Even though most of the 425 ISHCN surveyed knew the importance of taking care of their teeth and gums, over 1/3 reported having painful aching in their mouth within the last year.

### Most Commonly Reported Disabilities or Conditions

- **30.6%** Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities
- **25.4%** Neurological Disorders
- **15.2%** Psychological Conditions
- **14.2%** Developmental Disorders
- **11.6%** Chronic Medical Conditions
- **10.9%** Physical Disabilities

### Most Commonly Reported Dental Coverage Providers

- **46.8%** Medicaid Coverage
- **20.0%** No Dental Insurance
- **11.5%** Private Dental Insurance

### Untreated Decay and Gum Disease

- **26.4%** Had Untreated Tooth Decay
- **27.1%** Had Periodontal Disease
- **36.9%** Had Missing Teeth Due to Dental Disease

For more information, visit: [https://bit.ly/2Xvem0S](https://bit.ly/2Xvem0S)
Of the ISHCN screened, 51.2% had previously treated tooth decay and 60% reported going to the dentist regularly.

### Length of Time Since Last Visit to a Dentist

- **Within the last year**: 59.0%
- **1-2 years**: 12.7%
- **3-5 years**: 8.0%
- **Over 5 years**: 9.6%
- **Did not know or respond**: 10.6%

### Barriers to Dental Care (check all that apply)

- **54.4%** Trouble finding a dentist
- **47.3%** Dentist did not take their insurance
- **44.4%** Could not afford a dentist
- **30.4%** Scared to go to the dentist
- **20.2%** Dentist only treats with sedation
- **19.6%** Language/communication
- **18.7%** No transportation
- **12.2%** Physical access to the dental office

- Embarrassed, felt judged
- Not enough time with the dentist
- Sick or in hospital, had to reschedule
- Dentist doesn’t understand disability
- Hard to find dentist with patience
- Doesn’t know how to keep tongue out of the way
- Won’t sit still

ISHCN, parents/caregivers, medical/dental professionals, and others working with ISHCN agree there are definite barriers to good oral health. Focusing on dental education and conversations with everyone working with ISHCN is the key to improving overall health and well-being within this population!

For more information, visit: https://bit.ly/2XvemO5