

# Oral Health in Arkansas



Office of Oral Health

*smiles*

“Keeping Your Hometown <sup>^</sup> Healthy”

Prepared by:

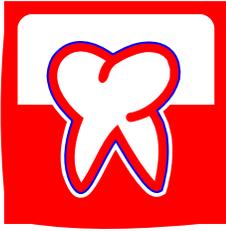
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# Executive Summary

Oral health is an essential part of optimal health for all Arkansans – and is much more than healthy teeth. *Oral* refers to the whole mouth – the teeth, gums, hard and soft palate, linings of the mouth and throat, tongue, lips, salivary glands, chewing muscles, and upper and lower jaws.<sup>1</sup> Oral health means being free of cavities and gum disease, but it also means being free of chronic oral pain conditions, oral cancers, birth defects such as cleft lip and palate, and other conditions that affect the mouth and throat.

Oral health is an issue for persons of all ages, races, & geographic locations:

- ✘ 23% of adult Arkansans have lost 6 more teeth due to decay or gum disease
- ✘ Approximately 10% of children and adolescents screened during 2004-2006 were referred for urgent dental care
- ✘ 57% of oral/pharyngeal cancers identified during 1999-2003 had spread to nearby tissues or to more distant sites before diagnosis
- ✘ 15% of children screened during 2004-2006 had sealants, compared to 21% of adolescents
- ✘ Approximately 60% of adults screened in 2004 reported receiving routine dental care, as did older adults screened in 2005
- ✘ 26% of adults currently use smokeless tobacco, compared to 14% of adolescents.
- ✘ 21% of white mothers smoke during their 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, compared to 9% of non-white mothers
- ✘ More than 60% of dentists practicing in Arkansas are located in just 8 of 75 counties
- ✘ Only 62% of the state's population is served by community water systems receiving fluoridated water

This report summarizes what is known about oral health among Arkansans, presenting the most current information available. It also addresses racial disparities, and discusses preventive strategies, access to care, and relevant public health policies. Comparisons are made to national data whenever possible, and to Healthy People 2010 goals when appropriate. It is hoped that the information will serve to raise awareness of the need for continued vigilance and intervention in the area of oral health and serve to guide prevention and treatment efforts across the state.



# Overview

HP 2010 Indicator	US Target	AR Status	Position*
<b>Dental caries experience</b>			
Young children	11%	33%	
Children	42%	57%	
Adolescents	51%	70%	
<b>Untreated dental decay</b>			
Young children	9%	27%	
Children	21%	27%	
Adolescents	15%	34%	
Adults	15%	ND	
<b>Adults with no tooth loss</b>	42%	46%	
<b>Edentulous older adults</b>	20%	25%	
<b>Periodontal disease (adults ages 35-44 years)</b>			
Gingivitis	41%	ND	
Periodontal	14%	ND	
<b>Oral/pharyngeal cancer detected at earliest stages</b>	50%	37%	
<b>Cancer screening within the past 12 months</b>	20%	ND	
<b>Sealants</b>			
Children	50%	15%	
Adolescents	50%	17%	
<b>Population served by fluoridated water systems</b>	75%	62%	
<b>Dental visit within past 12 months</b>			
Children and adults	56%	61%	
Adults in long-term care	25%	ND	
<b>Low-income children and adolescents receiving preventive dental care during past 12 months</b>	57%	ND	
<b>School-based health centers with dental component</b>	--	1	
<b>Community health centers and local health departments with dental components</b>	75%	41%	
<b>System for recording incidences of cleft lip and cleft palate</b>	--	Yes	
<b>Oral health surveillance system</b>	--	Yes	

\* Red = 25% or more above/below indicator in direction of risk  
 Blue = 0 to 24% above/below indicator in direction of risk  
 White = above/below indicator in preferred direction  
 Gray = data not available



# Current Status

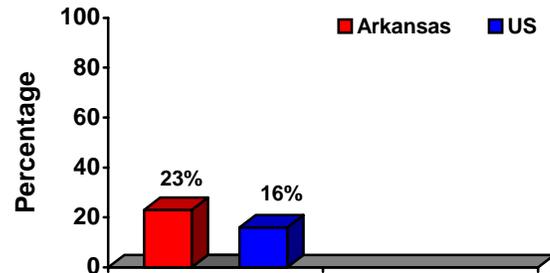
## Adults

58% report their teeth are in good to excellent condition.<sup>2</sup>

## **BUT**

23% have lost 6 or more teeth due to decay or gum disease.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 1. Lost 6 or more teeth, adults, Arkansas and US, BRFSS 2004



