

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Oral Diseases

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

— Mary Lasker 1901–1994

Today:

- ⚡ Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. Half of all low-income children aged 6-19 have *untreated* tooth decay.
- ⚡ More than 90% of adults over age 40 suffer from tooth decay. After age 60, every fourth American has no natural teeth left.
- ⚡ Millions of Americans suffer from pain and disability due to mouth and throat diseases each year.
- ⚡ Oral cancer is the 8th most common cancer among American men. Every year, about 30,000 Americans are diagnosed with oral cancer and more than 8,000 die from it.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)

The Cost:

- ⚡ Each year, the U.S. spends \$86 billion on dental services, with \$38 billion out of pocket, \$43 billion from private insurers and \$5 billion from the government.
- ⚡ Americans visited the dentist more than 500 million times in 2006.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (WWW.CMS.HHS.GOV)
NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION (WWW.CDC.GOV/NCCDPHP)

SAVING LIVES
SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- ⚡ Mounting research evidence shows a person's state of oral health can be a risk factor for diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke.
- ⚡ Several studies suggest a link between gum disease and adverse pregnancy outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, miscarriage, and gestational diabetes.*
- ⚡ NIH-sponsored research led to the discovery of genes that cause cleft lip and palate, a common birth defect. With this information, researchers will be able to diagnose, treat, and potentially prevent the condition.**

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH (WWW.NIDCR.NIH.GOV)

*XIONG, X. ET AL. OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SURVEY. 2007;62(9):605-615.

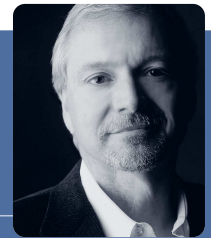
**ALKURAYA, F.S. ET AL. SCIENCE. 2006;313:1751.

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY

- ⚡ Every \$1 invested in oral health research at NIH since the 1950s has saved Americans at least \$3.
- ⚡ For every \$1 invested in water fluoridation in communities larger than 20,000 residents, about \$38 are saved in cavity treatment.

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (WWW.NIH.GOV)
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

survivor



NAME: BRIAN HILL

AGE: 59

DISEASE: ORAL CANCER

Brian Hill of Laguna-Niguel, CA, knows firsthand that you can have a healthy lifestyle but still be at risk for disease. Although he had no symptoms when he noticed a lump on the side of his neck, he had it checked out. It was diagnosed as squamous cell carcinoma of the tonsil.

After undergoing radiation treatment and surgery, Brian had to rely on painkillers and eat through a feeding tube. "Between the pain, the treatments, the emotional upheaval, the constant nausea and weakness, all of it became overwhelming, and I really wanted to give up," he says. And he wonders why we don't hear more about oral cancer, when every hour someone in America dies from it.

Thanks to a top-notch medical facility and staff at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Brian says he has regained his life, but he knows the cancer could return. "Oral cancer is notorious for producing new tumors, particularly in the first five years after treatment," he notes. Nearly half of patients with oral cancer will not survive five years—this poor survival rate is largely because of delays in diagnosis. When caught early, it is 80 to 90 percent curable. Brian stresses the importance of early detection through annual dental screenings. "Screenings take less than five minutes, are not uncomfortable and are inexpensive," he says. "A dental exam, when it incorporates a cancer screening, can save your life."

facts about: } Oral Diseases

Hope for the Future:

- ⌘ Extending fluoridation to all Americans on public water systems would save more than \$1.5 billion each year by preventing tooth decay and loss.
- ⌘ Powerful new imaging tools will enable dentists to treat tooth decay at its earliest stage.
- ⌘ NIH-sponsored researchers have developed the first fully automated "lab on a chip," or all-in-one test, that detects early biomarkers of oral cancer in saliva through a quick and pain-free method.*

SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

*WEIQUM, S.E. ET AL. LAB CHIP. 2007;7:995-1003.

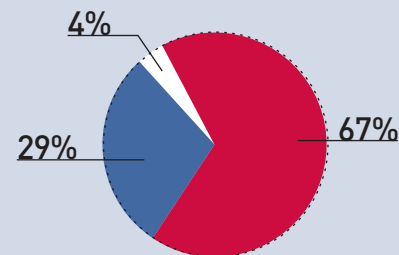
The Bottom Line:

Our nation's investment in dental, oral and craniofacial research has improved the health and well-being of Americans. A renewed commitment of resources is needed to ensure the development of better prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases for generations to come.

