

Emergency Department Utilization for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions

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How high is ED utilization for dental conditions?

- **Of all ED visits for dental conditions, 91% are non-traumatic**
- **2.4 million non-traumatic dental condition (NTDC) visits in the US annually**
- **In California, there are approximately 54,000 NTDC visits annually**

2012 data in the CA Oral Health Plan

In 2012, emergency departments in California had approximately 113,000 visits for preventable dental conditions (primary and secondary)

Of California's 58 counties, Del Norte, Modoc, Siskiyou, Lake, and Shasta Counties have the highest age-adjusted rates of preventable emergency department dental visits.

San Diego, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties have the greatest number of emergency department visits for preventable dental conditions

Goal 2: Align dental health care delivery systems, payment systems, and community programs to support and sustain community-clinical linkages for increasing utilization of dental services

OBJECTIVE 2.H: Decrease repeat emergency room visits for dental problems

STRATEGY 2.7: Explore support for a demonstration program to test methods for linking patients who present to hospital Emergency Departments (EDs) to a dental provider.

- a. Work with hospitals to ensure that patients who present to the EDs with dental problems receive referrals for treatment for the underlying dental disease
- b. Link patients to a dental service location in the community, and provide an immediate and warm hand off
- c. Establish dentist rotations within the EDs

Year	Primary Diagnosis of Non-Traumatic Dental Condition
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2016	55,665
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2017	55,417
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2018	55,521
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2019	52,796
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What is the utilization for?

UCLEAR

- Of the 243 NTDC codes identified by ASTDD for surveillance, 82 unique codes were used for a primary diagnosis in California between 2016-2019
- The most common dental code was “**Other Specified Disorders of Teeth and Supporting Structures**”, approximately **77%** of the time
- While current NTDC surveillance does not explain *for which conditions* these patients are utilizing the emergency department, there are potential opportunities to **strengthen the system of care access**

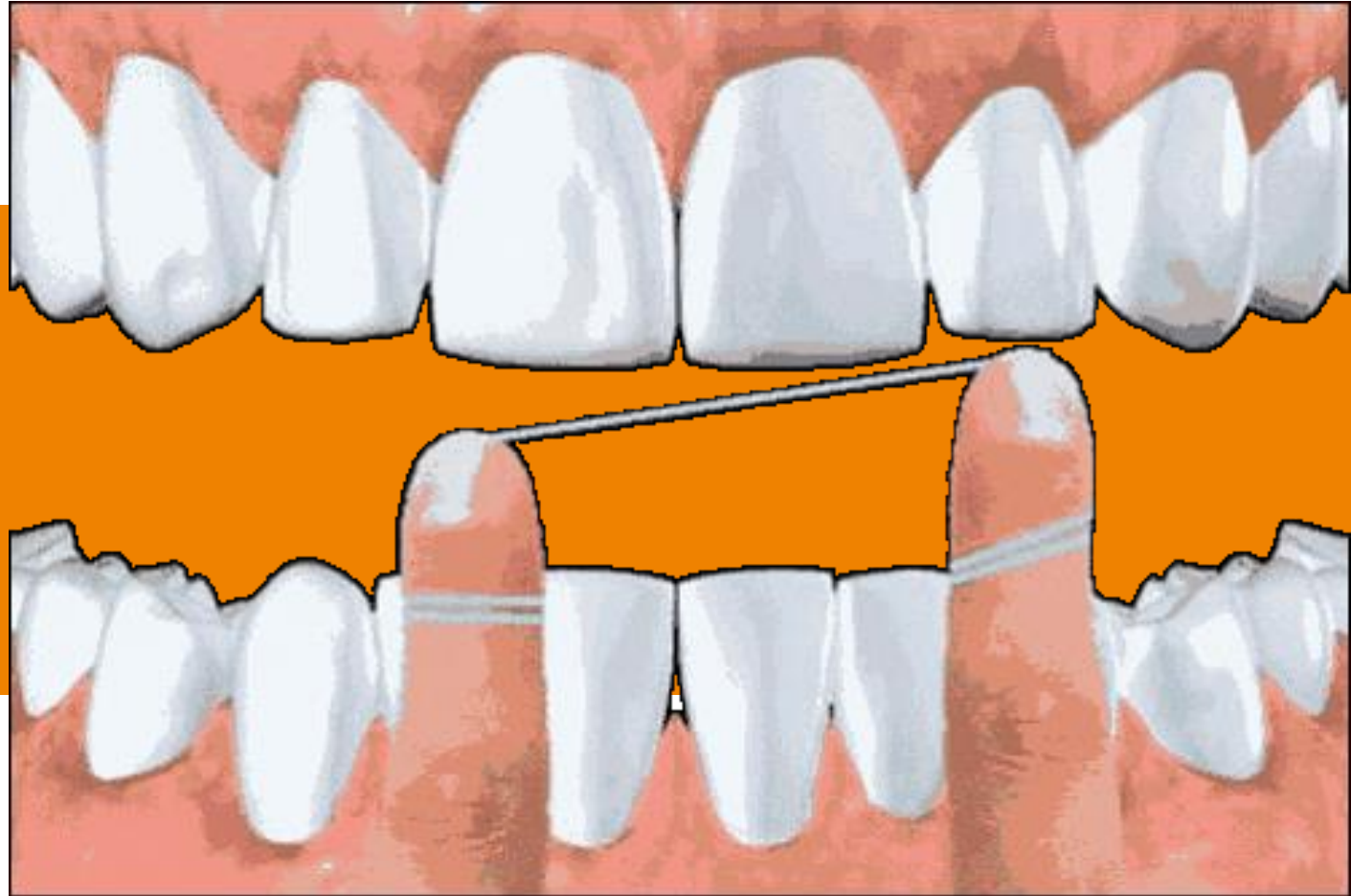
Action for Dental Health Campaign has resources

Connecting patients to ongoing care in their communities, including resources they may not know about

Creating a stakeholder-based program that emphasizes the value of what dentists do and the importance of having a dental home

A strong, supporting collaboration with local and national leaders from the American College of Emergency Physicians

Questions?
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