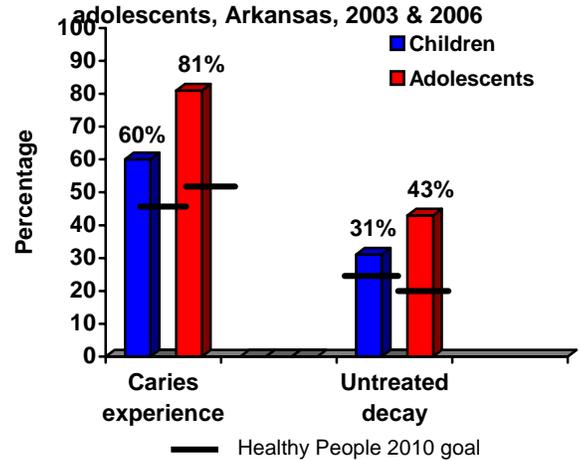
## Children/Adolescents

The most comprehensive data on children were collected in 2003, when the Arkansas Department of Health's Office of Oral Health screened more than 7100 children enrolled in third grade in public schools throughout the state.<sup>4</sup>

Results indicated that:

- ✘ 61% had evidence of current or past cavities (caries experience)
- ✘ 31% had untreated caries (cavities)
- ✘ 21% were in need of routine care
- ✘ 6% needed urgent dental care

Figure 2. Caries experience and untreated decay, children and adolescents, Arkansas, 2003 & 2006



Various screenings that occurred during 2004-2006 showed similar results.<sup>5</sup> Approximately 4300 children were screened during this period, with 57% displaying evidence of current or previous caries and 27% identified as having untreated caries.<sup>5</sup> Likewise, 22% were in need of routine care while an additional 9% were referred for urgent dental care.<sup>5</sup>

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In 2006, the Office of Oral Health screened 124 high school students, the majority of which (91%) were minority.<sup>6</sup> In that group of students:

- ✘ 81% had caries experience (current or past)
- ✘ 31% were referred for routine dental care
- ✘ 12% were referred for immediate attention

Data analyzed for screening years 2004-2006 displayed similar results, with 491 adolescents screened.<sup>5</sup> Thirty-four percent of adolescents screened during 2004-2006 had untreated caries, while 70% had evidence of previous or current caries.<sup>5</sup> Twenty-four percent of the screened adolescents were referred for routine dental care and an additional 10% were referred for urgent care.<sup>5</sup>

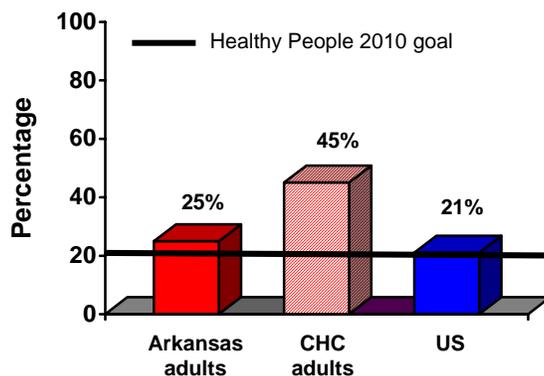
### Older Adults

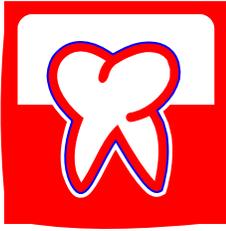
A fourth (25%) of adults 65 years of age or older reported they had lost all of their natural permanent teeth.<sup>3</sup>

A survey of 700 residents in long-term care facilities was completed in 2002.<sup>7</sup> Among these adults (ages 30 to 102 years):

- ✘ More than half (54%) had lost all their natural permanent teeth.
  - Only 25% of those individuals had dentures.
- ✘ Virtually all (99.9%) had a history of dental caries or periodontal disease.
- ✘ On average, each resident had 23 teeth that were decayed, missing or filled.
- ✘ 35% had untreated dental caries or moderate to severe periodontal disease, or both.
- ✘ 24% were referred for routine care.
- ✘ An additional 10% were referred for immediate attention

Figure 3. Complete tooth loss among adults, US and Arkansas, 2002 & 2004





# Oral Cancers

Oral cancer is a serious disease. Only approximately 50 percent of the newly diagnosed cases survive for 5 years after diagnosis. Mortality is nearly twice as high in African-American males as it is in whites. Methods used to treat the cancers (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy) are disfiguring and expensive. Avoiding high-risk behaviors – including smoking, using smokeless (spit) tobacco, and excessive alcohol use – are critical to preventing oral cancer. Early detection is the key to successful treatment and reducing the burden associated with oral cancer.

During the years 1999 through 2003, the Arkansas Cancer Registry recorded:

- ✘ 1,572 new cases of oral or pharyngeal cancer, or
- ✘ 11.7 new cases per 100,000 persons.
  
