

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 (7,193 individuals). This data brief focuses on Vermonters aged 65 and older.

Differences by Age in Dental Care and Dental Insurance

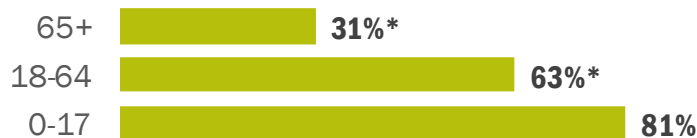
Vermont adults were less likely to report having a preventive dental visit than children,



... but more likely than children to visit the dentist for a concern or problem.



Vermonters 65 and older were the least likely to report having dental insurance.



**Significantly different compared to the group with the highest percentage for that question.*

Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

KEY POINTS

For Vermonters aged 65 and older:

- They were less likely to report visiting the dentist than children, but more likely to visit for a concern or problem.
- Those with dental insurance were more likely to report visiting the dentist than those without dental insurance.
- Inequities also existed by income, education, and health status – for both dental visits and having dental insurance.
- They were the least likely age group to report having dental insurance. Only 31% had dental insurance.
- Not having teeth was the most frequently reported reason for not visiting the dentist.
- They spent an average of \$909 out of pocket on dental and vision care in the last 12 months.

The top reason for not visiting the dentist in the last year varied by age:

| <u>65+</u> | <u>18-64</u> | <u>0-17</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Didn't have any teeth | Cost | Too young |

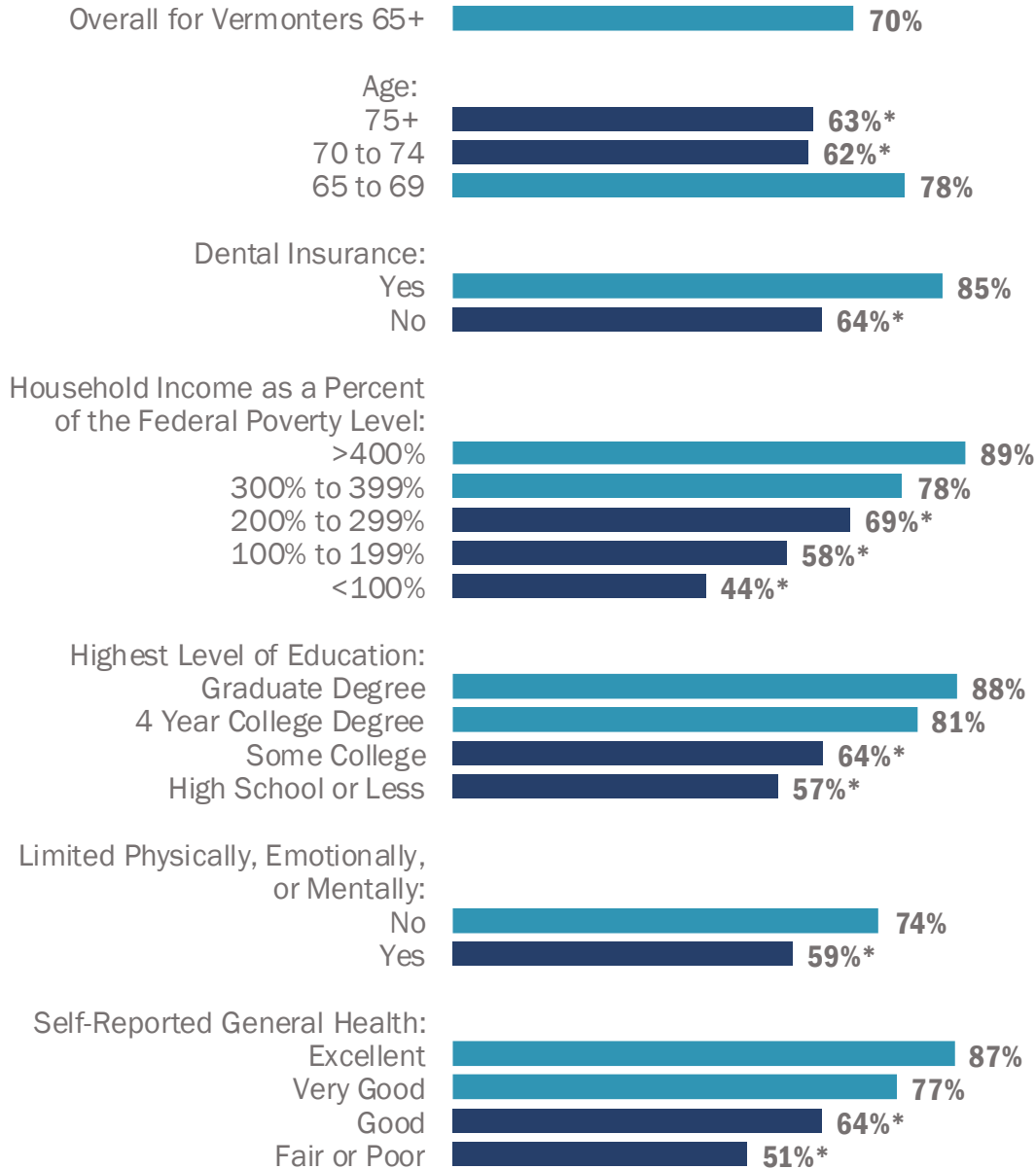
Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

