

# “Dental Disease Is Preventable – Why are we not preventing it?”

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# Disclosure

- Organization: National Center on Health, Mental Health, and Safety
- Role: Dental Hygienist Liaison, Head Start, Louisiana as part of the DHL Project in which dental hygienists volunteer as liaisons between Head Start Programs, staff and families providing approved educational materials and resources to be used in HS for unified messaging across the nation
- Financial Disclosure: A stipend is provided to offset costs of ADHA membership and/or expenses related to the DHL role
  
- [Dental Hygienist Liaison project.](#)

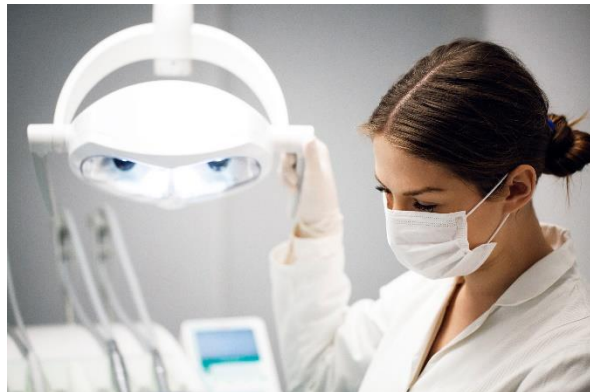
# Objectives

- To discuss the dental disease factors and prevalence of dental disease
- To review proven, evidence-based preventive measures
- To explore why dental disease remains prevalent and strategies to decrease dental disease
- To review best practice and evidence-based strategies

**CDC states:** “ Oral diseases — which range from cavities and gum disease to oral cancer — are largely preventable with a combination of professional and self-care.” (Division of Oral Health)

## Factors Contributing to Dental Disease

- Increased risk due to poor oral hygiene, plaque and biofilm removal
- Diet, smoking and alcohol use
- Access to professional, affordable dental care
- Social Determinants of Health



## Preventive Steps

- “Brushing twice daily.
- Flossing daily.
- Limiting foods and beverages that are high in added sugar.
- Having at least a yearly dental check-up and professional cleanings.
- Having additional dental visits if recommended by your health care provider.”



About This Visualization:

The column charts on this dashboard represent the rates of dental care utilization in all states in 2021 for both Medicaid-insured (purple) and privately-insured (teal) children. Children are defined as any person between age of 1 and 20 in the data.

For more detailed and trended state-level data, select either Medicaid Insured or Private Insured, then select your state on the map.

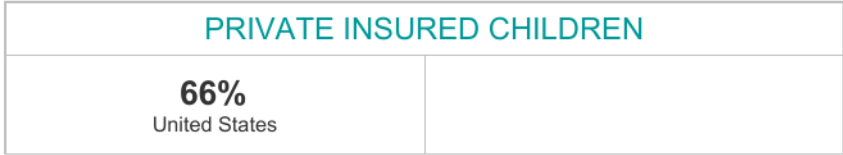
Interact with the Visualization:

