Science News

Gum Disease Found to Be Significant Public Health Concern

ScienceDaily (Sep. 23, 2010) — The prevalence of periodontal disease in the United States may be significantly higher than originally estimated. Research published in the *Journal of Dental Research* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) suggests that the prevalence of periodontal disease may have been underestimated by as much as 50 percent. The implication is that more American adults may suffer from moderate to severe gum disease than previously thought.

See Also:

Health & Medicine
- Dentistry
- Chronic Illness
- Diseases and Conditions

Science & Society
- Public Health
- Social Issues
- World Development

Reference
- Periodontal disease
- Dental caries
- Bruxism
- List of medical topics

In a National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) pilot study, funded by the CDC's Division of Oral Health, a full-mouth, comprehensive periodontal examination was conducted on over 450 adults over the age of 35. Periodontal disease was classified according to definitions determined by the CDC in collaboration with the AAP. The prevalence rates were then compared against the results of previous NHANES studies which used a partial-mouth periodontal examination. Historically, NHANES has served as the main source for determining prevalence of periodontal disease in US adults. The pilot study finds that the original partial-mouth study methodology may have underestimated true disease prevalence by up to 50 percent.

Periodontal disease is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects the gum tissue and other structures supporting the teeth. If left untreated, it can lead to tooth loss, and may also interfere with other systems of the body. Several research studies have associated gum disease with other chronic inflammatory diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and rheumatoid arthritis.

"This study shows that periodontal disease is a bigger problem than we all thought. It is a call to action for anyone who cares about his or her oral health." said Samuel Low, DDS, MS, associate dean and professor of periodontology at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, and president of the American Academy of Periodontology. "Given what we know about the relationship between gum disease and other diseases, taking care of your oral health isn't just about a pretty smile. It has bigger implications for overall health, and is therefore a more significant public health problem."

Dr. Low explained that the increased prevalence of periodontal disease makes it essential to maintain healthy teeth and gums. "Not only should you take good care of your periodontal health with daily tooth brushing and flossing, you should expect to get a comprehensive periodontal evaluation every year," he advised. A dental professional, such as a periodontist, a specialist in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of gum disease, will conduct the comprehensive exam to assess your periodontal disease status.

According to Paul Eke, MPH, PhD, epidemiologist at the CDC and lead author of the study, the findings have significant

Ads by Google

Help Reverse Gum Disease
Help Reverse Gum Disease with Crest®Pro Health Toothpaste.
www . Crest Pro Health .com / Clinical

I Cured My Gum Disease
Stop Gum Disease in its Tracks with this Powerful All Natural Solution
www .oram-plus .com /gumdisease

Gum Pain Treatment
Find A Dentist & Learn About Gum Diseases, Causes & Therapy Options!
www .1800dentist .com / Chicago

Mundelein Family Dentist
New Patients Receive Exam & X-Rays Free. Wascow Dental.
Wascow Dental .com

Related Stories

Want Healthy Gums? Hit The Dairy Aisle (Feb. 10, 2008) — Consumers have long known that including dairy in their diets can help maintain healthy bones and even help promote weight loss. However, a recent study demonstrated that routine intake of dairy ... > *read more*

Treating Your Periodontal Pockets May Benefit Your Pocket Book (Nov. 28, 2007) — Prevention of periodontal diseases may lead to savings on not only dental costs, but also medical care costs. Periodontal, or gum diseases have been linked to systemic health conditions including ... > *read more*

Your Oral Health Is Connected To Your Overall Health (Apr. 11, 2009) — Scientists report new studies on the connection between oral disease and systemic disease. A recurring theme is the relationship between periodontal (gum) disease and infant prematurity, diabetes or ... > *read more*

Treating Gum Disease May Reduce The Risk Of Cardiovascular Disease (Jan. 6, 2006) — The Journal of Dental Research has just published the results of a study showing that treatment of gum disease may reduce the risk of cardiovascular ... > *read more*

Quitting Smoking May Minimize Harmful Bacteria and Replenish Healthy Bacteria (July 22, 2010) — Patients with chronic gum disease who quit smoking in addition to undergoing nonsurgical therapy not only demonstrated a lower abundance of harmful oral pathogens, but also an increase in ... > *read more*

Ads by Google

Lincoln Park Dentist
Cosmetic & General Dentistry in Chicago's Lincoln Park
www . Dr Sood .com