Dental Care and Dental Insurance – 65 and older

Preventive Dental Visits

Vermonters aged 65+ who did not receive preventive dental care within the past 12 months were more likely to be: ages 70 and older, without dental insurance, of lower household incomes, of lower education levels, limited physically, emotionally, or mentally, or of poor, fair, or good general health.

70% of Vermonters aged 65+ reported receiving preventive dental care within the past 12 months.



*Significantly different compared to the group with the highest percentage in that category.

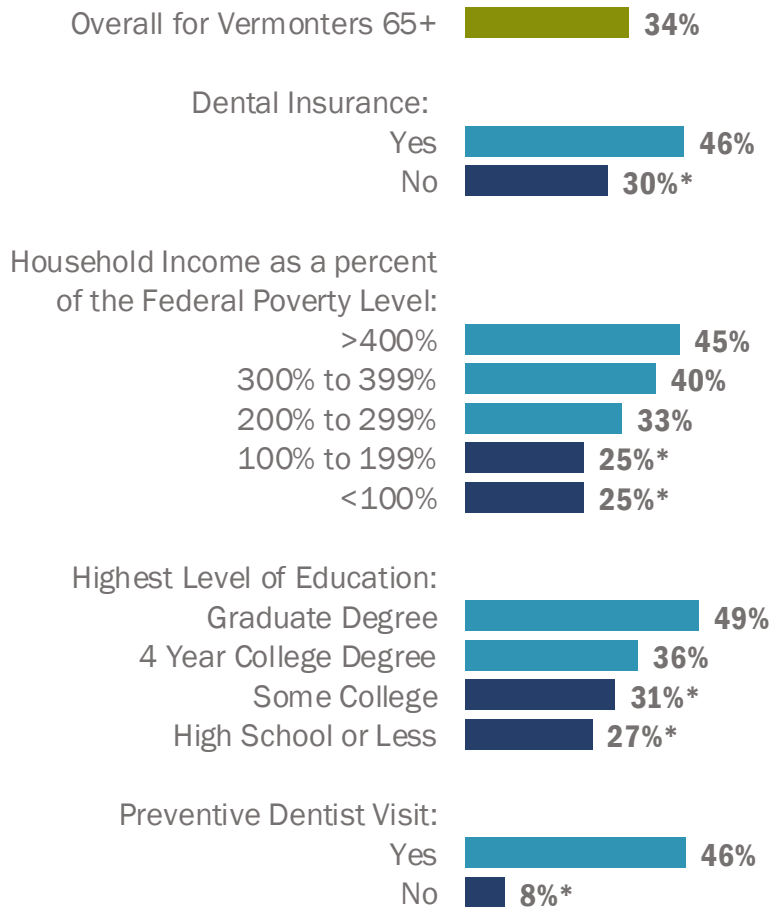
Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

There was no significant difference between male and female Vermonters aged 65+ who visited the dentist in the past year for a preventive visit.

