



Addressing Oral Health Barriers to Care

WHAT ARE BARRIERS TO CARE?

Barriers to care describe anything that prevents people from receiving adequate health care, including finances, location, health needs or poor oral health literacy. To access necessary dental care, patients may require transportation, oral health education or financial assistance. Language, education or cultural barriers may compound the problem.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE FACTS

Status of U.S. Dental and Oral Health

18.6%

of **CHILDREN** aged 5-19 have untreated dental caries.

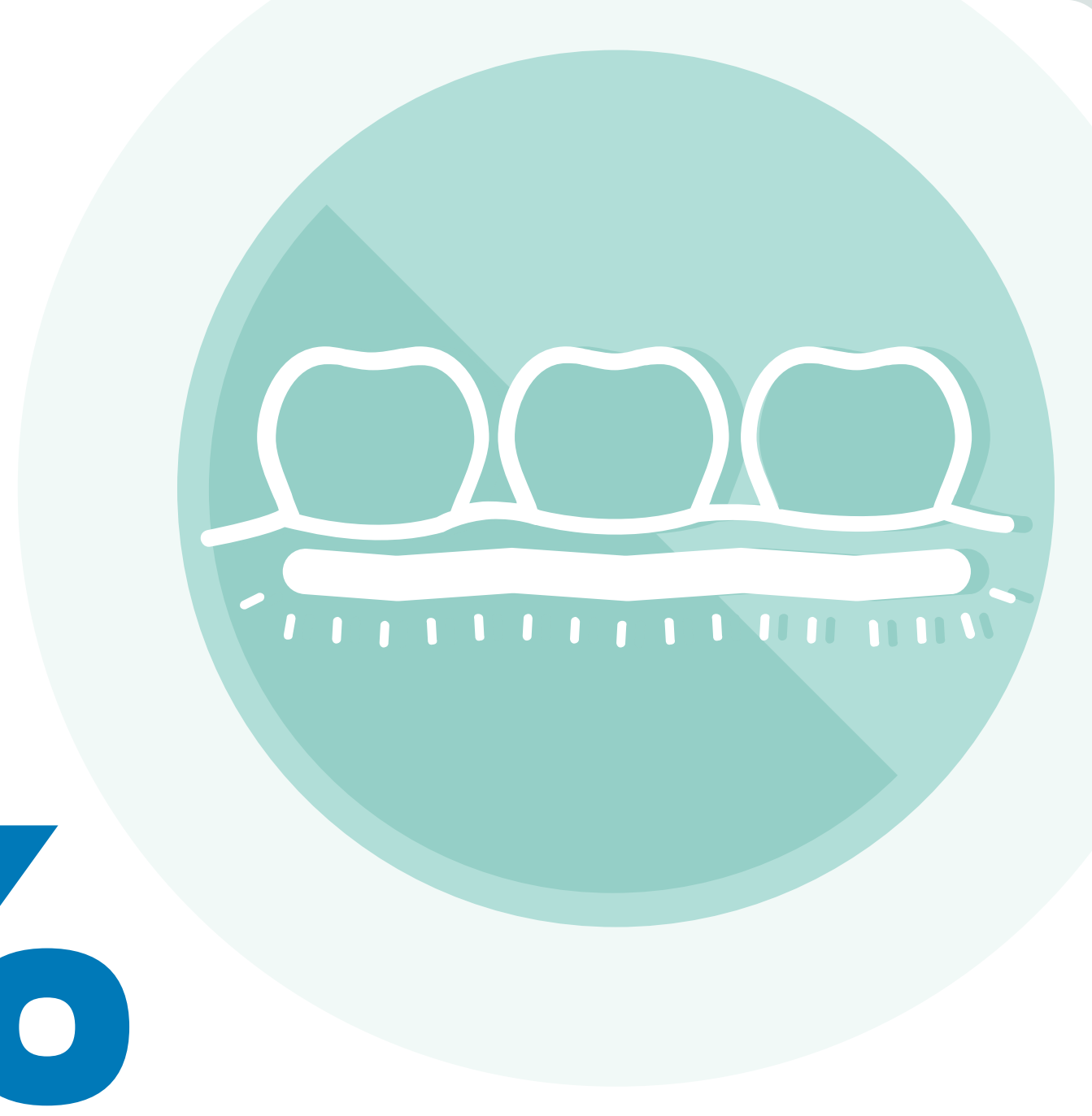


31.6%

of **ADULTS** aged 20-44 have untreated dental caries.

NEARLY 50%

of adults over the age of 30 suffer from some form of **GUM DISEASE**.