Help Prevent Gingivitis

Just In:
'Coreshine' Sheds Light on the Birth of Stars

Science Video News

Soothing Sensitive Teeth
A chemical mix imitating the minerals found in saliva, but at higher concentrations, can be added to toothpaste to plug tiny pores that lead to. ... > *full story*

- Microbiologists Find Soap and Water Best for Washing Hands, Removing Germs
- Electrical Engineers And Medical Technologists Create Easier Way To Diagnose Diabetes
- Newly Sequenced Genome Could Shed Light on Human Diseases
- *more science videos*

Help Reverse Gum Disease
Help Reverse Gum Disease with CrestÂ®Pro Health Toothpaste.
www.CrestProHealth.com/Clinical

I Cured My Gum Disease
Stop Gum Disease in its Tracks with this Powerful All Natural Solution
www.oram-plus.com/gumdisease

Gum Disease Treatment
Let 1-800-DENTIST Help You Find A Periodontist Near You! Visit Us.
www.1800dentist.com/Chicago

Lincoln Park Dentist
Cosmetic & General Dentistry in the heart of Lincoln Park
www.DrSood.com

Ads by Google

Breaking News

... from NewsDaily.com

- Russian-U.S. space crew aborts return to Earth
- British scientists say cuts will cripple research
- Canadian ornithopter achieves Da Vinci's dream
- Scientists give fresh estimate of Gulf oil spill
- Old, pressed flowers give climate clues: study
- *more science news*

In Other News ...
- Obama slams Iran's Ahmadinejad for "hateful" 9/11 remark
- Pelosi hedges on timing of Bush-era tax vote
- House panel cranks up pressure on

public health implications. "The study suggests we have likely underestimated the prevalence of periodontal disease in the adult US population," he said. "We are currently utilizing a full-mouth periodontal examination in the 2009/10 NHANES to better understand the full extent and characteristics of periodontal disease in our adult population." Dr. Eke added, "Research suggests a connection between periodontal health and systemic health. In light of these findings, understanding the relationships between periodontal disease and other systemic diseases in the adult U.S population is more crucial than ever."

Email or share this story: | More

Story Source:

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by Science*Daily* staff) from materials provided by American Academy of Periodontology.

Journal Reference:

1. P. I. Eke, G. O. Thornton-Evans, L. Wei, W. S. Borgnakke, B. A. Dye. Accuracy of NHANES Periodontal Examination Protocols. *Journal of Dental Research*, 2010; DOI: 10.1177/0022034510377793

Need to cite this story in your essay, paper, or report? Use one of the following formats:

APA: American Academy of Periodontology (2010, September 23). Gum disease found to be significant public health concern. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved September 25, 2010, from http://www.sciencedaily.com /releases/2010/09/100922155126.htm

MLA: American Academy of Periodontology. "Gum disease found to be significant public health concern." *ScienceDaily*. 23 September 2010. <http://www.sciencedaily.com /releases/2010/09/100922155126.htm>.

Note: If no author is given, the source is cited instead.

Glide Floss Deep Clean.
Stop Flossing, Start Gliding.
Glide Floss .com

Search ScienceDaily

Number of stories in archives: 91,735

Find with keyword(s): Search

Enter a keyword or phrase to search ScienceDaily's archives for related news topics, the latest news stories, reference articles, science videos, images, and books.

China currency
- Iran accuses U.S. of hypocrisy in woman's execution
- Japan releases China fishing boat captain: report
- U.S. troops fight on despite end to combat in Iraq
- Russian-U.S. space crew aborts return to Earth
- NY voters support right to build Muslim center: poll
- *more top news*

Copyright Reuters 2008. See Restrictions.

Free Subscriptions *... from ScienceDaily*

Get the latest science news with our free email newsletters, updated daily and weekly. Or view hourly updated newsfeeds in your RSS reader:

- Email Newsletters
- RSS Newsfeeds

Feedback *... we want to hear from you!*

Tell us what you think of the new ScienceDaily -- we welcome both positive and negative comments. Have any problems using the site? Questions?

Your Name:

Your Email:

Comments:

Click button to submit feedback: Send It

Copyright © 1995-2010 ScienceDaily LLC — All rights reserved — Contact: editor@sciencedaily.com
*Part of the **iVillage Your Total Health Network***