- ✘ 37% were identified at the earliest stages (*in situ* or localized), while
- ✘ the majority (57%) had spread to close tissue or to more distant sites before diagnosis.

Figure 4. Cases of oral/pharyngeal cancer identified at earliest stages, Arkansas, 1999-2003

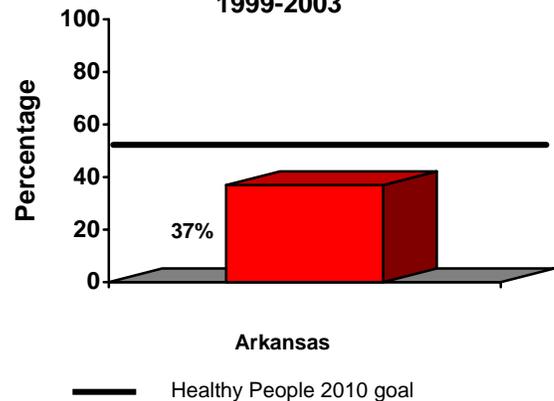
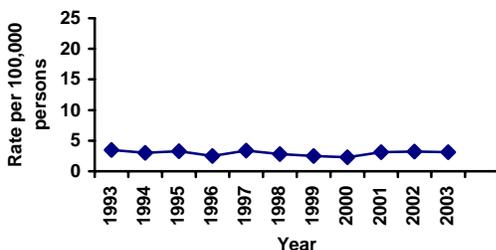


Figure 5. Mortality rates, Arkansas, Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer, 1993-2003



## Oral cancer mortality rates

Over the last decade mortality rates for oral and pharyngeal cancers have remained essentially stable at approximately 3 deaths per 100,000 persons (after accounting for age differences across years).



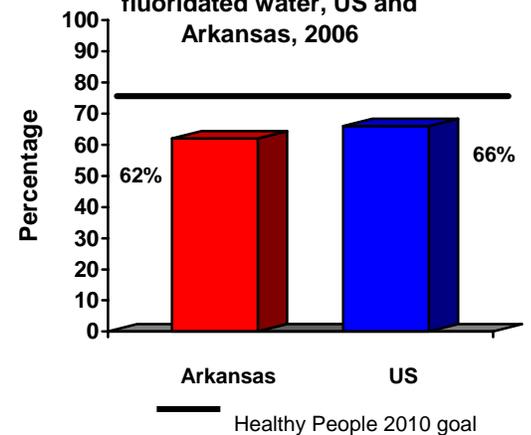
# Preventive Care

## Population Strategies

### Fluoridation

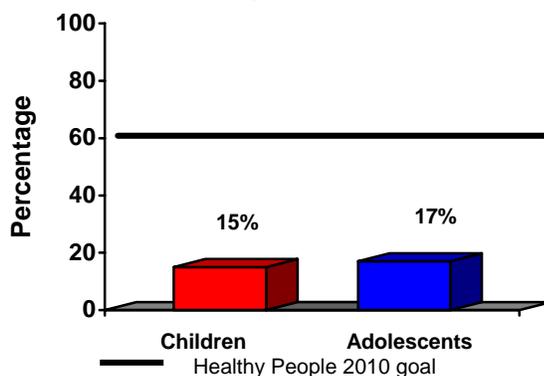
The CDC's Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS) indicates that 62% of Arkansans on community water systems enjoy the benefits of water fluoridation. More information about fluoridation across the state can be found in the discussion of policy on the pages that follow.

Figure 6. Percentage of population receiving water from public water systems who receive fluoridated water, US and Arkansas, 2006



### Sealants

Figure 7. Arkansas children and adolescents with sealants, Arkansas, 2003 & 2006



A dental sealant is a plastic material that is placed by dental professionals on the chewing surfaces of back teeth to prevent cavities. The sealant provides a physical barrier that prevents cavity-causing bacteria from attacking the surface of the tooth. It is recommended that sealants be placed on permanent molars when they erupt into the mouth at about age 6 and on the second permanent molars when they appear at about age 12. Unfortunately, this highly effective tool is not widely used at this time.

