

## Information for Action # 2011-8

Annual dental visits are less prevalent among adults with diabetes than among adults without diabetes in New York State.

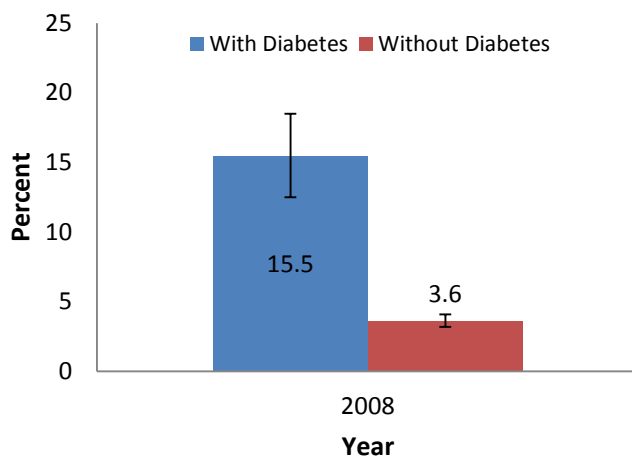
### Quick facts:

- Complete loss of permanent teeth is more common among New Yorkers with diabetes (15.5%) than those without diabetes (3.6%) (see Figure 1). Adults without all permanent teeth are less likely to have visited a dentist in the past year (27.8%) than adults who still have permanent teeth (76.4%)(data not shown).
- Among adults with teeth, 72.7% of adults with diabetes reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year, compared to 76.8% of adults without diabetes. Overall, the percentage of adults who have seen a dentist in the past year is below the goal of 83.0% established by the *Prevention Agenda Toward the Healthiest State* (see Figure 2).

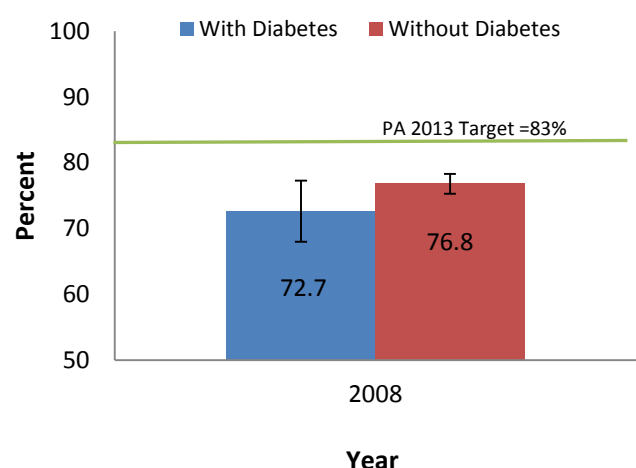
### Public health importance:

- Diabetes increases both the prevalence and severity of oral complications including gum infection, gum disease, and tooth loss.<sup>1</sup>
- Because chronic periodontal inflammation has been identified as a potential risk factor for poor glycemic control, routine dental care may help prevent complications from diabetes.<sup>2</sup>
- Although adults with diabetes are at an increased need for regular dental care compared to adults without diabetes, they are not more likely to receive it.

**Figure 1. Prevalence of complete tooth loss among NYS adults, by diabetes status, 2008**



**Figure 2. Percentage of dentate\* NYS adults visiting a dentist in the past year, by diabetes status, 2008**



Data Source: NYS Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2008.

\*Dentate = adults who have at least some or all of their permanent teeth.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

Health care providers and public health partners working in oral health or diabetes prevention and control should recognize the public health importance of early tooth loss and collaborate to promote routine preventive dental services, especially for adults with diabetes.

### Contact:

For more information about the data included and their specific implications for action, please send an email to [DCDIPIFA@health.state.ny.us](mailto:DCDIPIFA@health.state.ny.us) with IFA # 8 in the subject line.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Loe H. Periodontal disease: the sixth complication of diabetes mellitus. *Diabetes Care*. 1993;16(1):329-34.

<sup>2</sup> Tomar SL, Lester A. Dental and other health care visits among U.S. adults with diabetes. *Diabetes Care*. 2000;23(10):1505-10.