



ASSURANT

Employee
Benefits

Dental health facts

Statistics you should know...

Lost work time

Employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to oral health problems.¹

High risk smokers

Smokers have seven times the risk of developing gum disease compared to non-smokers.¹ One out of every two Americans have some form of gum disease.¹

Xylitol gum

Studies shows 70% reduction in tooth decay among children whose mothers chew xylitol sweetened gum.²

Dental care may do more than just save your teeth...

Periodontal (gum) disease

Research is presenting that gum disease can affect overall health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and premature births.¹ More than 75% of American adults suffer from various forms of gum disease and don't know it.³

Oral cancer

30,000 new cases are diagnosed and 9,000 people die each year.¹ More common than leukemia, skin melanoma, Hodgkin's disease and cancers of the brain, liver, thyroid, stomach, ovaries and cervix. Curable in its early stages, it can be treated successfully in more than 90% of the cases. If not detected early enough it can spread to other parts of the body and become nearly impossible to treat.

Heart disease

The number one killer among men and women affecting 58 million Americans a year, killing almost a million. Studies have shown links between cardiovascular disease and key bacteria in periodontal disease.³

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Diabetes

Fourth leading cause of death among Americans and will result in more than 169,000 deaths this year alone. 16 million people in the United States have the disease yet more than half are unaware of their condition. Approximately 95% of Americans with diabetes also have periodontal disease.³

Preterm low birth weight

Emerging evidence may link periodontal disease in pregnant women to a sevenfold increase in the risk of delivering low birth weight babies. Researchers estimate that as many as 18% of 250,000 premature babies born in the United States each year may be attributed to infectious oral diseases. Hospital costs alone for premature infants exceeds \$5 billion annually. When costs to society in terms of managing long-term disabilities commonly associated with prematurity are considered, this figure escalates dramatically.⁴

Remember that oral disease is often preventable by taking the time to care for your teeth! Assurant Employee Benefits provides you coverage to assist in prevention and restoration of your oral health.

¹Oral Health for Adults: Surgeon General's Report, Sept. 2001.

²Journal of Dental Research, March 2000.

³American Dental Hygienist Association – Dealing with Gum Disease – A Life Threatening Health Risk.

⁴National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research – The Oral-Systemic Health Connection.

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