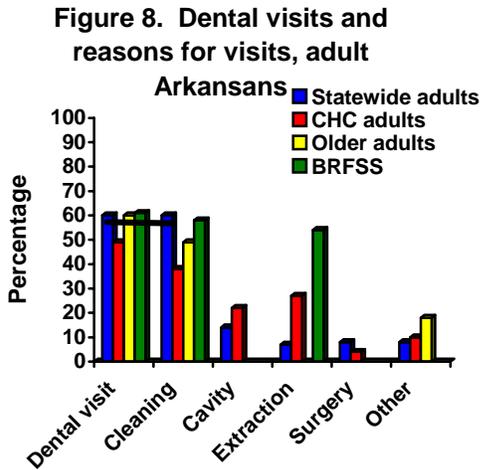
Screening activities in Arkansas over the past few years indicated that:

- ✘ 15% of the third-grade students screened in 2003 had sealants<sup>4</sup>, as did children screened during 2004-2006.<sup>5</sup>
- ✘ 17% of the adolescents screened in 2006 had sealants<sup>6</sup>, while 21% of adolescents screened during 2004-2006 had sealants.<sup>5</sup>

## Individual behaviors

There are many opportunities at all ages to prevent tooth decay. Caries experience indicates that opportunities for prevention may have been missed. Effective preventive measures include proper nutrition, good oral hygiene (e.g., brushing with fluoride toothpastes and flossing) and regular dental visits.

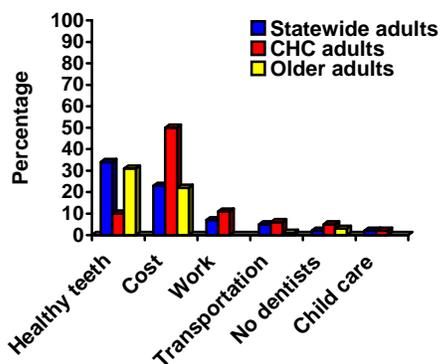
### Routine dental care



Regular contact with a dentist and/or dental hygienist helps to reduce the risk of disease (by removing plaque and other material that can contribute to decay and infection) and increase the chances that emerging infections or cancerous lesions will be detected early, when treatment is most likely to be effective. These visits should be started early in life and maintained throughout adulthood.

Two surveys of Arkansas adults completed in 2002,<sup>2,8</sup> as well as a survey of adults completed in 2004<sup>3</sup> and one of older Arkansans completed in 2005<sup>9</sup> all indicated differences in the percentages of adults receiving care from a dentist within the past year (see Figure 8). Fewer low-income individuals (49%) reported receiving dental care in the period than did other adults (60%).<sup>8</sup> Further, low-income adults were more likely to seek care for more acute procedures – i.e., extracting of teeth (27%, compared to 7%) or filling of cavities (22%, compared to 14%).<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 9. Reasons for not visiting a dentist, adult**  
Arkansans,  
2002 & 2005



Reasons given for not seeking care also differed between the three groups (see Figure 9). Not unexpectedly, low-income individuals more often cited cost as a reason for not having been to the dentist in the last year.<sup>8</sup> Lack of available dentists and inability to take time from work were also more often mentioned by lower-income adults.<sup>8</sup>

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## Oral hygiene

Another important strategy for maintaining oral health is oral hygiene, including daily brushing and flossing. Brushing and flossing remove bacteria that cause infections and cavities. Brushing and flossing should be started as soon as teeth erupt and supervised by a parent until children are old enough to do it well on their own – usually around the age of 6 or 7. Unfortunately, many adults do not routinely engage in these very important and simple behaviors.

In the 2002 survey of Arkansas adults:<sup>2</sup>

- Only two-thirds (64%) reported that they brush daily, and
- Less than one in 10 (8%) reported that they floss daily;

While the 2005 survey of older adults found:<sup>9</sup>

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) reported brushing twice daily.



# Tobacco Use

Tobacco use is among the most common risk factors for oral diseases and conditions. The use of smokeless tobacco products as well as cigarette smoking is associated with many types of oral and pharyngeal cancers, and makes it more difficult to treat other conditions such as gingivitis, canker sores, and periodontal disease.

In 2005:

- ✘ 24% of Arkansas adults are current cigarette smokers.<sup>3</sup>
- ✘ 26% of Arkansas teens currently smoke.<sup>10</sup>

Further, according to the 2003 PRAMS:<sup>11</sup>

- ✘ 31% of recent mothers smoked before they became pregnant;
- ✘ 18% smoked during the last trimester; and
- ✘ 26% resumed smoking after pregnancy

In addition:

- ✘ 26% of Arkansas adults reported in 2004 that they use smokeless (spit) tobacco products<sup>3</sup>, while
- ✘ 14% of Arkansas teens reported current use of these products in 2005.<sup>10</sup>



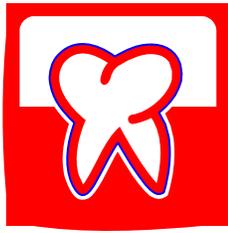
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Other indicators of access to care include:

Community-based low-income dental clinics. . . . .	53
School-based dental clinics. . . . .	1
Health units with a dental program . . . . .	0

### **Training**

Arkansas does not have a dental school within the state. Arkansas does have two dental hygiene training programs and one accredited dental assistant program within the state.



