

Oral Health Update: Problems and Issues

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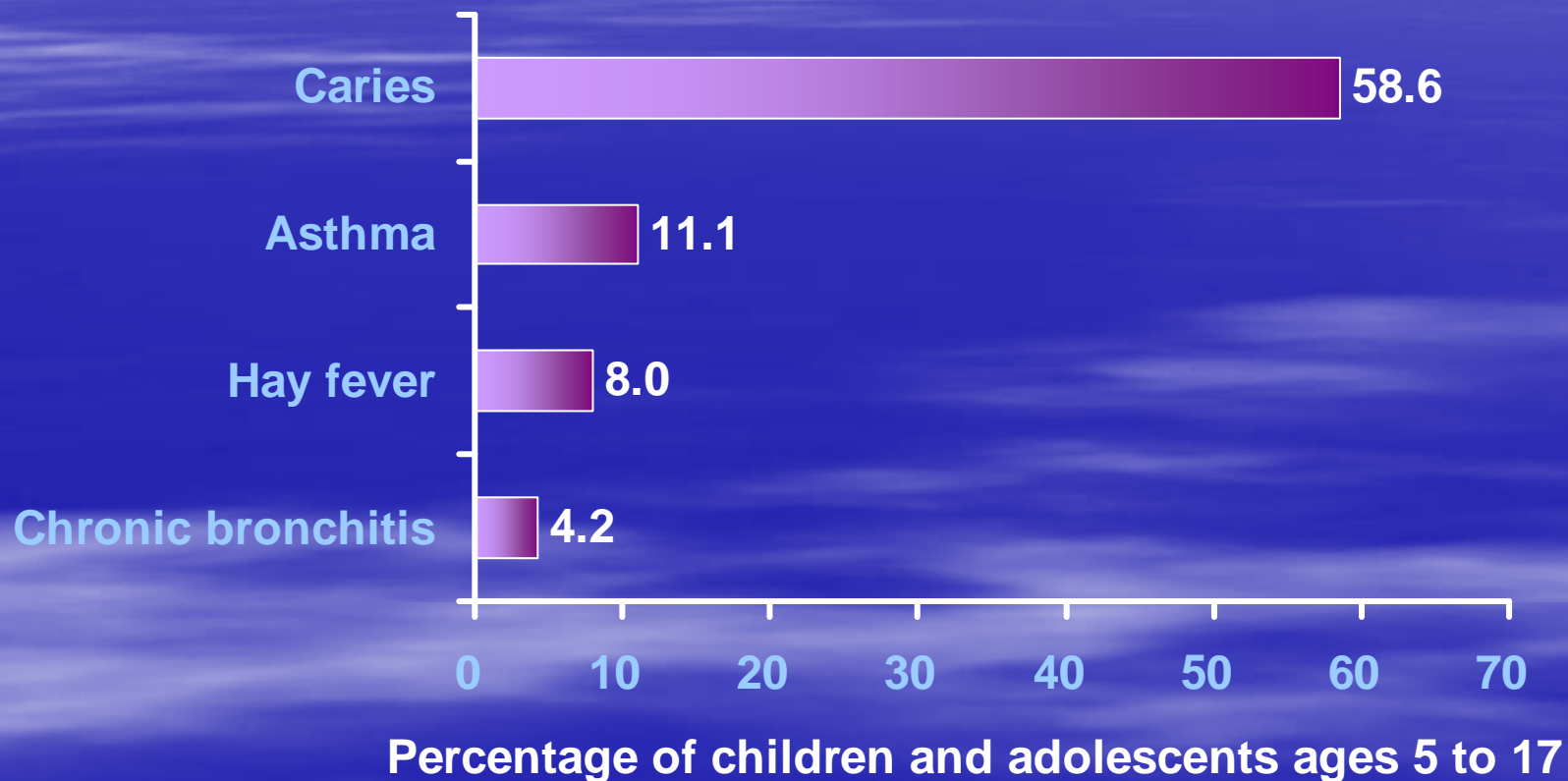
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**What are some of the oral
health problems and issues
among
our population?**