Treatment for a Specific Dental Problem or Concern

Vermonters aged 65+ who did not receive dental care for a specific problem or concern within the past 12 months were more likely to be: without dental insurance, of lower household incomes, of lower education levels, or without a preventive dental visit in the past year.

34% of Vermonters aged 65+ reported receiving dental care for a specific problem or concern within the past 12 months.



*Significantly different compared to the group with the highest percentage in that category.

Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

Vermont adults 65 and older who visited the dentist for a specific problem or concern in the past 12 months did not differ statistically by age, sex, disability status, or general health status.

Dental Visits by Race and Ethnicity

Race and ethnicity data are valuable measures to understand and advance health equity. Among adults aged 65 and older, both Vermont data and national data show that white, non-Hispanic individuals visited the dentist at higher rates than individuals of other races and ethnicities. In Vermont, 70% of non-Hispanic White individuals had a preventive dental visit in the last year, compared to 64% of individuals of other races and ethnicities.

Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

In the United States, there are differences in dental visit rates for adults aged 65 and older by race and ethnicity.

| | |
|--|------|
| White, non-Hispanic | 71% |
| Asian, non-Hispanic | 70% |
| Other race, non-Hispanic | 67% |
| Multiracial, non-Hispanic | 61%* |
| Hispanic | 59%* |
| Native-Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic | 58%* |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native, non-Hispanic | 54%* |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 52%* |

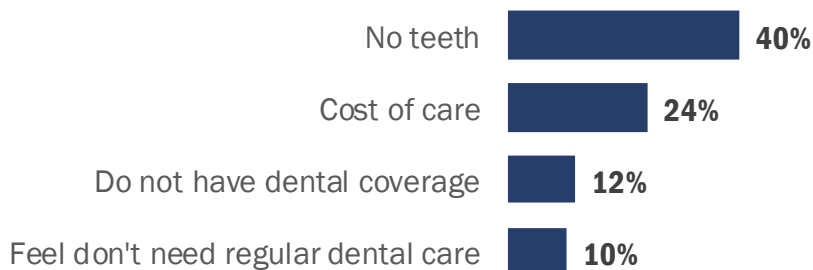
**Significantly different compared to the group with the highest percentage in that category.*

Data Source: 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Reasons for not Visiting the Dentist

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

Not having teeth, cost, and/or not having dental insurance were the top reasons[‡] for not visiting the dentist in the past 12 months for Vermonters aged 65 and older.



‡ Respondents could provide up to 6 answers to this question.

Responses reported by less than 10% of respondents are not shown.

