



Smart Mouths

Smart Kids

Improving Dental Health for Colorado Students

KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS

The mouth is part of rest of the body when it comes to health.

- The terms “oral health” and “general health” should not be viewed as separate ideas. (*Message from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Oral Health in America: Report of the Surgeon General 2000*)
- Research shows links between gum disease and other health conditions including diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. (*Healthy People 2020*)
- 13.4% of adults over age 65 reported that they had lost all of their natural teeth. (*Chew on This: 2012 Report on Oral Health in Colorado*)

Cavities are nearly 100% preventable, but too many Colorado kids have them.

- 40% of Colorado kindergarteners experience cavities. (*Chew on This: 2012 Report on Oral Health in Colorado*)
- More than half of Colorado third graders experience cavities. (*Chew on This: 2012 Report on Oral Health in Colorado*)
- Nearly 3 out of 4 third graders in high-risk schools experience cavities. (*Chew on This: 2012 Report on Oral Health in Colorado*)

Untreated, preventable dental disease causes significant economic and social burdens.

- Coloradans spent approximately \$1 billion on dental services in 2012.* (*Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) U.S. estimated total of \$111 billion*)
- Oral health affects people physically and psychologically and influences how they grow, enjoy life, look, speak, chew, taste food and socialize, as well as their feelings of social well-being. (*Bulletin of the World Health Organization Volume 83, Number*)
- Community water fluoridation has been the basis for the primary prevention of cavities for more than 65 years in the U.S. It’s recognized as one of ten great achievements in public health of the 20th century. (*Chew on This: 2012 Report on Oral Health in Colorado*)

For more in-depth facts about oral health, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/OHdata>. This site offers a wide variety of links to state and national oral health data.