

WISCONSIN HEALTHY SMILES SURVEY 2014 | WISCONSIN'S HEAD START CHILDREN



Challenges remain for improving the oral health of Wisconsin's Head Start children. Untreated decay rates have held steady for the last 11 years, while caries experience has climbed—reversing improvements seen between our first and second Healthy Smiles Head Start surveys. We know tooth decay in children is preventable. Working together, dental and medical providers can implement community-based disease prevention and health promotion approaches that will improve the oral health of all Wisconsin children.

TOOTH DECAY

#1

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood.

IMPACT OF TOOTH DECAY

Tooth decay can impact a child's life in the following ways:



learning



self-esteem



speaking



sleeping



eating



Tooth decay is preventable.

DECAY BY THE NUMBERS

1 in 5



One in five Head Start children, ages 3 to 5, have early childhood tooth decay.

1 in 4

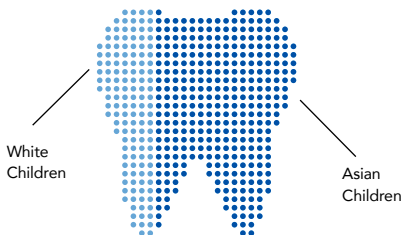


One in four Head Start children have untreated tooth decay and need treatment.

1 in 2



By age five, one in two Head Start children have had tooth decay.



DEMOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES

Asian children in Head Start are nearly three times as likely as White children to have early childhood tooth decay.

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OTHER FACTORS



IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Over the past 11 years Wisconsin has failed to improve the oral health of Head Start children.



STARTING DENTAL CARE EARLY

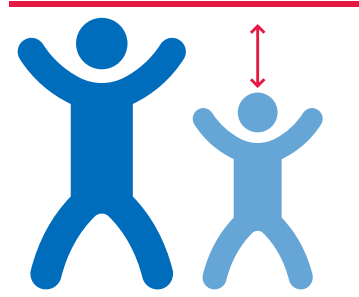
Research suggests that establishing ongoing access to dental care beginning before the first birthday is critical and can result in cost savings for dental care.

Savage MF, Lee JY, Kotch JB, Vann WF, Jr. Early preventive dental visits: effects on subsequent utilization and costs. Pediatrics 2004;114(4):e418-23



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Elementary school children from families with low incomes are three times more likely to miss school because of oral health problems.



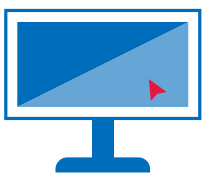
EARLY TOOTH LOSS

Early tooth loss caused by tooth decay can result in delays in growth and development.



INCOME DISPARITIES

Children enrolled in Head Start, like other children from low income families, experience more tooth decay than children from families with higher incomes.



For more information about the Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey visit:

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01702.pdf



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES