COVID-19 Impacts on the Oral Health System

CareQuest
Institute for Oral Health

Study Design

- Surveyed consumers and patients in January and February 2021.

- Analyzed results specific to COVID-19 impact on oral health.

Results

- About 6 million adults lost their dental insurance due to the pandemic.
  - 65% have symptoms linked to oral diseases.

- 28 million adults delayed getting dental care due to
  - Cost of care
  - Lack of insurance
  - Fear of COVID-19 exposure

- 29% felt significant economic stress related to job insecurity.

Conclusion

- Longstanding barriers to dental care, combined with COVID-19, have created a climate of significant unmet oral health needs. To address this, we need to:
  - Expand dental coverage
  - Increase use of teledentistry
  - Offer preventive care