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## Literature Abstract

## Poor oral health and quality of life in older US adults with diabetes mellitus

This cross-sectional study examined the association between health-related quality of life (HRQOL), dentate status, and receipt of dental care in US adults ages 65 and older with diabetes mellitus (DM) using Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data. Oral health measures included length of time since last dental visit, number of permanent teeth removed due to caries or periodontal disease, and years since last dental cleaning. These measures were evaluated in correspondence with self-rated health measures. It was shown that worse oral health measures were most consistently associated with worse self-rated health measures, more physically unhealthy days, followed by more activity limitation days. The authors concluded that poor oral health, specifically fewer permanent teeth and lack of recent dental care, were associated with worse HRQOL in older US adults with DM. They emphasized the need for expanding health care coverage to include dental care focusing on its availability as well as its method of preventing dental caries and periodontal disease in this potentially vulnerable population.

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