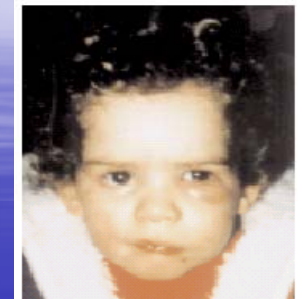
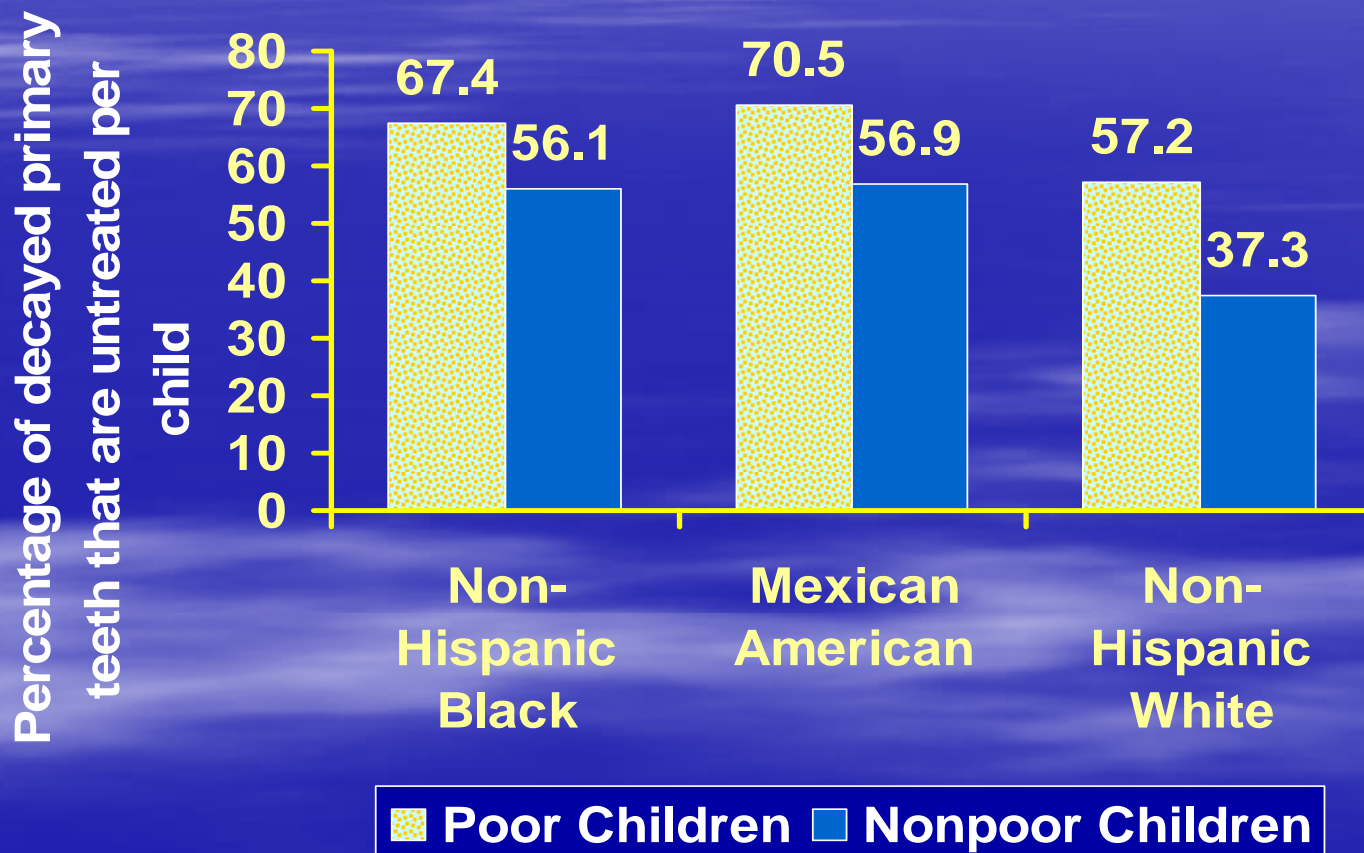
- **Dental caries (tooth decay) is the single most common chronic childhood disease-- 5 times more common than asthma and 7 times more common than hay fever**
- **Poor children suffer twice as much dental caries as their more affluent peers, and their disease is more likely to be untreated**

Dental caries is one of the most common diseases among 5- to 17-year-olds



Note: Data include decayed or filled primary and/or decayed, filled, or missing permanent teeth.
Asthma, chronic bronchitis, and hay fever based on report of household respondent about the sampled 5- to 17- year olds.
Source: NCHS 1996

Poor children 2 to 9 in each racial/ethnic group have a higher percentage of untreated Primary teeth than nonpoor children



Serious facial swelling from a tooth abscess resulting from decay.