# Disparities

Racial and ethnic disparities do exist as shown by data on current oral health status, preventive care, specific risk factors, and access to care. The table below provides current statistics for various oral health indicators by race, with only two racial categories included for data consistency.

**Table 1. Oral Health Indicators by Race**

	White	Non-white
<b>Current Status</b>		
<b>Untreated Caries</b>		
Children	30%	26%
Adolescents	20%	40%
<b>Caries Experience</b>		
Children	59%	57%
Adolescents	70%	73%
<b>Routine Care</b>		
Children	24%	21%
Adolescents	13%	31%
<b>Urgent Care</b>		
Children	6%	10%
Adolescents	6%	10%
<b>Extraction (6/more teeth)</b>		
Adults	23%	23%
<b>Oral Cancers (1999-2003)</b>		
Incidence oral/pharyngeal cancers	12.7/100,000	6.9/100,000
Mortality oral/pharyngeal cancers	2.6/100,000	4.4/100,000
<b>Preventive Care</b>		
<b>Population Strategies</b>		
Sealants		
Children	28%	12%
Adolescents	26%	21%
<b>Individual Behaviors</b>		
Routine dental care	61%	52%
Oral hygiene (brush twice daily)	65%	47%
<b>Tobacco Use</b>		
<b>Current Smokers</b>		
Adolescents	30%	12%
Adults	25%	27%
<b>Smokeless Tobacco</b>		
Adolescents	16%	6%
Adults	26%	30%
<b>Smoking 3 months before pregnancy</b>	34%	19%
<b>Smoking during 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester</b>	21%	9%
<b>Smoking after pregnancy</b>	29%	16%
<b>Access to Care</b>		
Licensed Dentists	97%	3%
Licensed Dental Hygienists	98%	2%



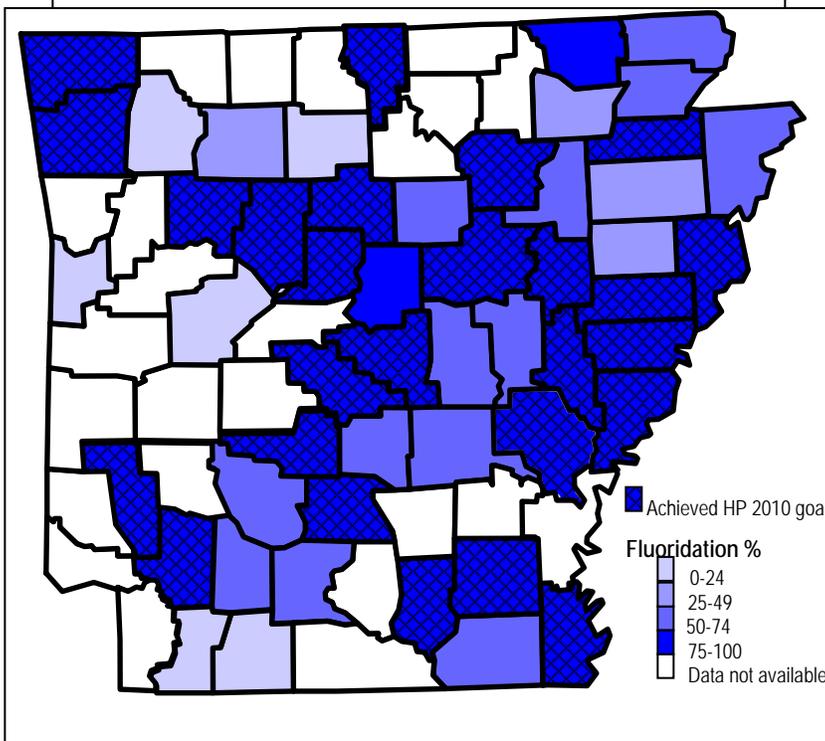
# Policy

A number of policy interventions can be used to promote oral health among the population. Arkansas' approach to a few of the most common are summarized below.

## Fluoridation ordinances

Decisions concerning fluoridation of public water supplies are made at the local level. Currently, 52 of Arkansas' 75 counties include fluoridated water

Figure 12. Proportion of county population served by public water systems receiving fluoridated water, Arkansas, 2006



supplies, resulting in a total of 62 percent of the state's population served by community water systems receiving fluoridated water (see Figure 12). However, 88% of the state's population is served by public water systems (the remainder being served by springs or wells). Thus, even if all public water systems were to be fluoridated, a proportion of the state's citizens would remain unprotected. Further, there are 23 counties with no fluoridated community water systems.

(NOTE: This map does not reflect recent fluoridation ordinances in Perry and Izard Counties.)

