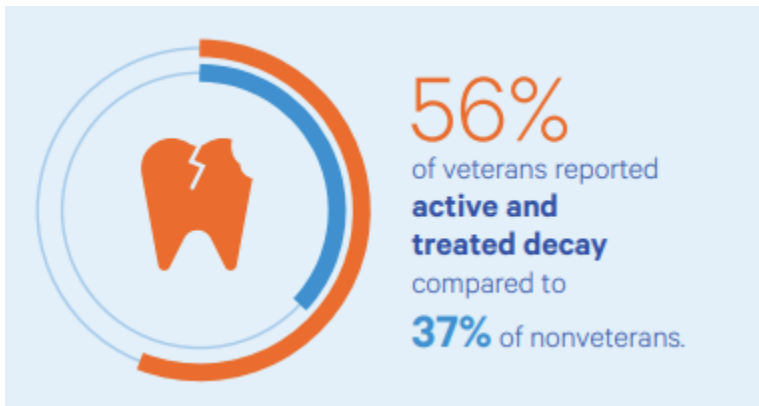
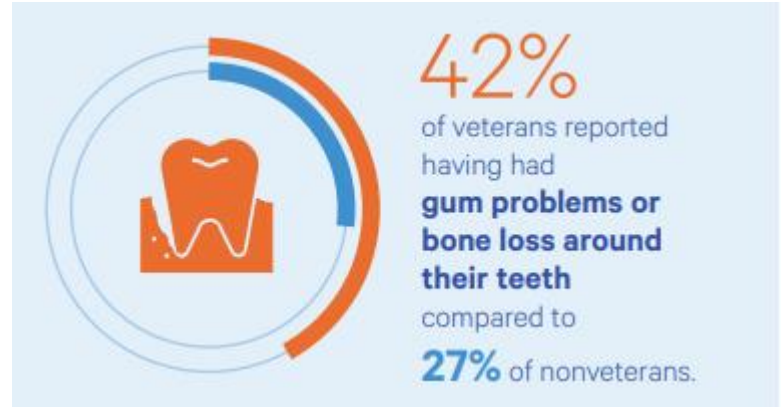
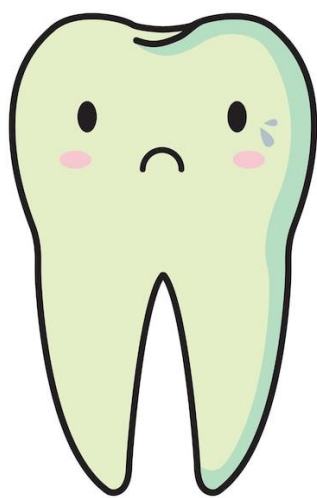


### Veteran Oral Health

Although there is not much data specific to Indigenous veterans, we know that Indigenous people make up only 2 – 3% of the population in the United States. When looking at data for pre 9/11 there was a higher percentage of Indigenous veterans compared to other races (17.7% vs 14.0%). This higher percentage of veterans is significant when you consider how small a percentage of the United States veterans make up.



These numbers are for all veterans, not specifically Indigenous veterans, however, we can assume the inequities in veteran oral health in our community is similar. At the Bad River dental clinic we would like to close the gap for inequities for our veterans. We hope to host a **Give Veterans a Smile** event sometime next year to dedicate a day specifically to addressing the oral health of veterans.



### Dental Disruption

Due to the power surge on 11/15/23 the dental department was not fully operational. We have been working diligently to be up and running as soon as possible. Five of our six dental chairs and two of our instrument sterilization machines were affected during the power surge. We have had several people evaluate our machines and electricians. This afternoon our technician was able to fix our dental chairs. Our front desk and providers will try to accommodate patients who were unable to be seen due to these unforeseen circumstances. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



**We are now open again! Our chairs are not fixed 100%, but our doctors are able to see patients again.**



### Staff Highlight: Janae Whitebird, Gimiwan'anakwadoons

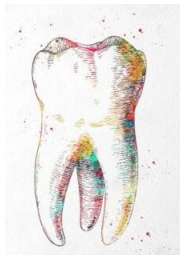
Position: dental assistant  
 Family: My mom is Megan Powless, my grandparents are Penny and Danny Powless  
 Hobbies: Sewing, powwows, attending ceremonies, volleyball and working out  
 Hometown: Bad River  
 How long have you been in your position: Just over a year.  
 Favorite thing about working in Bad River: I enjoy working in a field I love while also helping the community I grew up in.  
 Hopes for the dental clinic in the next year: I hope there are new opportunities for the community and advancements that will work towards us being able to provide more efficient and available treatment/care.  
 Professional interests: I am interested in seeking higher education and working towards getting my degree to become a dentist!

