

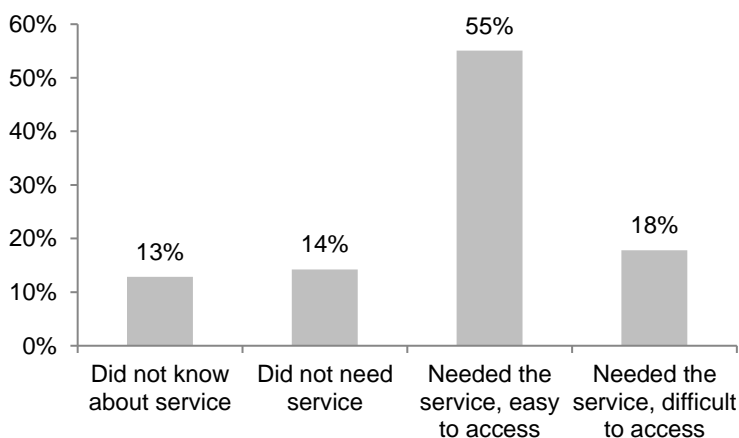
ORAL HEALTH CARE

Oral health care, or dental services, refers to the diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic services provided to persons living with HIV (PLWH) by a dental health care professional (such as a dentist or hygienist). This includes examinations, periodontal services (such as cleanings and fillings), extractions and other oral surgeries, restorative dental procedures, and prosthodontics (or dentures).

(**Graph 1**) In the 2016 Houston HIV Care Services Needs Assessment, 73% of participants indicated a need for *oral health care* in the past 12 months. 55% reported the service was easy to access, and 18% reported difficulty. 13% stated that they did not know the service was available.

(**Table 1**) When barriers to *oral health care* were reported, the most common barrier type was wait-related issues (35%). Wait-related barriers reported include placement on a waitlist, long waits at appointments, being told a wait list was full/unavailable, and long durations between application and approval.

GRAPH 1-Oral Health Care, 2016



(**Table 2 and Table 3**) Need and access to services can be analyzed for needs assessment participants according to demographic and other characteristics, revealing the presence of any potential disparities in access to services. For *oral health care*, this analysis shows the following:

- More females than males found the service accessible.
- More white PLWH found the service accessible than other race/ethnicities.
- More PLWHA age 50+ found the service accessible than other age groups.
- In addition, more rural, unstably housed, and MSM PLWH found the service difficult to access when compared to all participants.

TABLE 1-Top 5 Reported Barrier Types for Oral Health Care, 2016

	No.	%
1. Wait (W)	29	35%
2. Interactions with Staff (S)	11	13%
3. Health Insurance Coverage (I)	10	12%
4. Eligibility (EL)	8	10%
5. Administrative (AD)	7	8%

TABLE 2-Oral Health Care, by Demographic Categories, 2016

Experience with the Service	Sex		Race/ethnicity				Age		
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	18-24	25-49	50+
Did not know about service	13%	12%	3%	16%	15%	13%	35%	15%	6%
Did not need service	16%	8%	8%	17%	15%	7%	13%	16%	11%
Needed, easy to access	54%	60%	68%	51%	52%	60%	35%	50%	66%
Needed, difficult to access	17%	20%	21%	17%	18%	20%	17%	19%	16%

TABLE 3-Oral Health Care, by Selected Special Populations, 2016

Experience with the Service	Unstably Housed ^a	MSM ^b	Out of Care ^c	Recently Released ^d	Rural ^e	Transgender ^f
Did not know about service	17%	11%	0%	21%	9%	14%
Did not need service	12%	14%	0%	29%	6%	10%
Needed, easy to access	47%	55%	100%	34%	50%	71%
Needed, difficult to access	25%	19%	0%	16%	35%	5%

^aPersons reporting housing instability ^bMen who have sex with men ^cPersons with no evidence of HIV care for 12 mo.

^dPersons released from incarceration in the past 12 mo. ^eNon-Houston/Harris County residents ^fPersons with discordant sex assigned at birth and current gender