



Access to Baby & Child Dentistry (ABCD)

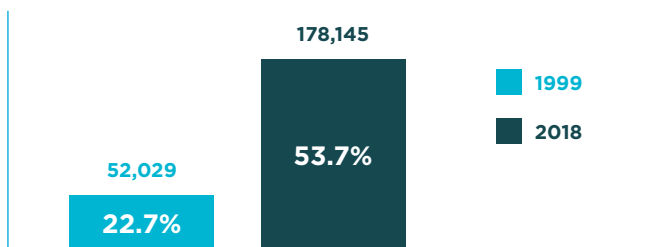
Celebrating 20 Years of Improving Oral Health Across Washington

ABCD increases access to care and improves health.

ABCD has made Washington a national leader in providing dental care to lower-income children from birth to six. ABCD is now statewide. By educating families and preventing disease early, ABCD improves the health and lives of children and saves money.

- In 1999, less than 1 in 5 of Washington’s Apple Health/Medicaid children under six saw a dentist.
- Today, thanks to ABCD, that number has more than doubled. More than 53% of Apple Health-enrolled children under six now receive essential oral health care, making Washington a national leader in the percentage of Medicaid-insured children accessing dental care.
- Untreated decay among lower-income preschoolers has dropped by one-third since 2005.

Apple Health-enrolled Children Under Age 6 Who Accessed Dental Care



ABCD improve lives for patients and for entire families. When parents learn painful cavities can be prevented, it can be life-changing.”

JARED EVANS, DMD,
ABCD DENTAL CHAMPION,
SPOKANE-LINCOLN COUNTIES



To achieve health equity, all children must have access to essential dental care.”

DIANE OAKES, PRESIDENT AND
CEO, ARCORA FOUNDATION



Every child deserves quality dental care with compassion, and they get that through the ABCD program.”

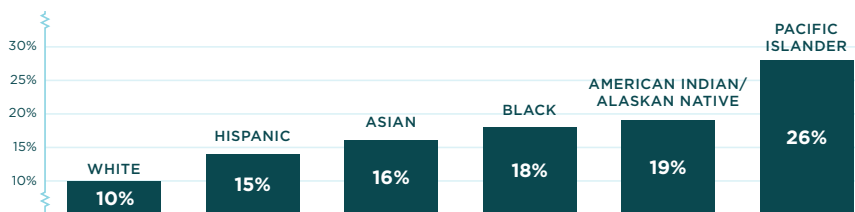
CAROL ALLEN, ABCD
PROGRAM MANAGER,
KING COUNTY

ABCD is an effective public-private partnership.

- **Health Care Authority** funds enhanced Medicaid reimbursements to ABCD-certified providers as well as supports provider training and local ABCD programs.
- The **UW Department of Pediatric Dentistry** develops and expands the ABCD curriculum and supports Dental Champions statewide who work with local programs to recruit and train other dentists. More than 2,200 dentists have been trained to date.
- The volunteer ABCD Dental Champions across the state, with support from the **Washington State Dental Association** and local dental societies, recruit and support ABCD providers.
- **Local ABCD programs** educate families and work with community organizations to connect children with dentists.
- **Medical providers**, trained by Arcora Foundation, are reimbursed for delivering oral health preventive care.
- **Arcora Foundation** funds and manages the statewide ABCD network of local programs and state partners, provides technical support and learning opportunities, and leads program evaluation and communications.

We've made significant progress. More is needed.

Children of color have higher rates of untreated decay



Many other states are replicating aspects of ABCD. Despite significant progress, surveys confirm that widespread oral health disparities exist in Washington. Children of color and those from lower-income families still have higher rates of decay.



Good health must include good oral health.

Working together, we can:

- **Connect more children with dental care**
- **Recruit more dentists to join the ABCD provider community**
- **Encourage policymakers to strengthen and expand ABCD**

Every child deserves a healthy smile and the best start in life.

Find us online at abcd-dental.org



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