

SMILE SURVEY SHOWS BIG PROGRESS AND WORK TO BE DONE.

A SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH IN WASHINGTON

BIG DROPS IN UNTREATED DECAY

HEAD START PRESCHOOLERS

DOWN 35%



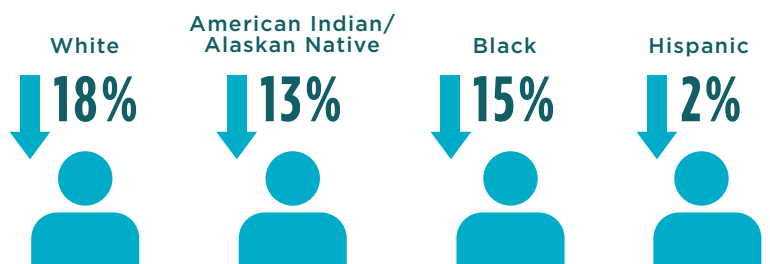
3RD GRADERS

DOWN 37%



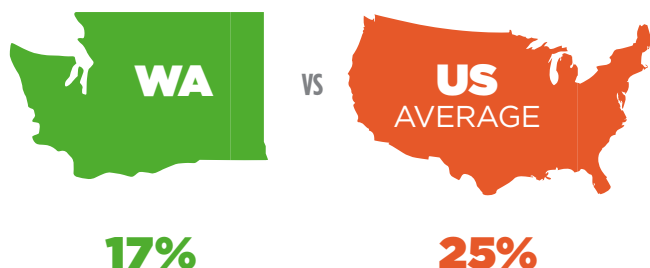
(Compared to 2005)

DECAY DECREASED AMONG EVERY MAJOR RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP SINCE 2005*



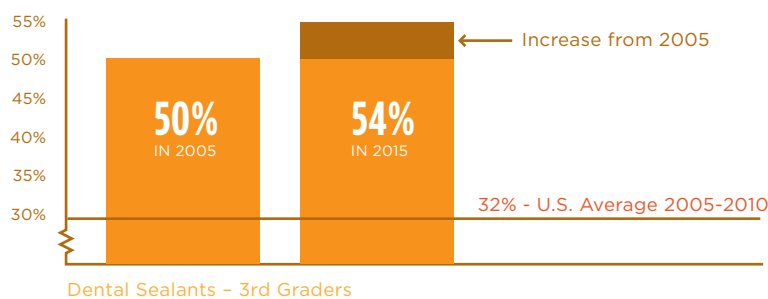
(All race/ethnicity comparisons use 2nd & 3rd grade data.)
*Some decreases were not statistically significant.

FEWER LOW-INCOME PRESCHOOLERS IN WASHINGTON HAVE **UNTREATED DECAY** COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE NATION



UPTICK IN PREVENTION:

Dental sealants have **doubled** for kindergarteners and remained steady for 2nd and 3rd graders, **where it already exceeds national goals.**

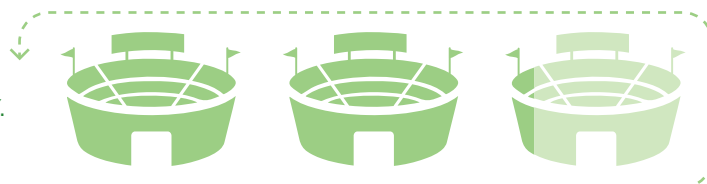


WE CAN DO (EVEN) BETTER.

DESPITE PROGRESS, TOO MANY WASHINGTON KIDS ARE STILL DEALING WITH **PREVENTABLE** ORAL HEALTH ISSUES.

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, **144,300** SEVEN, EIGHT, AND NINE-YEAR-OLDS IN WASHINGTON ARE AFFECTED BY DECAY.

That's enough to fill CenturyLink Field 2.15 times.



NEARLY **1 IN 6** 3RD GRADERS SUFFERS FROM RAMPANT DECAY (DECAY IN 7 OR MORE TEETH). **SEVERE CAVITIES MEAN:**



CHRONIC PAIN
AND INFECTION



DIFFICULTY SPEAKING,
EATING AND LEARNING



SELF-ESTEEM
ISSUES

HEALTH DISPARITIES ARE WIDESPREAD



50% HIGHER

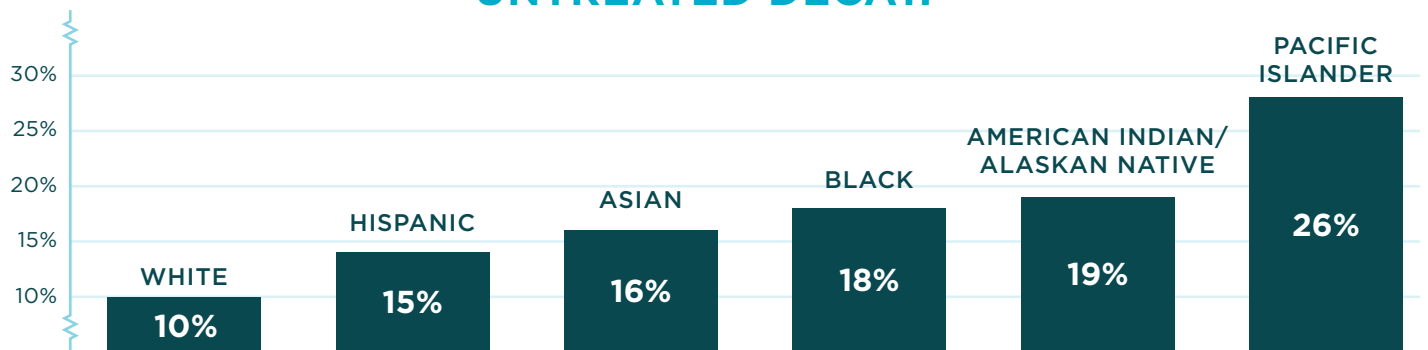
Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native children have a **50% higher rate of decay.***

**Compared to White children*

2X

Third grade children from low-income households suffer from rampant decay at twice the rate of children from higher-income households.

CHILDREN OF COLOR HAVE HIGHER RATES OF UNTREATED DECAY.



PROGRAMS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A lifetime of better health for **all** children requires a continual commitment to reducing oral health disparities.

Washington state works collaboratively to implement programs and policies to advance children's oral health. This work has led to improvements both in utilization rates and oral health outcomes. Examples include:

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD)

ABCD connects Apple Health-insured children from birth through 5 years to dentists who are trained to treat young children. ABCD has made Washington a national leader in young children's utilization of oral health care.

Preventive Oral Health Care Delivered in the Doctor's Office

More than 40% of Washington's physicians serving children are trained to provide oral health education and screenings, and apply fluoride varnish during well-child visits.

School-Based Dental Sealant Programs

Dental hygienists apply dental sealants and fluoride varnish at schools across Washington.

Preventive Oral Health Education in Early Learning Programs

Head Start and ECEAP programs, child care providers, and home-visitors are trained to use Cavity Free Kids to identify children at risk for oral health problems, connect them to dental resources, and work with families to prevent decay.

Community Water Fluoridation

Adjusting the level of naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water is a proven, cost-effective way to prevent tooth decay. Currently 56% of Washingtonians live in communities with optimized levels of water fluoridation.

LET'S KEEP OUR KIDS SMILING...AND HEALTHY

The Washington State Department of Health Smile Survey is conducted every five years to assess the oral health of children throughout the state. For this survey, licensed dental examiners screened 14,544 preschool, kindergarten, second and third grade students in 76 elementary schools and 47 Head Start/ECEAP preschool sites.