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## **Excise taxes**

Excise taxes have been shown to affect smoking rates, particularly among younger smokers. The Arkansas State Legislature in the 2003 special session increased the tobacco excise taxes to their current rates:

Cigarettes: \$ 0.59 per pack

Other tobacco products: 32% of wholesale price

## **Adult Medicaid dental benefits**

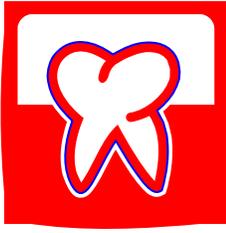
Arkansas Medicaid currently pays for adult dental services only in the case of a life-threatening condition.

## **Dental hygiene practice regulations**

In May 2004, the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners approved general supervision regulations, allowing dental hygienists to practice with more autonomy under specific circumstances. This action should help to increase access to care in some of the more underserved areas.

## **Clean Indoor Air Act**

In July 2006, the Clean Indoor Air Act was enacted by the Arkansas legislature to create a smoke-free environment for Arkansans in the workplace and other public places. Smoking has been shown to be associated with periodontal disease in adults, as well as oral cancer.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 90% of oral cancer deaths can be attributed to smoking.<sup>1</sup>



# Appendix: Data Sources

- 1. US Department of Health and Human Services.** *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General – Executive Summary.* Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health, 2000.
- 2. 2002 Adult Arkansan Oral Health Survey:** To assess the oral health of adult Arkansans, a telephone survey was administered to a random sample of Arkansas households. A total of 411 adults completed the survey, which was administered using Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology. A full report of procedures and findings can be obtained from the Office of Oral Health, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).
- 3. 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS):** During 2004 Arkansas participated with 53 other states and territories in the BRFSS, a telephone survey of approximately 4100 randomly-selected households within the state. National data collection instruments were used, including questions about oral health and dental hygiene behaviors. Interviews were administered using CATI technology and procedures. A complete full of procedures and findings (both state and national) is available on the website maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- 4. 2003 Screening:** In 2003 a total of 7138 children enrolled in third grade in 19 public schools in Arkansas were screened for caries experience and sealant utilization. Examinations were completed in classroom settings by dentists under contract to the ADH Office of Oral Health. A full report of procedures and findings can be obtained from the ADH Office of Oral Health.
- 5. 2004-2006 Child and Adolescent screening data:** Screening data gathered during years 2004-2006 were compiled and analyzed. These data are best described as convenience samples, obtained during various screening efforts that occurred across the state. Child screening data included data from the Dental Health Action Team's annual screening in Pulaski County, Healthy Connections annual screening in Mena, a screening at an annual Special Olympics event, as well as a one-time screening in Craighead County and a one-time screening in Conway Public Schools (Faulkner County). The adolescent data was obtained from an annual screenings at YOU summer camps, Healthy Connections in Mena, and Special Olympics. The child screening dataset included data from 4,376 children, while the adolescent dataset included data from 491 adolescents.
- 6. 2006 Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Dental Health Screenings:** During the summer of 2006, a total of 124 adolescents participating in the YOU program were screened to assess caries experience and the presence of sealants. The YOU program is a campus-based enrichment program designed to reduce drop-out rates among youth at high-risk of dropping out before they complete high school. Participating students attend specially-designed classes on a college campus. In 2006, full-mouth oral health screenings were completed on three campus locations in Arkansas by the director of the ADH Office of Oral Health (a licensed dentist) and the program manager (a licensed dental hygienist). A full report of procedures and findings can be obtained from the ADH Office of Oral Health.
- 7. 2002 Long-term Care Oral Health Needs Assessment:** To assess the oral health needs of adults living in long-term care facilities in Arkansas, the Office of Oral Health in 2002 completed an assessment of this population in 2002. A total of 695 residents in 18 randomly selected nursing homes were screened by dentists from or working under contract to the Office of Oral Health, assisted by a licensed dental hygienist. A full report of procedures and findings can be obtained from the ADH Office of Oral Health.

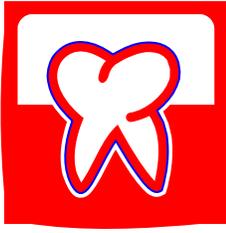
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**8. 2002 Community Health Center Survey of Oral Health:** This survey was designed to gather information from adult clients of community health centers across the state of Arkansas. Professional dental care workers gathered information from 2,399 clients during the summer of 2002. A full report of procedures and findings can be obtained from the ADH Office of Oral Health.

**9. 2005 Oral Health Survey of Older Arkansans: The Oral Health Survey of Older Adults was designed to** assess the oral health status of community-dwelling Arkansans age 55 years and above. Area Agencies on Aging and Centers on Aging (including Pulaski County) participated in data collection efforts during April 2005. These organizations were provided a monetary incentive for returning a specified number of completed surveys. A total of 4,933 Arkansans participated in the survey. The Arkansas Division of Health analyzed the survey data to inform decision-makers and to develop recommendations to improve the oral health status of older adults.

**10. 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:** The Youth Risk Factor Survey is a school-based survey conducted every other year to assess the prevalence of health risk behaviors among high school students. The survey used a cluster sample design to produce a representative sample of students in grades 9 through 12 at the state level. Participation in the national survey effort is voluntary.

**11. 2003 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS):** PRAMS collects population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences prior to, during, and immediately following pregnancy. The PRAMS sample of women who have had a recent live birth is drawn from the state's birth certificate file. Approximately 2,700 women were sampled, with 1,972 women responding for a weighted response rate of 74.3%. Selected women are first contacted by mail. If there is no response to repeated mailings, women are contacted and interviewed by telephone. PRAMS data allow CDC and decision-makers in Arkansas to monitor changes in maternal and child health indicators [e.g., unintended pregnancy, prenatal care (including dental care), breastfeeding, smoking, alcohol use, infant health].



# Appendix: Definitions

**Caries experience:** The sum of filled and unfilled cavities, along with any missing teeth resulting from decay.

**Cleft lip or palate:** A congenital opening or fissure occurring in the lip or palate.

**Complete tooth loss:** Complete tooth loss (edentulism) is the loss of all natural teeth.

**Congenital anomaly:** An unusual condition existing at, and usually before, birth.

**Craniofacial:** Pertaining to the head and face.

**Dental caries (dental decay or cavities):** An infectious disease that results in de-mineralization and ultimately cavitation of the tooth surface if not controlled or remineralized. Dental cavities may be either treated (filled) or untreated (unfilled).

**Early childhood caries (ECC):** Dental decay of the primary teeth of infants and young children (aged 1 to 5 years) often characterized by rapid destruction.

**Edentulism/edentulous:** A condition characterized by not having any natural teeth.

**Fluoride:** A compound of the element fluorine. Fluorine, the 13th most abundant element in nature, is used in a variety of ways to reduce dental decay.

**Fluoridation:** The intentional upward adjustment of the natural level of fluoride in the drinking water to that level known to prevent tooth decay. Most water contains some amount of natural fluoride. The recommended amount of fluoride in water systems is 0.7 – 1.2 ppm (parts per million), which is equivalent to 0.7 – 1.2 mg/L (milligrams per liter).

**Fluoridation status:** Status of a community water system in regards to water fluoridation level.

**Gingivitis:** An inflammatory condition of the gum tissue, which can appear reddened and swollen and frequently bleeds easily.

**Naturally fluoridated water:** Water systems are considered to be naturally fluoridated if they contain naturally occurring fluoride at 0.7 ppm or more.

**Oral cavity:** Mouth.

**Periodontal disease:** A cluster of diseases caused by bacterial infections and resulting in inflammatory responses and chronic destruction of the soft tissues and bone that support the teeth. Periodontal disease is a broad term encompassing several diseases of the gums and tissues supporting the teeth.

**Pharynx:** Throat.

**Private water supply:** Individual water systems, generally wells or springs, serving one or several residences.

**Public Water Supply System (PWS):** A public water system provides water for human consumption to the public through piped or other constructed conveyances. A PWS has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily for at least 60 days out of the year. Ground water sources, surface water sources, or a combination of the two sources may provide water to a PWS. In some cases, one PWS may purchase all or part of its water from another PWS.

**Root caries:** Dental decay that occurs on the root portion of a tooth. (In younger persons, root surfaces are usually covered by gum [gingival] tissue.)

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**Sealants:** Plastic coatings applied to the surfaces of teeth with developmental pits and grooves (primarily chewing surfaces) to protect the tooth surfaces from collecting food, debris, and bacteria that promote the development of dental decay.

**Soft tissue lesion:** An abnormality of the soft tissues of the oral cavity or pharynx.



# Healthy People 2010

**Goal:** Prevent and control oral and craniofacial diseases, conditions, and injuries and improve access to related services.

**21-1. Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who have dental caries experience in their primary or permanent teeth.**

**21-1a.** Reduce the proportion of young children with dental caries experience in their primary teeth.  
**Target:** 11 percent.

**21-1b.** Reduce the proportion of children with dental caries experience in their primary and permanent teeth.  
**Target:** 42 percent.

**21-1c.** Reduce the proportion of adolescents with dental caries experience in their permanent teeth.  
**Target:** 51 percent.

**21-2. Reduce the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults with untreated dental decay.**

**21-2a.** Reduce the proportion of young children with untreated dental decay in their primary teeth.  
**Target:** 9 percent.