1 SELECT THE INSURANCE TYPE

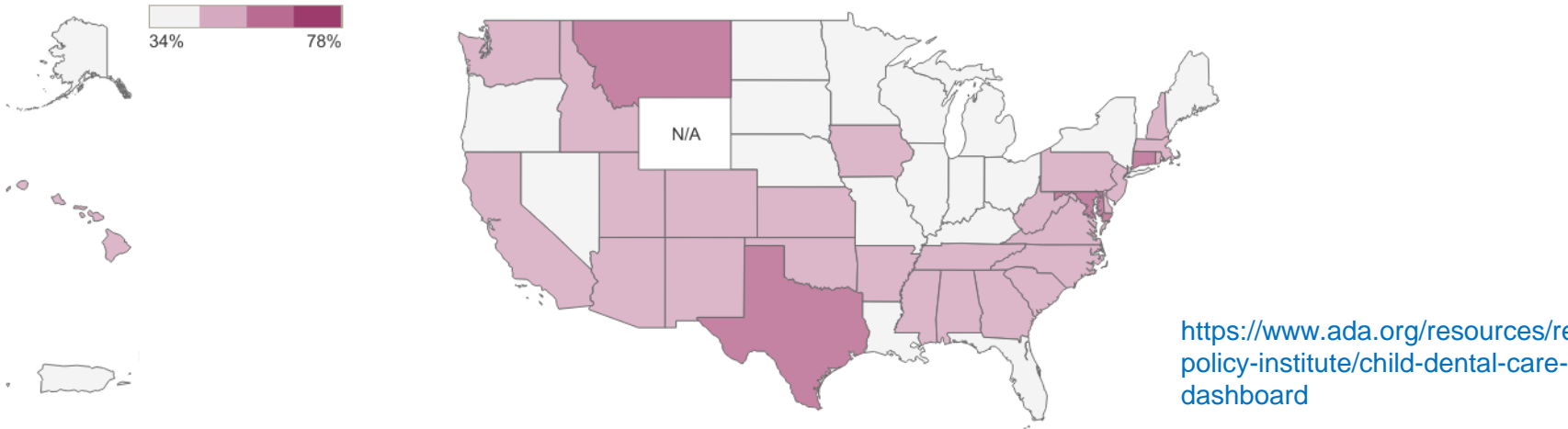
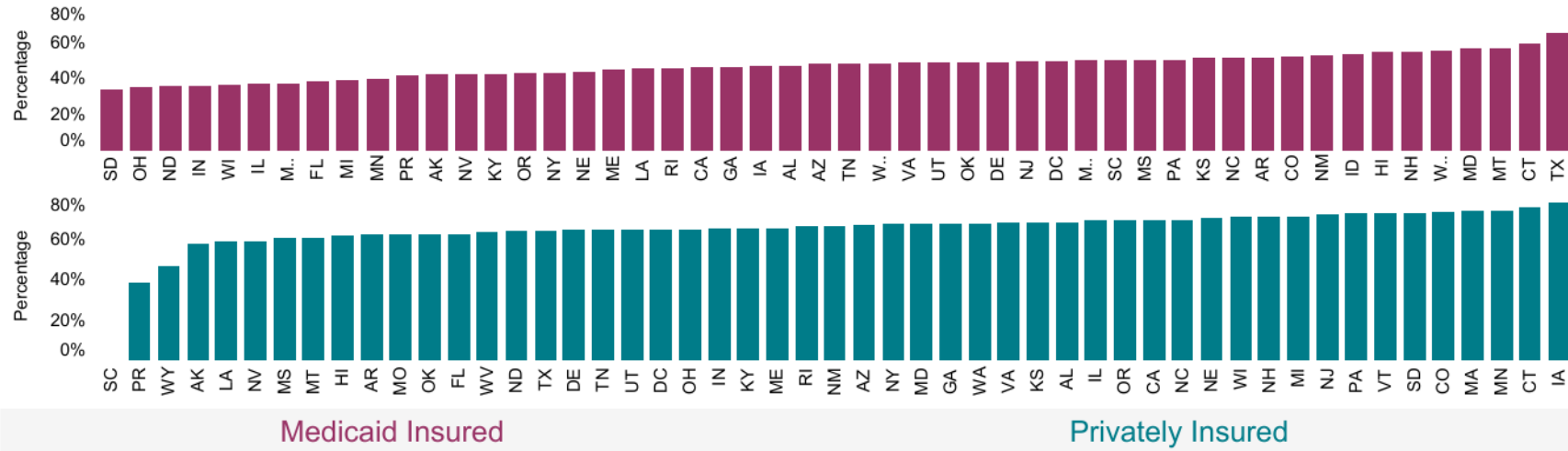
2 SELECT A STATE TO VIEW POPULATION DATA

# DENTAL CARE UTILIZATION RATE FOR CHILDREN

Percentage of children who saw a dentist in the last 12 months.



## ALL STATES, 2021





# CDC's Role in Prevention

“...provides leadership to improve the nation's oral health. We promote proven interventions, such as community water fluoridation and dental sealants, to reduce the rate of cavities, especially for people at highest risk. We also support data collection efforts to help monitor progress towards improving the nation's oral health.”

- Community Water Fluoridation
  - In 2022, 72.3% of the population were receiving fluoridated water
  - In LA, 37.87% in 2024 has CWF (Ranking 46 in 2022)
- School Sealant Programs 42% of children nationally received dental sealants; in LA, 56.4% of third graders had received a sealant
- Oral Health Surveillance
- Oral Health Infrastructure

## Other efforts include:

- Developing and promoting infection prevention and control guidelines for dental settings.
- Working to integrate medical and dental care.
- Funding state, territorial, and tribal oral health programs.
- Hosting the [CDC Dental Public Health Residency Program](#).
- Conducting oral health-related research.
- Partnering with organizations that support the DOH mission.

**Annual Summary Report (Louisiana - 2024)**

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**Fluoridation Status for 2024**

			% Fluoridated		% of Total	
	Systems	Population	Systems	Population	Systems	Population
<b>All Water Systems</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>3,981,214</b>	--	--	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Fluoridated</b>						
<b>Adjusted</b>	33	1,332,471	27.05	88.39	3.19	33.47
<b>Natural</b>	68	133,237	55.74	8.84	6.58	3.35
<b>Variable/Other</b>	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Defluoridated</b>	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Consecutive</b>	21	41,855	17.21	2.78	2.03	1.05
<b>Multi-source</b>	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>1,507,563</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.01</b>	<b>11.80</b>	<b>37.87</b>
<b>Non-Fluoridated</b>						
<b>Non-Adjusted</b>	775	2,167,257	--	--	75.02	54.44
<b>Variable/Other</b>	40	111,111	--	--	3.87	2.79
<b>Defluoridated</b>	0	0	--	--	0.00	0.00
<b>Consecutive</b>	96	195,283	--	--	9.29	4.91
<b>Multi-source</b>	0	0	--	--	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2,473,651</b>	--	--	<b>88.18</b>	<b>62.14</b>

