



# BENDING THE ARC OF ORAL HEALTH TOWARD EQUITY THROUGH PREVENTION AND ACCESS

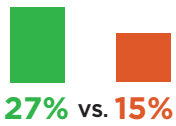
Everyone deserves a healthy smile. Our 2022-2024 strategic plan places equity at the center of our work to ensure everyone can achieve good oral and overall health.



## WHY HEALTH EQUITY MATTERS

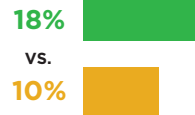
Unfortunately, not everyone has the same opportunities for good oral health due to racial and ethnic disparities.

Hispanic and American Indian/Alaska Native children have a **50% HIGHER RATE OF TOOTH DECAY** compared to white children.<sup>1</sup>



**Nearly 2X as many Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander adults experience mouth pain compared to white adults.<sup>2</sup>**

Getting a job is hard if you're missing teeth.



**Nearly 2X as many Black 2nd and 3rd graders experience untreated tooth decay compared to white children in the same grades.**

Learning in school can be difficult if not impossible for a child suffering from the pain of cavities.



## BY LEADING WITH EQUITY, WE AIM TO:



Assure high standards of health exist for everyone.



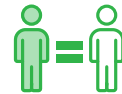
Reallocate power and resources.



Dismantle oppressive systems.



Heal harm from system imbalances.



Eliminate racism and discrimination as predictive factors of life expectancy and health outcomes.

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Oral disease is mostly preventable. And the health of your smile affects your overall health. Research shows links between poor oral health and conditions like:



Diabetes



Heart disease



Stroke



Pregnancy complications

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2015-2016 Washington State Smile Survey: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/340-309-2016SmileSurvey.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Source: 2018 Washington State Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data: <https://arcorafoundation.org/health-disparities-examples-oral-health-dashboard/>

<sup>3</sup>Source: 2015-2016 Washington State Smile Survey: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/340-309-2016SmileSurvey.pdf>

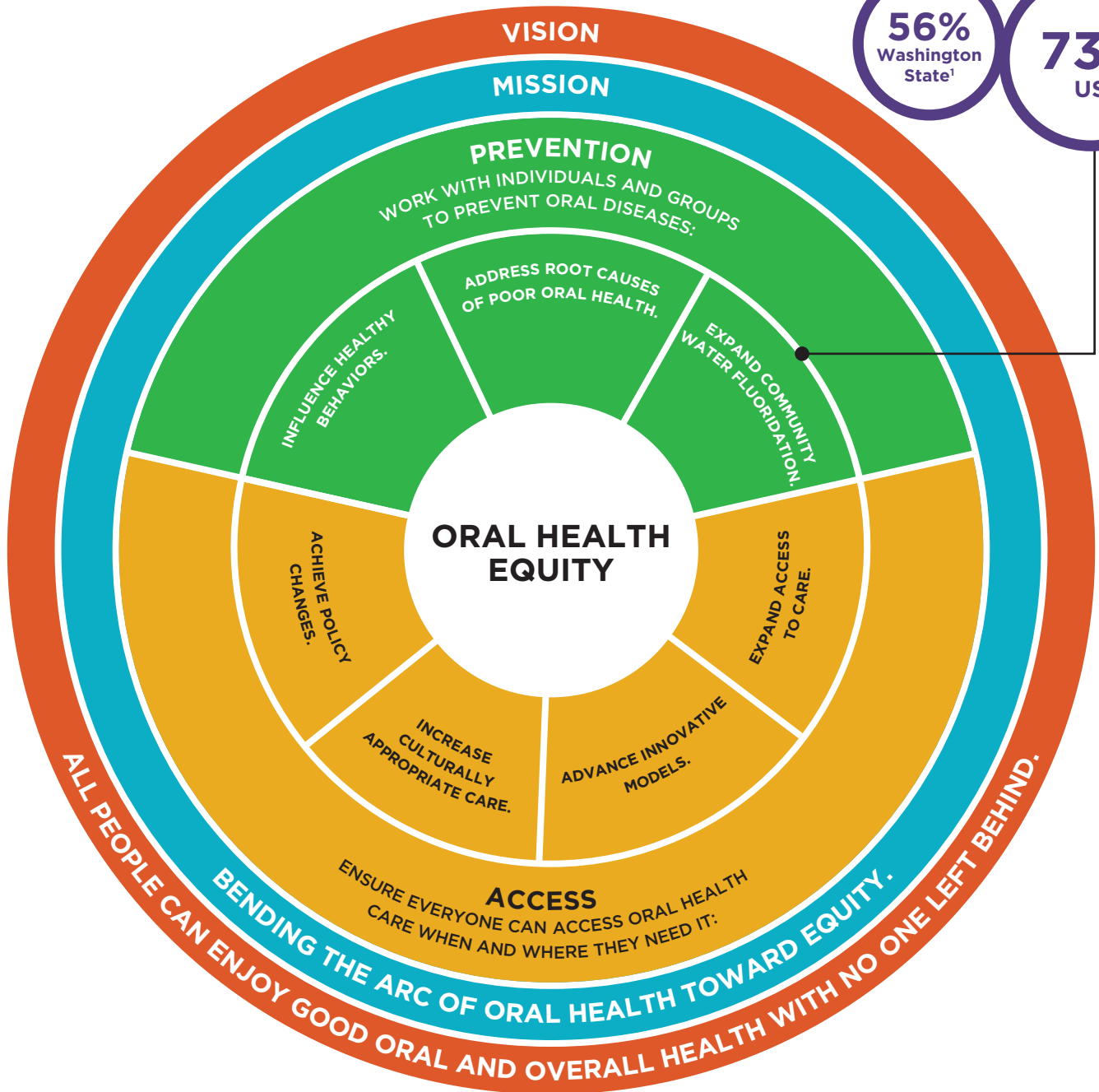
# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR 2022-2024

We're focusing on prevention and access in underserved communities where disparities are significant—specifically Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Current populations receiving fluoridated water from community water systems:

56%  
Washington State<sup>1</sup>

73%  
US<sup>2</sup>



We can't do this work alone. Advancing oral health requires policy advocacy, public and private partnerships, and funding.

**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO BEND THE ARC OF ORAL HEALTH TOWARD EQUITY.**

**LEARN MORE AT [ARCORAFUNDATION.ORG](https://arcorafoundation.org)**

**ARCORA**  
The Foundation of Delta Dental of Washington

<sup>1</sup>Source: 2015-2016 Washington State Smile Survey: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/340-309-2016SmileSurvey.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup>Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/statistics/2018stats.htm>