



# ORAL HEALTH AMONG ADULTS IN ARKANSAS, 2006



In Arkansas, over half of adults have had one or more permanent teeth removed.

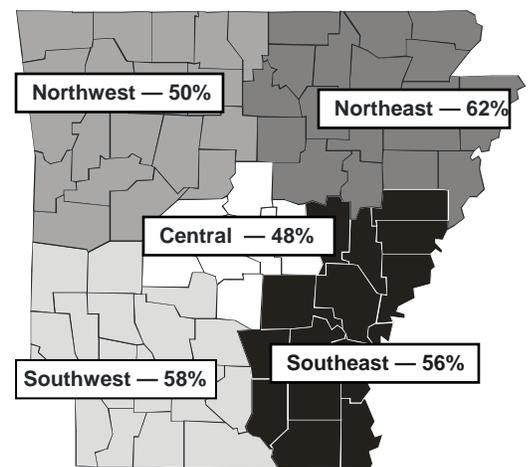
Arkansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HEALTH

- ◆ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gum disease and tooth decay are the most common causes of tooth loss.
- ◆ Over one million (53%) Arkansas adults have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.
- ◆ Arkansas adults (53%) are more likely than U.S. adults (46%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.
- ◆ Adults age 65 and over in Arkansas are more likely (23%) to have had all their natural teeth removed compared to U.S. adults (20%).

### PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

The map to the right displays the percent of adults, by public health region, who have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.

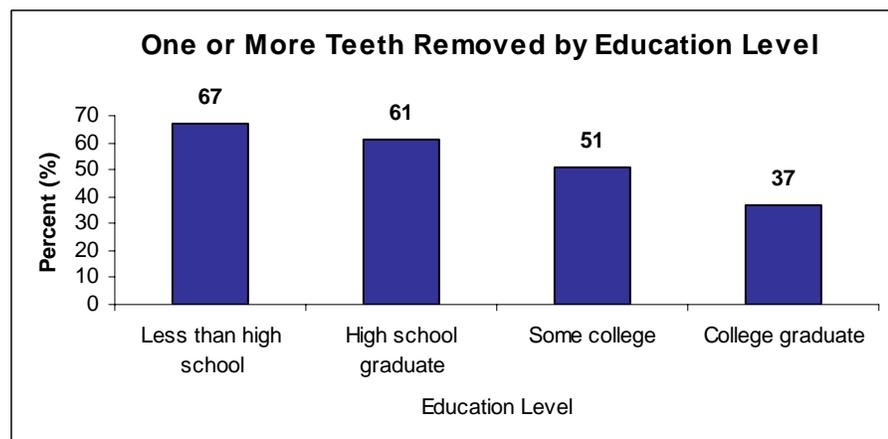


### RACE/ETHNICITY

In Arkansas, African American adults (64%) are more likely than white adults (52%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed.

### EDUCATION

The risk of having had at least one permanent tooth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay varies by education level, as shown in the graph below.

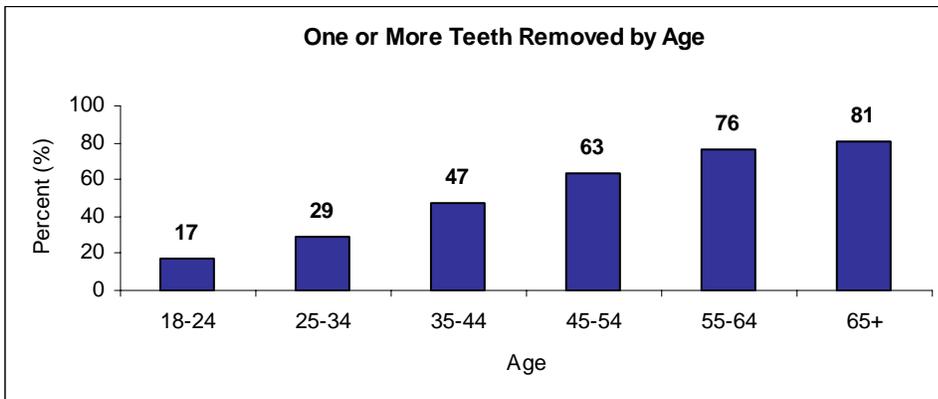


## GENDER

Women (51%) are as likely as men (55%) to have had one or more permanent teeth removed because of gum disease or tooth decay.

## AGE

The percent of adults who have had one or more permanent teeth removed varies by age, as shown in the graph below.



## METROPOLITAN VS. NON-METROPOLITAN\*

In Arkansas, adults who live in non-metropolitan areas (57%) are more likely to have had one more permanent teeth removed compared to those who live in metropolitan areas (50%).

Adults living in non-metropolitan areas are more likely to have had one or more permanent teeth removed.

## ARKANSAS ADULTS VISIT THE DENTIST

60% of adults in Arkansas have visited the dentist in the past year.

The following adults are less likely to visit the dentist:

- ◆ Male adults
- ◆ Adults who have not attended college
- ◆ African American adults
- ◆ Adults living in non-metropolitan areas

53% of adults have had their teeth cleaned in the past year.

\*Metropolitan areas of Arkansas include center cities, counties containing center cities, and suburban counties. Any areas outside of metropolitan areas are considered non-metropolitan.

For more information, visit <http://brfss.arkansas.gov>