Diabetes and Oral Health Survey
Fact Sheet

The Mindset | Not Worried

Americans with diabetes are not overly concerned with their oral health, and they do not consider it to be a top-of-mind issue to discuss with their healthcare providers.

54% report that they have experienced one or more oral/gum issues.

The majority of Americans with diabetes (59%) are not personally concerned about oral health/gum disease.

67% say they never talk to their personal doctor about oral health.
36% say they don’t even talk to their dentist about it.
A full 20% of respondents report that they do not have a dentist.
Oral Health & Diabetes | Making the Connection

Many Americans with diabetes are unaware of the link between diabetes and oral health issues, particularly compared to other issues more clearly associated with diabetes.

More than a third (36%) are unaware that having diabetes can contribute to oral health issues and that having oral health issues can even contribute to the progression of diabetes.

- 60% of Caucasians versus 72% of African Americans and 76% of Hispanics say they have an understanding of this link.

When asked about a list of key health issues, people with diabetes associated oral health seventh out of nine key health issues linked to diabetes, further illustrating a lack of awareness around the possible connection between oral health and diabetes.

The majority (53%) of Americans living with diabetes say they don’t have enough information about the potential link between oral health and dental care and would benefit from more.
Now That You Know | Taking Charge

Upon hearing about the risks of gum disease for Americans with diabetes, they pledge to pay more attention to their oral health and dental care.

56% say they will pay more attention to their oral health and dental care.

• 48% of Caucasians say they plan to pay more attention to the issue, compared to 73% of Hispanics and 81% of African Americans.

50% say they will talk to their doctor or dentist, and a little more than a third say they will brush more often (39%), floss more often (34%) and use mouthwash more often (34%).

Choosing the right toothpaste can help them take charge of their oral health.

• 88% believe that "not all toothpastes are created equal – some have more benefits than others."
• 88% believe that "there are toothpastes that can actually help manage oral/gum issues better than others."

They believe that their families should support them in their diabetes and in their learning process.

• 78% say support from their family in helping them manage their diabetes is important to them.
• 81% say their family’s awareness of the health issues related to diabetes is important to them.

About the Survey
The survey was conducted online by Harris Interactive among 657 U.S. adults, age 18+, who report being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. The survey sample includes oversamples of 155 African Americans diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and 161 Hispanics diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. Data was weighted to be representative of U.S. adults with Type 2 diabetes. Additionally, the individual racial subcategories of Caucasians, African Americans and Hispanics with Type 2 diabetes were weighted individually to be representative of each subgroup within the greater population of all Type 2 diabetes patients in the U.S. The survey was fielded September 5-13, 2012.