



The Cost of Life Without Dental

Why dental should be a part of every benefits package

Oral health isn't just about your mouth.

Driving demand for quality dental insurance is the awareness and realization of the link between oral and physical health. Research conducted by the Surgeon General in the early 2000s established a connection between oral infections and serious medical problems such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and oral cancer.* In more recent years, links between oral health and social and economic well-being have come to light. According to the American Dental Association (ADA) Health Policy Institute, one in four adults avoid smiling due to the condition of their mouth and teeth. One in five experience anxiety due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.

People with dental coverage take better care of their teeth.

Those with dental benefits are more likely to go to the dentist, take their children to the dentist, receive restorative care and experience greater overall health, according to the National Association of Dental Plans (NADP). Research conducted by the ADA has revealed that cost is the number one reason adults without dental benefits do not visit the dentist.

Skipping regular dental visits is costly.

According to the ADA, oral health care consumes just under 4 percent of the U.S. health care dollar, costing the United States more than \$113 billion each year. Yet the impact of not seeing a dentist regularly could cost employers and individuals much more over time.

Dental diseases are detrimental to workplace productivity.

Students miss more than 51 million hours of school and employed adults lose more than 164 million hours of work each year due to dental disease or dental visits.*

Dental is necessary in the heated competition for workforce talent.

No benefits package is complete without dental insurance. Employers want to attract and retain the best talent. For those taking a long-term hiring perspective, a quality benefits package remains a priority and dental continues to be ranked among the most desirable of benefits says the NADP.

For more information, call (800) 367-9466 or visit DentalCarePlus.com.

T H E P L U S I S S E R V I C E

*Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, 2000.

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