

## QUOTES

*“With half of the United States receiving a ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ rating relative to meeting minimal standards for the oral health of older adults, we must identify and address the steps needed to ensure the health of our burgeoning senior population. As depicted in this report, even with improvements by certain states, millions of older adults are still at a disadvantage when it comes to oral health care. Access to and utilization of care and to the coverage needed to pay for care is critical to increasing the overall health and wellness of America’s seniors.”*

Beth Truett, MDiv, President & CEO  
Oral Health America

*“Oral health for older adults is in fragile condition. Oral health for seniors is important for their diet, nutrition, self-esteem, socialization, and freedom from pain, among many other benefits.”*

Caswell A. Evans, DDS, MPH, Chair  
College of Dentistry  
University of Illinois at Chicago

*“A State of Decay allows us to remain committed to ensuring oral health equity among all older adults, leveling the field to improve the quality of life for all. Everyone deserves the right to oral health screenings, diagnoses and most importantly, access to care. This report provides a gauge of where we are and where we need to go to meet the unmet dental needs of older adults.”*

Michael Monopoli, DMD, MPH, MS.  
Executive Director  
DentaQuest Foundation

*“Tooth loss and poor oral health are not inevitable during the aging process. The Gerontological Society of America is pleased to see the growth in the number of states taking positive steps to advance their oral health services for older adults. And, through coordinated strategies in the education, practice, policy and research arenas, millions of older adults can maintain their oral health for a lifetime and enjoy the far-reaching benefits of overall better health and quality of life”*

Karen Tracy  
Vice President, Strategic Alliances and Integrated Communications  
The Gerontological Society of America