Source: NCHS, 1996

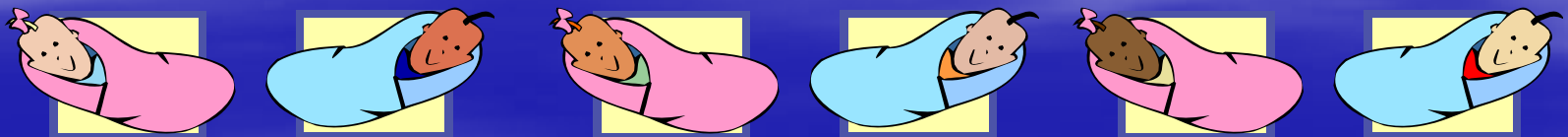
Children

- For each child without medical insurance, there are at least 2.6 children without dental insurance
- ☀ Uninsured children are 2.5 times less likely than insured children to receive dental care



Cleft Lip/Palate

- Cleft lip/palate, one of the most common birth defects, is estimated to affect 1 out of 600 live births for whites and 1 out of 1,850 live births for African Americans



Adults & Older Adults

- For every adult 19 years or older without medical insurance, there are three without dental insurance



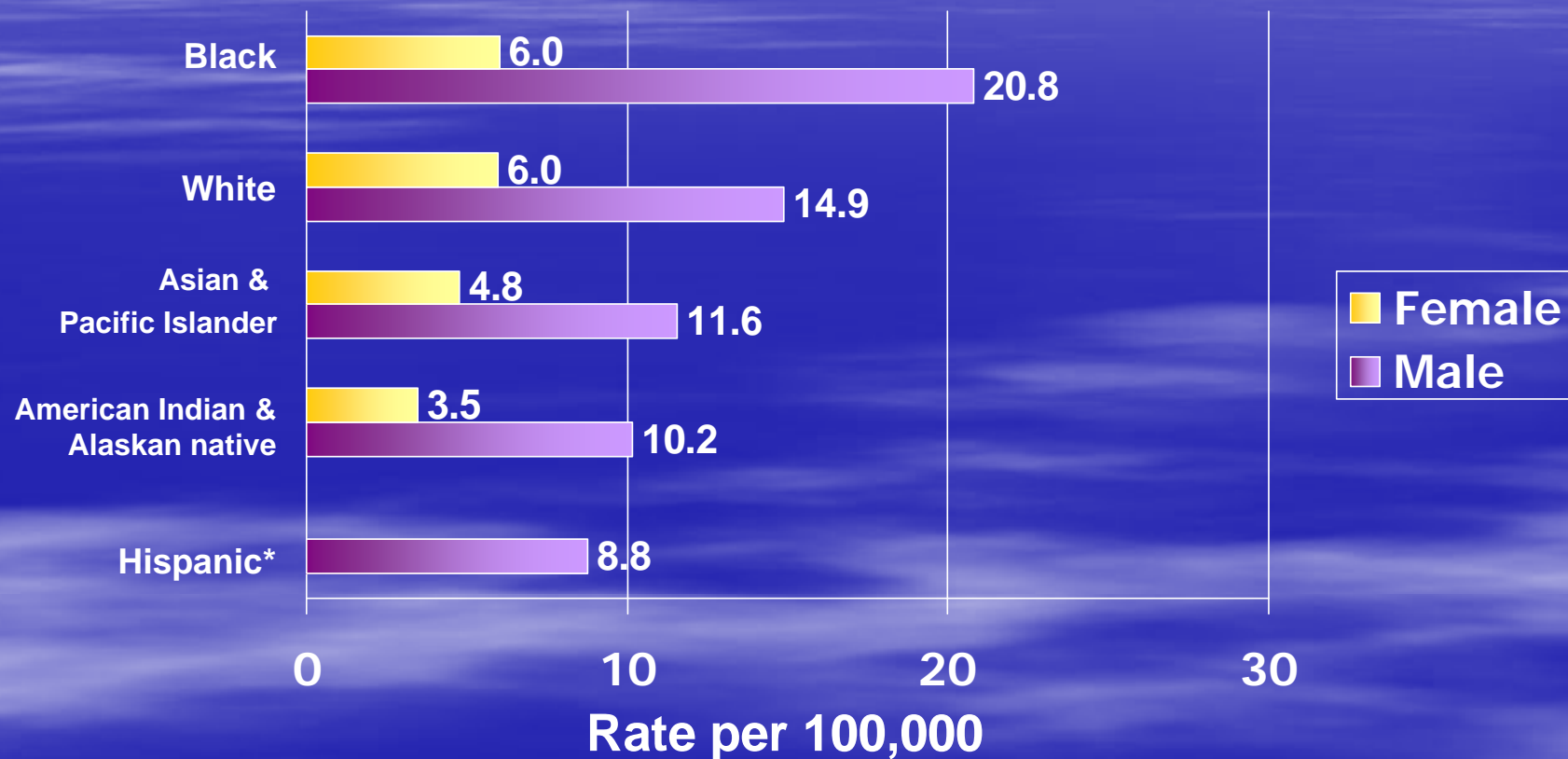
- **Severe periodontal disease (*measured as 6 millimeters of periodontal attachment loss*) affects about 14 percent of adults aged 45 to 54**
- **Twenty-three percent of 65- to 74-year-olds have severe periodontal disease**
- **About 30 percent of adults 65 years and older are edentulous, compared to 46 percent 20 years ago**

Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer

- Oral and pharyngeal cancers are diagnosed in about 30,000 Americans annually; 8,000 die from these diseases each year



Males have higher incidence rates of oral and pharyngeal cancers than females

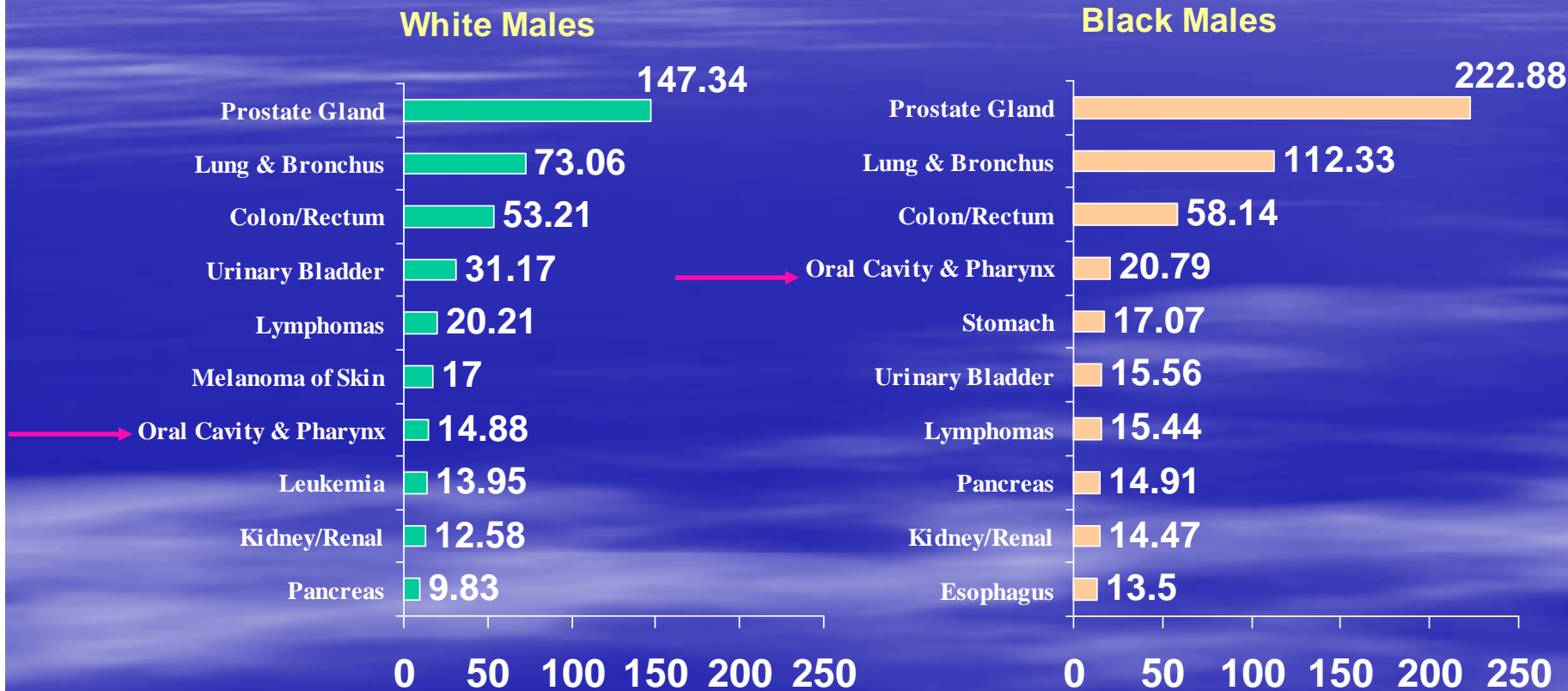


Note: Age adjusted to the 1970 U.S. standard

*Data unavailable for Hispanic females

Source: Adapted from Wingo et al., 1999; SEER Program, 1990-96, Ries et al 1999

Cancers of the oral cavity and pharynx are the seventh most common cancers in white males and the fourth most common in black males (incidence per 100,000)



Note: Age adjusted to the 1970 U.S. standard

Sources: Adapted from Wingo et al. 1999; SEER Program, 1990-96, Ries et al. 1999

Issues:

- Surgical Repair VS.
 - Prevention of disease
 - Early intervention
 - Management of disease
 - Payment systems support surgical approach

- Distribution and supply of oral health workforce
 - Rural
 - Low income
 - Populations of color
 - Elderly
 - Emerging workforce models

- Access to Care
- Oral Health Disparities

- Lack of Health Information Technology
 - common nomenclature
 - common record systems
 - quality of care and outcome measures

Summary

- Surgical repair focus
- Distribution of supply workforce
- Access to care
- Oral Health Disparities
- Information Technology

**“You are not healthy
without oral health.”**

***C. Everett Koop,
(former) US Surgeon General***