



Background

- Untreated tooth decay is the most common health condition experienced by adults (World Health Organization, 2025).
- Hispanic populations ranked consistently lower on an 'Oral Health Quality of Life' measure and experienced significantly worse oral pain and higher rates of tooth loss compared to similar non-Hispanics (Huang and Park, 2014).

Oral Health Assessment in a Sample of the Latino Population in Gallatin County

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Purpose

- Goal 1:** Identify common behaviors and risk factors.
- Goal 2:** Identify visual indicators for disease.
- Goal 3:** Assess overall risk status.

Methods

- Data collection: free mobile primary care clinics sponsored by Proyecto SALUD from May to October 2025 (n = 86)
- Proyecto SALUD 'Dental Screening Form': a tool to assess oral habits, health history, perform a visual examination, and determine risk assessment
- Descriptive and analytic data analysis

Implications

- Oral health behaviors aligned with tooth decay
- Addressing behavioral risk factors may reduce overall oral health risk
- Oral health self-management goals set with patients

References

Huang, Deborah L., and Mijung Park. "Socioeconomic and Racial/Ethnic Oral Health Disparities among US Older Adults: Oral Health Quality of Life and Dentition." *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, vol. 75, no. 2, Sept. 2014, pp. 85-92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jphd.12072>. National Library of Medicine. Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.

World Health Organization. "Oral Health." *World Health Organization*, 17 Mar. 2025. www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/oral-health. Accessed 6 Sept. 2025.



Results

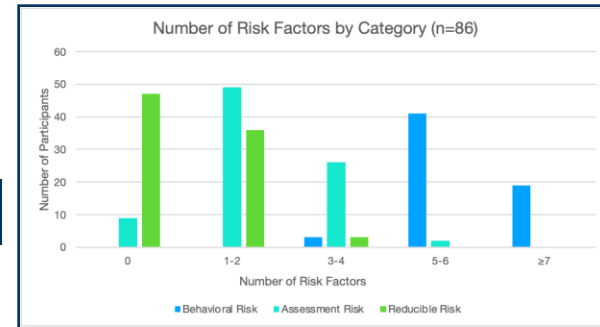


Figure 1. Bar graph of the number of risk factors present based on behavioral questionnaire and visual examination. (n=86)

n=73	n	%
High	19	22
Medium	35	41
Low	19	22

Table 1. Overall Risk Assessment based on Visual Exam



Figure 2. Demographic map of sampled population country of origin. (n=80)

- 30% with seven or more behavioral risk factors.
- 30% had 3-4 risk factors based on visual examination.
- 63% overall risk assessment of Medium or High
- Behavioral risk scores associated with assessment risk ($B = 0.18, p = .007$) and overall risk assessment ($B = 0.14, p = .008$)

Behavioral Risk: Self-reported bruising habits, dental visits, sugar intake, and pain.
Visual Risk: decay, lesions, inflammation, plaque, missing/broken teeth.
Reducible Risk: Family history, dry mouth, sugar intake, inadequate oral hygiene.

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