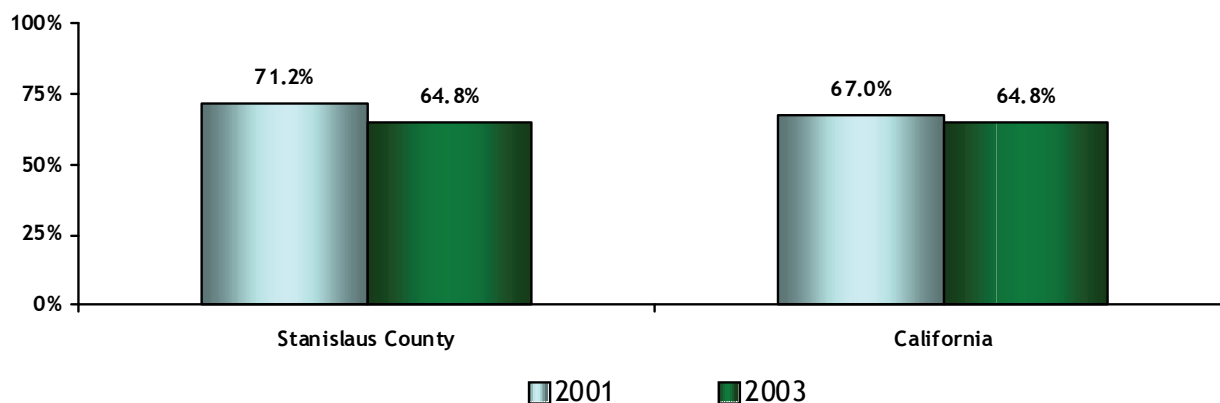


# Dental Insurance / Oral Health

## Why It Is Important

Regular dental visits – at least once per year – are important for preventing, diagnosing and treating oral diseases. Having dental insurance makes getting regular, adequate dental care easier. Further, recent research suggests that periodontal disease or gum disease can impact overall health; periodontal bacteria can enter the blood stream and infect major organs. This may contribute to the development of heart disease, increase the risk of stroke and increase a woman’s risk of having a preterm or low birth weight baby. Periodontal bacteria may also be more dangerous for those with compromised health due to respiratory diseases, diabetes or osteoporosis.<sup>27</sup>

**Figure 85:**  **Percentage of Adults, Ages 18 and Older, with Dental Insurance**



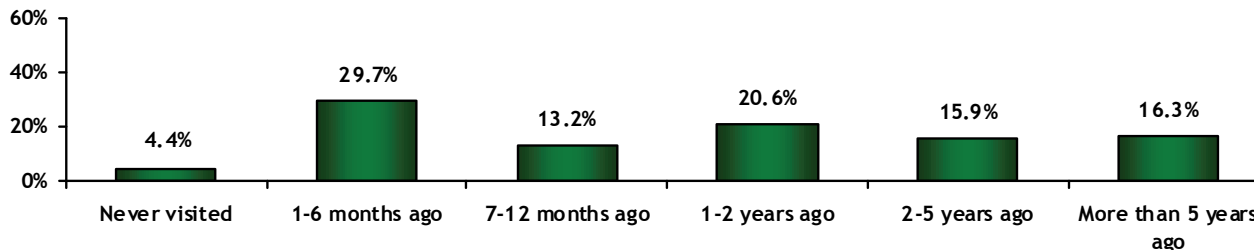
Source: 2001 and 2003 California Health Interview Survey.

Stanislaus County 2001 N: 315,000; 2003 N: 335,000.

California 2001 N: 24,606,000; 2003 N: 25,597,000.

 **New data not available**

**Figure 86:**  **How Long Has It Been Since You Last Visited a Dentist, Hygienist, or Orthodontist? 2008**

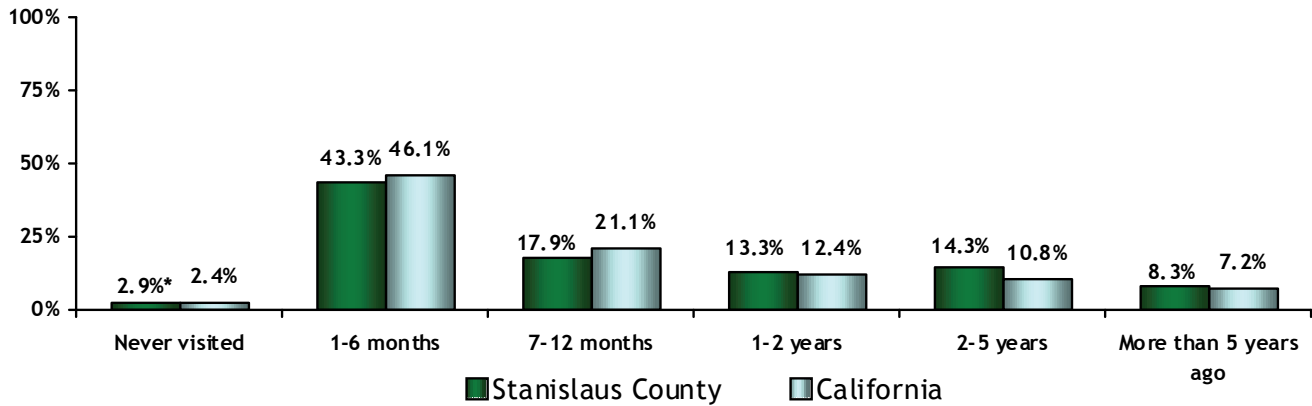


Source: Applied Survey Research, *Stanislaus County Community Health Assessment Survey, 2008*.

N=2,735

<sup>27</sup> American Academy of Periodontology, *Mouth Body Connection*, 2004.

**Figure 87:**  **Time Since Last Dentist Visit, Ages 18 and Older, 2003**



Source: 2003 California Health Interview Survey.

Stanislaus County N: 335,000

California N: 25,597,000

\* Data are statistically unstable. According to CHIS, this is most often caused by a limitation of the sample collected in the survey. Thus, data should be interpreted with caution.

 **New data not available**

## Data Summary

In 2003, CHIS data showed that 65% of Stanislaus County and California residents had dental insurance, a decrease since 2001. In 2003, 61% of Stanislaus County residents and 67% of California residents had visited the dentist within the last year, according to CHIS.

According to the 2008 Stanislaus County Community Health Assessment Survey, 30% of respondents had visited a dentist, hygienist, or orthodontist one to six months ago. Thirteen percent (13%) had visited a dentist seven to twelve months ago, 21% had been one to two years ago, 16% had been two to five years ago, 16% had been more than five years ago, and 4% had never been.