**21-2b.** Reduce the proportion of children with untreated dental decay in primary and permanent teeth.  
**Target:** 21 percent.

**21-2c.** Reduce the proportion of adolescents with untreated dental decay in their permanent teeth.  
**Target:** 15 percent.

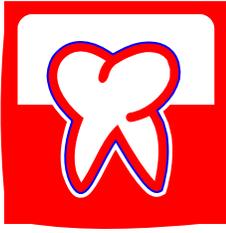
**21-2d.** Reduce the proportion of adults with untreated dental decay.  
**Target:** 15 percent.

**21-3. Increase the proportion of adults who have never had a permanent tooth extracted because of dental caries or periodontal disease.**  
**Target:** 42 percent.

**21-4. Reduce the proportion of older adults who have had all their natural teeth extracted.**      **Target:** 20 percent.

**21-5. Reduce periodontal disease (adults aged 35 to 44 years).**  
**Target:**                      Gingivitis = 41%  
   Destructive periodontal disease = 14%

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- 21-6. Increase the proportion of oral and pharyngeal cancers detected at the earliest stage. Target: 50 percent.**
- 21-7. Increase the proportion of adults who, in the past 12 months, report having had an examination to detect oral and pharyngeal cancers. Target: 20 percent.**
- 21-8. Increase the proportion of children who have received dental sealants on their molar teeth.**  
**Target:** Children aged 8 years = 50%  
Adolescents aged 14 years = 50%
- 21-9. Increase the proportion of the U.S. population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water. Target: 75 percent.**
- 21-10. Increase the proportion of children and adults who use the oral health care system each year. Target: 56 percent.**
- 21-11. Increase the proportion of long-term care residents who use the oral health care system each year. Target: 25 percent.**
- 21-12. Increase the proportion of low-income children and adolescents who received any preventive dental service during the past year. Target: 57 percent.**
- 21-13. (Developmental) Increase the proportion of school-based health centers with an oral health component.**
- 21-14. Increase the proportion of local health departments and community-based health centers, including community, migrant, and homeless health centers, that have an oral health component. Target: 75 percent.**
- 21-15. Increase the number of States and the District of Columbia that have a system for recording and referring infants and children with cleft lips, cleft palates, and other craniofacial anomalies to craniofacial anomaly rehabilitative teams. Target: All States and the District of Columbia.**
- 21-16. Increase the number of States and the District of Columbia that have an oral and craniofacial health surveillance system. Target: All States and the District of Columbia.**
- 21-17. (Developmental) Increase the number of Tribal, State (including the District of Columbia), and local health agencies that serve jurisdictions of 250,000 or more persons that have in place an effective public dental health program directed by a dental professional with public health training.**
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# Oral Health Coalition

The Arkansas Oral Health Coalition began in 2001 as Arkansas' team at the National Governor's Association (NGA) Policy Academy on Improving Oral Health Access for Children. The academy team consisted of seven individuals representing: the office of the Governor, the Arkansas General Assembly, the Office of Oral Health, the Division of Medical Services, the Arkansas State Dental Association, the Arkansas State Dental Hygienists' Association, and BHM International, Inc. The team worked with a faculty of national experts to develop Arkansas oral health goals in access, education, prevention, and policy. To continue the academy efforts, the team invited other interested parties and expanded over the subsequent 3 years to what is now the Arkansas Oral Health Coalition, Inc. The Coalition has adopted and trademarked the slogan "**SMILES: AR, U.S.**"

The Coalition enjoys participation from a diverse set of organizations and agencies from across the state. Members of the Arkansas Oral Health Coalition currently include:

Arkansas Academy of General Dentistry	Arkansas State Dental Association
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families	Arkansas State Dental Hygienists' Association
Arkansas Center for Health Improvement	Conway Interfaith Clinic
Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, and Domestic Violence	Community Dental Clinic (Fort Smith)
Arkansas Dental Assistants Association	Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.
Arkansas Department of Education Office of Comprehensive Health Education	Delta Dental Plan of Arkansas
Arkansas Department of Health & Humans Services Division of Health ConnectCare program Office of Oral Health Office of Rural Health and Primary Care	Interfaith Clinic of El Dorado
Division of Human Services Office of Developmental Disabilities Office of Medical Services	Partners for Inclusive Communities
Arkansas Department of Higher Education	Pulaski Technical College Dental Assisting Department
Arkansas Head Start Association	University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
Arkansas Health Care Access Foundation	UAFS Dental Hygiene Program
Arkansas Minority Health Commission	UALR Children International
Arkansas School Nurses Association	UAMS Arkansas Cancer Research Center College of Health Related Professions Department of Dental Hygiene College of Public Health Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging
Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners	

