic⁴

Kansas, 2008



¹American dental Association

²Kansas Health Matters

³Healthy People 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴BRFSS, Kansas Department of Health and Environment