

DIVISION OF ORAL HEALTH

Oral diseases cause pain and disability for millions of Americans.

Oral health affects our ability to speak, smile, eat, and show emotions. It affects self-esteem, school performance, attendance at work and school. Oral diseases—which range from cavities to gum disease to oral cancers—cause pain and disability for millions of Americans. One in five US children aged 6 to 11 and one in four adults have untreated cavities. More than 40% of adults have felt pain in their mouth in the last year. On average, 34 million school hours are lost each year because of unplanned dental care, and over \$45 billion is lost in productivity due to untreated dental disease. About 100 million Americans do not have access to fluoridated tap water, and 6 in 10 children do not get dental sealants.



1 IN 5
CHILDREN

aged 6 to 11 have at least one untreated cavity



1 IN 4
ADULTS

have untreated cavities



46%
OF ADULTS

over 30 with signs of gum disease



\$45
BILLION

of lost productivity due to untreated dental disease

CDC's Response

CDC's Division of Oral Health (DOH) promotes proven interventions—such as community water fluoridation and dental sealants—to reduce the rate of cavities, especially for populations at highest risk. DOH supports state and territorial oral health programs, collects surveillance data on oral disease, and develops and promotes adherence to infection prevention and control guidelines for dental health care personnel. The division supports integration of medical and dental care to address other chronic diseases associated with poor oral health. DOH also strengthens the dental public health workforce with a residency training program.



From 1999-2004 to 2011-2016, the percentage of low-income children with dental sealants increased 75%.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

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