Americans Willing to Pay More for Medical Research

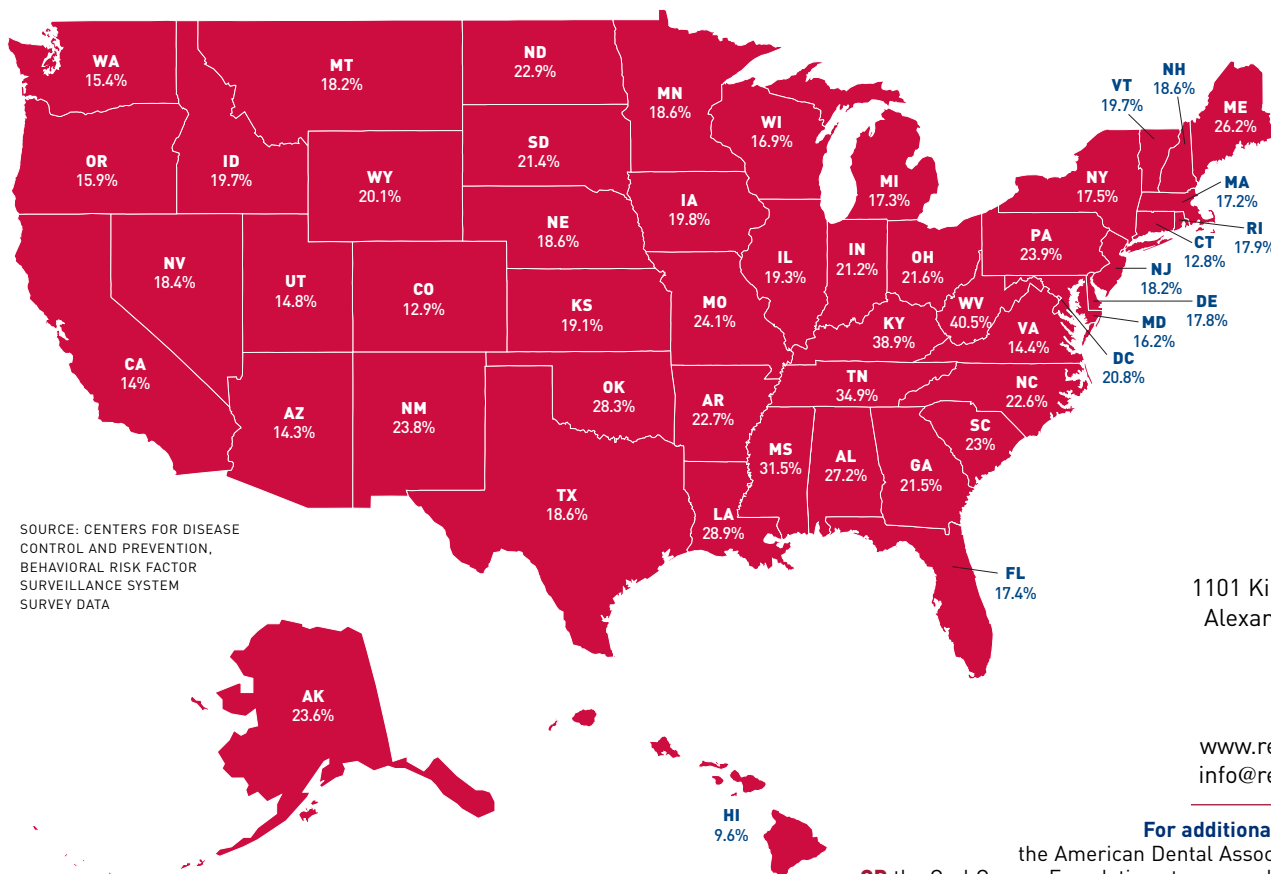
Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all the money would be dedicated to research to improve health, or not?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know



SOURCE: NATIONAL POLL, 2006
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Percent of Adults 65+ with All Their Natural Teeth Extracted, 2006



SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM SURVEY DATA

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Lasker/Funding First is a founding partner in this series of fact sheets. *Lasker/Funding First* is the medical and health research policy program of the Mary Woodard Lasker Charitable Trust. www.laskerfoundation.org