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CASE STUDY: FOOD INSECURITY & DENTAL CARE ACCESS

HPRB 3700



Case Study Scenario

Janie | 68 years | Athens, GA

- Previously full time certified nursing assistant
 - currently retired
- Received small social security check
- Majority of previous work was for private families
 - not all work legally reported by employers
- Experiencing tooth pain (molar)
 - cannot afford dental visit

Issues Addressed:

- Insurance
- Food security
- Oral health affordability / access
- Social security



Clinical Description

Food Insecurity

- household-level economic and social condition limited / uncertain access to adequate food
- 2020 = peak year of roughly 13.8 million

Low Food Insecurity

- reports of reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet
- little or no indication of reduced food intake

High Food Insecurity

- reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake



Dental Care Access

- the existence of differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of oral diseases, and other adverse health conditions, as well as the use of health care services, among specific population groups in the United States



Risk Factors

Food Insecurity

- socioeconomic status, employment status, and disability status
 - disabled adults are at an increased risk
- black, non-hispanic households are over 2x more likely to be food insecure

Environmental

- neighborhood quality, physical access to food, and transportation

Dental Care Access

- socioeconomic status, insurance status, race/ethnicity, and immigration status

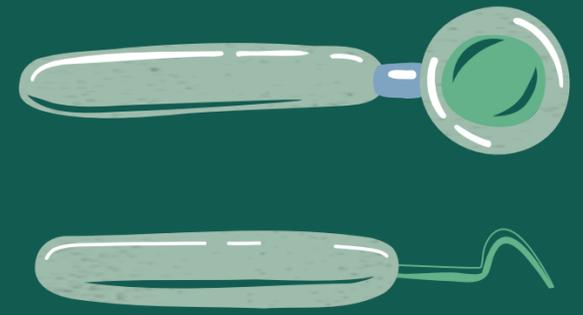
Health

- previous diagnoses of diabetes or obesity, sugar and tobacco use, and infectious/inflammatory pathways



Dental Care Access

- receiving social security checks = personal discretion whether or not they choose to purchase insurance
- individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration
 - automatically eligible for Medicaid and often receive Medicare
 - not ideal for dental care
- Medicare and Medicaid both do not cover dental care in the state of Georgia
 - unless deemed a medical necessity / emergency



Culture

Food Insecurity

- low-income individuals often struggle to afford an adequate and nutritious diet
- black individuals are disproportionately represented among low-wage workers
 - difficulty accessing higher-paying jobs
 - affording health + nutritious foods
- turning to cheaper foods has negative effects on overall health and dental health

Dental Care Access

- Health People 2020 stated that oral health is among the top 10 leading health indicators
- can lead to costly future health conditions
- 1 in 5 low-income adults say their mouth and teeth are in poor condition