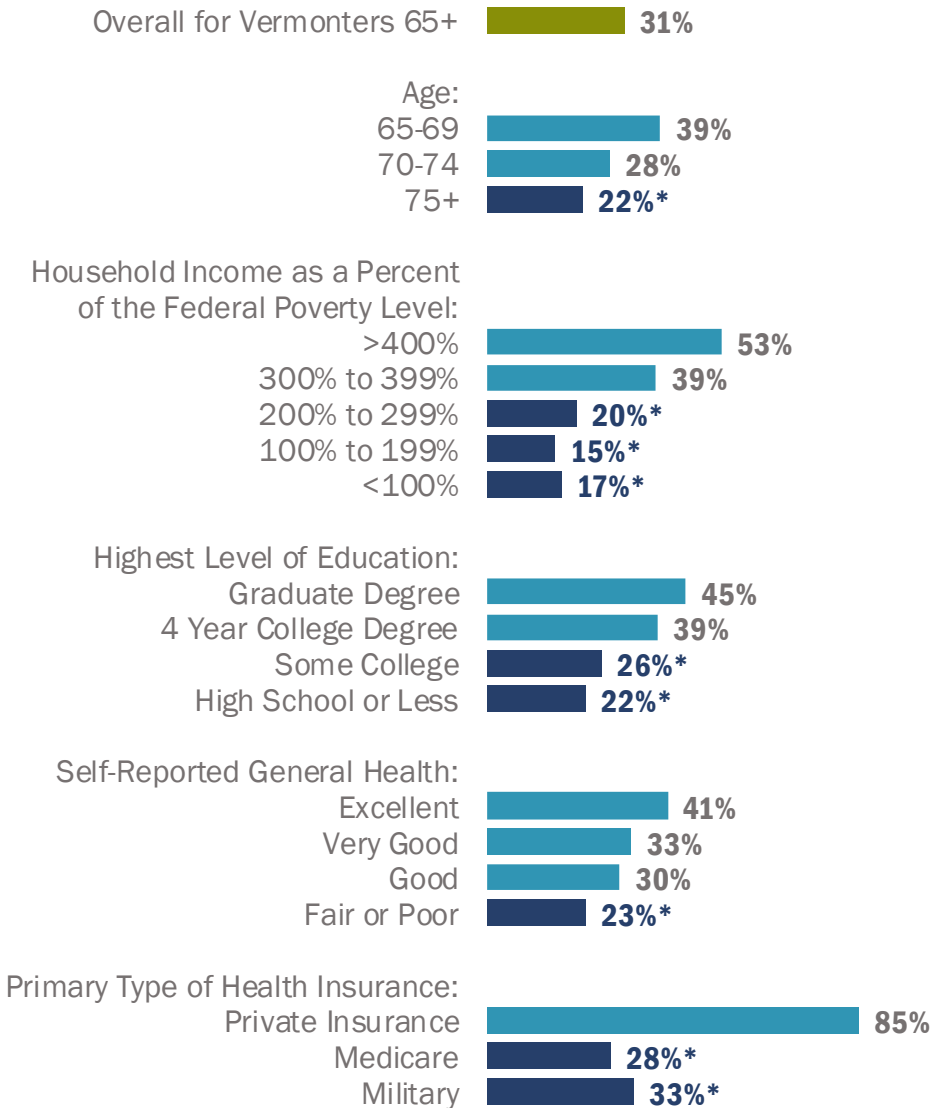
Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

Dental Care and Dental Insurance – 65 and older

Dental Insurance

Vermonters aged 65+ who did not have dental insurance were more likely to be: ages 75 or older, of lower household incomes, of lower education levels, or poor or fair general health, or without private health insurance as their primary type of health insurance.

Less than a third (31%) of Vermonters aged 65 and older have dental insurance.



Of the 31% of Vermonters aged 65+ with dental insurance, most have private dental insurance.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Private dental insurance | 78% |
| Medicaid | 14% |
| Medicare, Military, or Other | 8% |

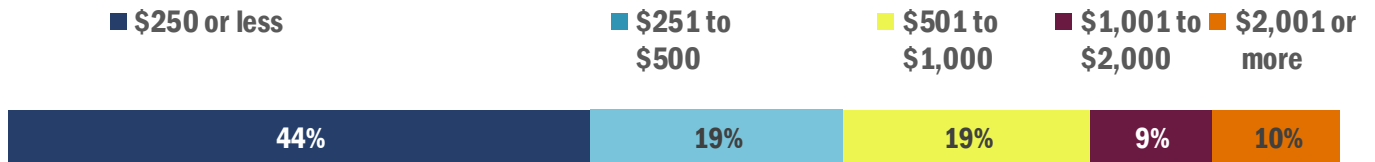
*Significantly different compared to the group with the highest percentage in that category.
Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

Vermont adults 65 and older who reported having dental insurance did not differ statistically by sex or disability status.

Out of Pocket Costs

37% of Vermonters aged 65 and older reported spending more than \$500 out of pocket on dental and vision care in the last 12 months.

The exact amount spent on dental care alone cannot be determined.



Data Source: 2018 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey

For more information: VTOralhealth@vermont.gov