Normal business hours 8:00 – 4:30 PM  
Monday – Friday  
Closed for tribal holidays

Upcoming closure dates:  
11/23/23, 11/24/23, 12/22/23 PM,  
12/25/23, 12/26/23

Direct dental phone number:  
(715)685-7887

# Services we offer:



Call us with any questions or to schedule your appointment today!

- Comprehensive and periodic exams to monitor your oral health with radiographs
- Prophylaxis: regular dental cleanings
- Sealants: protective covering in deep pits/grooves of teeth to help prevent cavities
- SRP: scaling and root planning, aka “deep cleanings” for patients with periodontal disease
- Fillings: removal and replacement of cavities, replacement of missing tooth structure
- Root canals: removal of nerve within the tooth with a filling put inside tooth
- Extractions: pulling teeth
- Biopsies: testing of suspicious tissue
- Invisalign: removable trays to align teeth
- Whitening trays: trays that fit over teeth to put whitening gel in
- Crowns: full coverage restoration of teeth, aka “caps”
- Implant crowns: caps over screws that are placed in the jaw  
\*We are not placing implants\*
- Brides/fixed partial dentures: full coverage restorations that stay in your mouth with pontics or “hanging teeth” to fill in a space or two
- Removable partial dentures: prosthesis that is removed nightly to replace teeth
- Complete dentures: full set of fake teeth that you remove nightly
- Other miscellaneous surgeries



Crown



Bridge/fixed partial denture

As an IHS clinic we offer our direct services at no charge to tribal members from any reservation regardless of insurance status.

Direct services include things that we do directly at our clinic: exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, and pulling teeth.

Services that have a fee include things we need to send off to a lab such as: crowns, bridges, partials, dentures, Invisalign



Removable partial denture



Complete dentures



Example of dental emergency with lower right side of the face swelling from infected tooth.

**Please bring a current medication list!**

**Bad River Dental emergency walk in clinic is closed until further notice due to the power surge.**

Dental fun fact:

Enamel is the hardest substance in the body!

Ojibwe dental word of the month:  
S/he has tongue inflammation =  
baagidenaniwe

Please email [v.gokee@badriverhwc.com](mailto:v.gokee@badriverhwc.com) with any questions or topics you would like addressed in next month's issue! All submissions will remain anonymous.

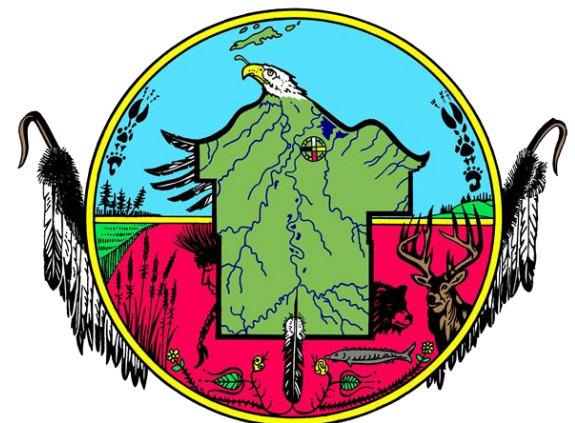
## Dental emergency vs a dental urgency

Emergency patient: someone in need of immediate care and attention. Emergent needs include: significant pain, noticeable swelling on the face, difficulty opening their mouth and/or someone who has sustained trauma to the face within the past 24 hours.

If you have trouble breathing, swallowing your own spit, or swelling below the jawbone please go to the ER.

Urgency patient: someone in need of swift dental intervention. Urgent needs include: front tooth chip, broken dentures, lost crown/temporary on teeth without root canals, or need for medical clearance for surgery. These appointments can be scheduled and do not need to walk-in. Feel free to walk in, but emergent needs will be seen first.

Miigwech for reading, please be on the lookout for our next monthly issue!



Works Cited

The American Institute of Dental Public Health and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health. Veteran Oral Health: Expanding Access and Equity. Boston, MA: December 2021. DOI: 10.35565/CQI.2021.2041 Copyright ©2021 The American Institute of Dental Public Health and CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, Inc

American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans: 2017 - Veterans Affairs, [www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/AIAN.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/AIAN.pdf). Accessed 9 Nov. 2023.