In 2017, slightly less than

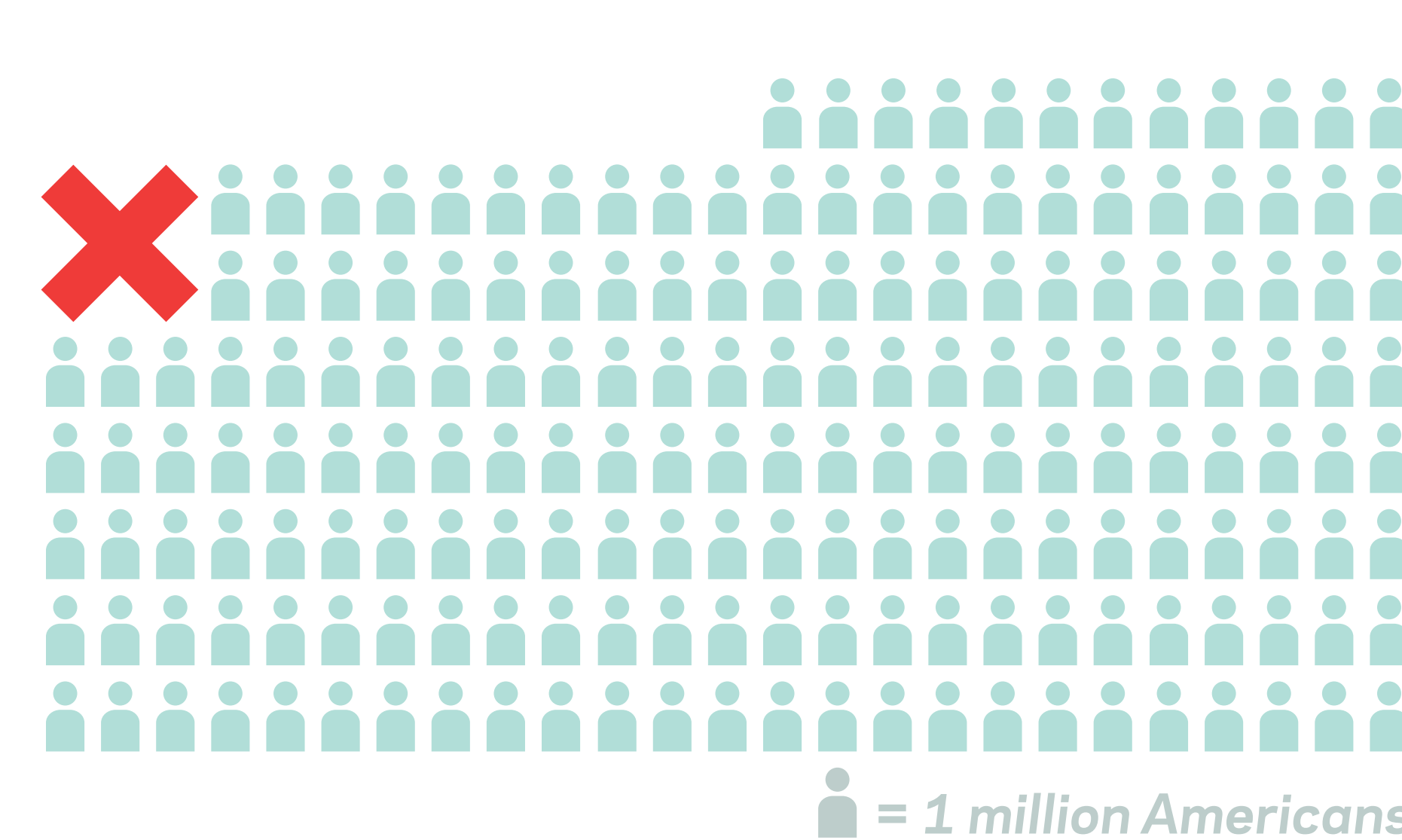
1/3

of adults aged 65 and older had **DENTAL INSURANCE**.



181,000,000

Americans will **NOT VISIT A DENTIST** this year.



1 dot = 1 million Americans

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); ADA's Action for Dental Health Year Five

ASDA Takes Action

★ WE ADOPTED TWO POLICIES.

H-1 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT TO ADDRESS BARRIERS TO CARE:

Encourages the participation of interested dental students in efforts to impact the oral health of the public through **projects, education, internships, externships** and **outreach to underserved populations**.