**Operational Summary for All Water Systems for 2024**

			% Fluoridated		% of Total	
	Systems	Population	Systems	Population	Systems	Population
<b>Non-optimally Fluoridated</b>						
<b>Non-Fluoridated</b>						

# Healthy People 2030

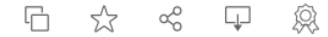
## National focus on improving oral health

### Evidence-based resources related to Oral Conditions (20)

- [Oral Health: School Fluoride Varnish Delivery Programs](#)
- [Oral Health Surveillance Report, 2019](#)
- [Screening and Preventive Interventions for Oral Health in Children and Adolescents Aged 5 to 17 Years](#)
- [Screening and Preventive Interventions for Oral Health in Adults](#)
- [Treatment of periodontitis for glycaemic control in people with diabetes mellitus](#)
- [Pit and fissure sealants versus fluoride varnishes for preventing dental decay in the permanent teeth of children and adolescents](#)
- [Fluoride varnishes for preventing dental caries in children and adolescents](#)
- [Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges](#)
- [Pit and Fissure Sealants for Preventing Dental Decay in Permanent Teeth](#)
- [Micro-Invasive Interventions for Managing Proximal Dental Decay in Primary and Permanent Teeth](#)
- [Fluoride Toothpastes of Different Concentrations for Preventing Dental Caries](#)
- [Interventions with Pregnant Women, New Mothers and Other Primary Caregivers for Preventing Early Childhood Caries](#)
- [Fluoride Mouthrinses for Preventing Dental Caries in Children and Adolescents](#)
- [Fluoride Gels for Preventing Dental Caries in Children and Adolescents](#)
- [Community Water Fluoridation](#)
- [Implementation of Evidence-Based Preventive Interventions](#)
- [Preventing Tooth Decay](#)
- [Dental Caries \(Cavities\): Community Water Fluoridation](#)
- [Prevention of Dental Caries in Children Younger Than 5 Years: Screening and Interventions](#)
- [Dental Caries \(Cavities\): School-Based Dental Sealant Delivery Programs](#)

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National Oral Health Surveillance System by Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors



State

Louisiana

Target State in Pink; others in Blue

NOHSS Indicator	Domain	Value	Desired	
people on community water systems fluoridated at or above 0.7 mg/L	community intervention	38%	higher	
children saw a dentist in the previous year	access to care	81%	higher	
children saw a dentist for preventive care in the previous year	access to care	75%	higher	
children in grades 9-12 had a dentist visit in the previous year	access to care	68%	higher	
adults age 18+ who visited a dentist in the previous year	access to care	58%	higher	
adults with diabetes had a dental visit in the previous year	access to care	58%	higher	
children ages 1-20 enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP received a dental visit	access to care	53%	higher	
pregnant people reported having their teeth cleaned during the 12 month..	access to care	no data	higher	
school-based health centers provided any oral health service	community interventions	53%	higher	
third grade children with any history of caries	health outcome	66%	lower	
children ages 1-20 enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP received a preventive den..	access to care	50%	higher	
pregnant people reported having their teeth cleaned during their pregnan..	access to care	33%	higher	
adults age 65+ who have lost 6+ teeth	health outcome	40%	lower	
third grade students with dental sealants	health outcome	33%	higher	
patients of federally-qualified health centers had an annual dental visit	access to care	21%	higher	
school-based health centers provided dental sealants services	community interventions	7%	higher	
school-based health centers provided topical fluoride services	community interventions	9%	higher	
third grade children with untreated caries	health outcome	42%	lower	
adults age 65+ who lost all their natural teeth	health outcome	18%	lower	
Medicaid or CHIP-enrolled children ages 6-9 had sealants placed during th..	health outcome	14%	higher	

0 20 40 60 80 100 All states in Blue; Target State in Pink

## Preventive Programs in Spotlight

### "Integrating Oral Health Care into Primary Care - Five Successful, Long-Standing, Statewide Programs Providing Care for the Maternal and Child Health Population"

- Cavity Free at Three (CO)
- Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project
- From the First Tooth (Maine)
- I-Smile and Cavity Free Iowa
- Into the Mouths of Babes (NC)

### Key Elements for Program Success

- Collaborative Partnerships
- Leadership Supports
- Sustained, Diverse Funding
- Commitment to Technical Assistance
- Evaluation

# Resource Links

- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/about/index.html>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/oral-health/prevention/index.html>
- WellAhead Louisiana <https://wellaheadla.com/prevention/oral-health/>
- Healthy People 2030 <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/oral-conditions>
- Healthy People 2030 <https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/oral-conditions/evidence-based-resources>
- CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/php/statistics/2022-water-fluoridation-statistics.html>
- Health Policy Institute – American Dental Association <https://www.ada.org/resources/research/health-policy-institute/child-dental-care-utilization-dashboard>
- Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/association.of.state.territorial.dental.directors/viz/NationalOralHealthSurveillanceSystem/Nav>
- National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center <https://www.mchoralhealth.org/PDFs/integration-key-elements-five-statewide-programs.pdf>

# Questions



Thanks,  
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