Oral Health Access Survey Responses
Analysis of 1,501 Incarcerated Georgians
July 2012
Gender and Ethnicity

Gender
- Male: 90%
- Female: 10%

Ethnicity
- African American: 59%
- Caucasian: 35%
- Hispanic: 5%
- Other: 1%

African American
- 59%
- Caucasian
- Hispanic
- Other
Gender and Ethnicity, cont.

• 90% of all respondents (n=1354) were male, 10% of respondents (n=147) were female.

• The majority of respondents 59% (n=878) were of African-American descent.

• 35% of respondents (n=525) respondents reported being Caucasian.

• Hispanic descent comprised 5% (n=71) of respondents while 1% (n=24) reported their race as other or multi-racial.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Georgia Health Districts</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast (Athens)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast (Waycross)</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal (Savannah)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest (Albany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South (Valdosta)</td>
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<td>West Central (Columbus)</td>
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<td>East Central (Augusta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central (Macon)</td>
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<td>South Central (Dublin)</td>
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<td>LaGrange</td>
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<td>DeKalb</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Metro (Lawrenceville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clayton (Jonesboro)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton</td>
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<td>Cobb-Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>North (Gainesville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Georgia (Dalton)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest (Rome)</td>
<td>80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Did You Have A Regular Dentist?

- Yes: 23%
- No: 64%
- Chose not to answer: 13%
• The majority of survey respondents 64% (n=962) reported not having a regular dentist.

• 12% (n=185) of those without a regular dentist reported using an emergency room to receive treatment for dental pain.
Did You Have Health Insurance That Would Pay for Dental Services?

- Yes: 28%
- No: 59%
- Chose not to answer: 13%

Of Respondents with Insurance:
- Medicaid: 20%
- Private through work: 22%
- Chose not to answer: 58%
Did You Have Health Insurance That Would Pay For Dental Services?, Cont.

• The majority of respondents 59% (n=891) reported not having oral health insurance.

• Of those with insurance, 22% had private insurance, while 20% had coverage through a government provided program and 58% chose not to answer.
Last Oral Health Visit

- Less than one year: 23.7%
- 1-5 years: 40.8%
- More than 5 years: 10.4%
- Chose not to answer: 1.3%
• Only 24% of all respondents reporting seeing an oral health provider within the last 12 months.

• 41% reporting 1 to 5 years since their last visit and 10% more than 5 years since their last oral health visit.

• 52% of respondents reported seeing a hygienist for a teeth cleaning within their lifetime.
### Reasons Given for Their Prolonged Time Between Oral Health Visits If More Than One Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I did not have the money for treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am afraid or dislike going to the dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A combination of I did not feel there was a need, and did not have the money for treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not feel there was a need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am afraid or dislike going to the dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I did not have the money for treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There were no dentists close to my home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination of I am afraid or dislike going to the dentist, I did not have the money for treatment and There were no dentists close to my home</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reasons Given for Their Prolonged Time Between Oral Health Visits, cont.

- The majority of respondents (n=49%) reported not having money to cover the cost of services.

- 32% stated they did not feel there was a need to seek services.

- A small segment of respondents (3%) stated that there were no dentists close to their home.

- 3% of respondents reported not visiting a provider as they were afraid or disliked going to the dentist.

- 1% reported a combination of the above, while 10% of respondents did not answer.
The majority of respondents (n=51%) reported that their last visit was for pain, a lump or an oral sore.

Only 30% of respondents reported that their last visit was for a cleaning.
How Easy Is It For You And Your Family To Find A Local Dentist?

- Easy: 46.3%
- Somewhat easy: 16.3%
- Somewhat difficult: 16.1%
- Very difficult: 6.5%
• 63% of respondents reported no difficulty in finding a dentist in their area, while 23% reported having between somewhat to very difficulty in finding a dentist in their local area
How Many Teeth Participants Have Had Pulled and Reason

- **None**: 34%
- **1 to 3**: 38%
- **4 to 7**: 14%
- **More than 7**: 11%
- **Chose not to answer**: 3%

Reasons:
- **Do not know. I did not think I had a choice.**: 28%
- **I preferred to have an extraction**: 38%
- **No money to pay for other services to save tooth**: 34%
How Many Teeth Participants Have Had Pulled and Reason, cont.

• Of the respondents who had extractions in the past (n=950), 37% preferred to have an extraction.

• 33% (n=321) reported that they did not have money to cover the cost of saving their teeth.

• 28% (n=275) did not think/know they had a choice in their extraction process.

• 78% of participants also responded that they did not have treatment to replace extracted teeth.
Do You Smoke or Did You Smoke Before Prison?

- Yes: 69%
- No: 29%
- Chose not to answer: 2%

Smoking Status:
- Less than 1/2 pack: 24%
- 1/2 pack: 29%
- 1 pack or more: 35%
- Chose not to answer: 12%
Do You Smoke or Did You Smoke Before Prison?

- 69% of respondents reported smoking upon entering prison.

- 64% of smokers reported smoking more than ½ pack per day.

- 37% of African Americans, 27% of Caucasiens, 2% of Hispanics and 1% of those classified as multi-ethnic/other reported smoking upon entering prison.

- 17% of respondents across all races reported being told of their increased risk of oral cancer.
Have You Ever Been Told That You Had Oral Cancer?

Oral Cancer by Ethnicity

- **Yes**
- **No**
- Chose not to answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Chose not to answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>29</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
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Have You Ever Been Told That You Had Oral Cancer? (Race), cont.

- 6.2% or (n=93) respondents reporting being diagnosed with oral cancer.

- 64% of those with an oral cancer diagnosis were of African American descent.

- 27% were of Caucasian descent, 6 % Hispanic and 1% with an ethnicity of other.
Community Voices

Healthcare For The Underserved

Morehouse School of Medicine

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