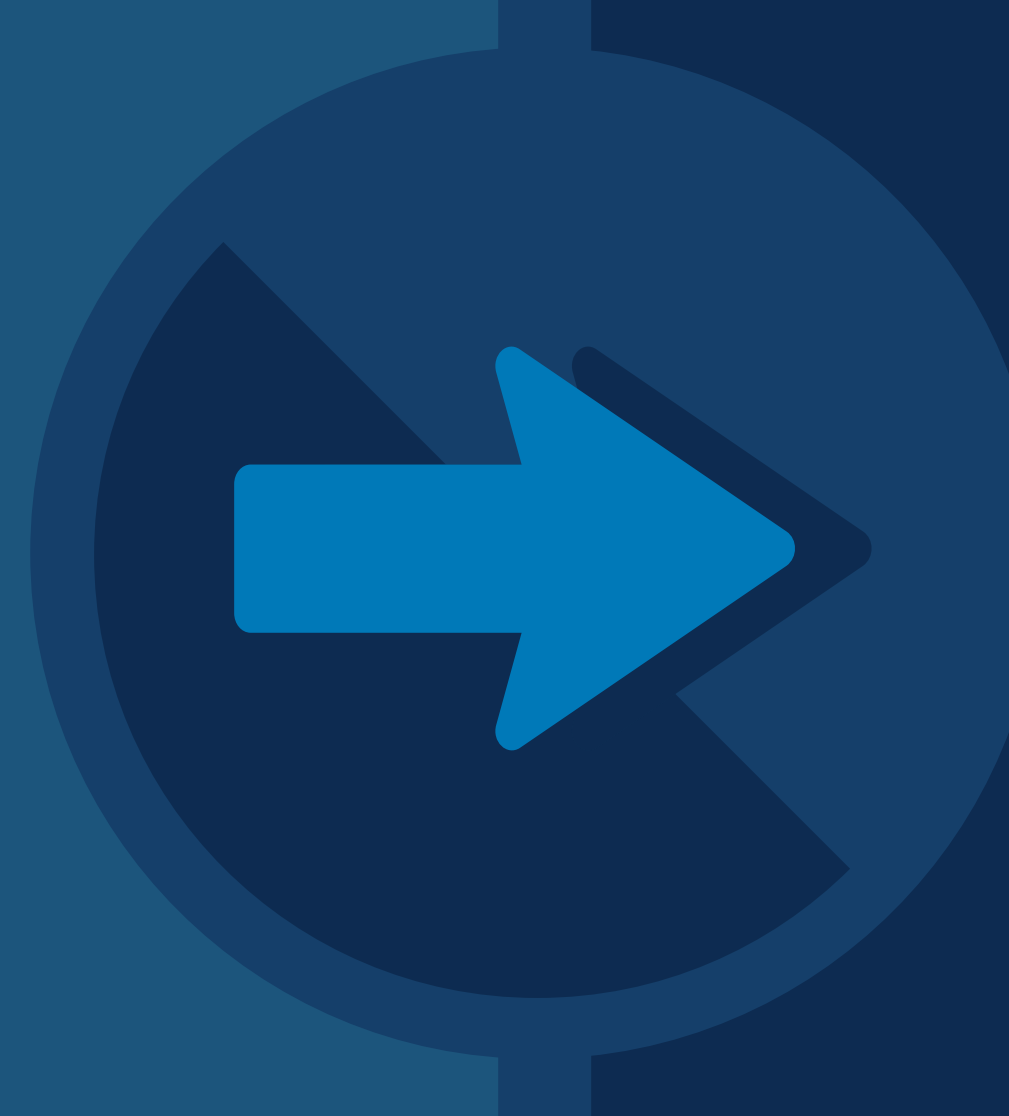


H-2 EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR BARRIERS TO CARE:

Supports evidence-based measures that are efficacious and sustainable in reducing barriers to care in underserved communities. These measures include, but are not limited to, **early intervention, Medicaid expansion** and **co-location of health services**.

★ WE HELPED PROGRESS THE ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH ACT.

The Action for Dental Health Act, passed in 2018, allows organizations to qualify for health grants to **provide dental services to underserved populations**.



600

LETTERS TO CONGRESS FROM ASDA MEMBERS

★ WE CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE ENSURING LASTING SMILES ACT (ELSA).



ELSA ensures children with congenital anomalies and birth defects are able to **receive the treatment they need**.

500

DENTAL STUDENTS SUPPORTED THIS ACT AT ADA DENTIST AND STUDENT LOBBY DAY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

400+

ASDA LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESS URGING SUPPORT FOR ELSA

Learn more about ASDA's efforts to reduce oral health barriers to care at ASDAnet.org/Advocate.