



The Economy's Effect on Dentistry

Like other small business owners, California dentists are vulnerable to fluctuations in our economy. Dentists pay rent or a mortgage, employ a staff and face bills for professional insurance and other fixed overhead costs. Eight out of ten dentists are also sole practitioners, meaning they bear the brunt of any economic downturn on their own.

The California Dental Association realizes that in tough economic times, consumers with limited disposable incomes may choose to postpone dental care or other types of health-related treatments. While such decisions are understandable, they may ultimately cost patients more. Preventive care, in particular, is a proven money-saver, protecting patients against tooth decay and other problems that could require more expensive interventions at a later date. And the early identification of oral disease can lead to the diagnosis and treatment of a number of serious systemic diseases.

We all confront tough choices when our economy falters. The CDA hopes that patients, when possible, will continue to make their oral health a priority.