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## **Inequality in the Use of Dental Services as Adolescents Transition to Adults**

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## Inequality in the Use of Dental Services as Adolescents Transition to Adults

We studied whether the use of dental services is associated with social and financial status, and whether this association changes as adolescents transition to adults. We used billing data from a university dental clinic. Two age groups: adolescents and adults (15-18 and 19-25 years of age). The cost of services, use of preventive or treatment services, and the number of dental visits were determined. The use of dental services differed between the two age groups. As expected, increased use of treatment services was associated with increased cost of care in both groups. Increased use of preventive dental services was associated with reduced cost of dental care in adults but not in adolescents. Adults from low-income areas used fewer treatment services than those from high-income areas. This association was not seen in adolescents. These findings may be attributed to the loss of publicly financed dental care as adolescents transition to adults.