

TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT Oral Health in Spokane County

- 1. 40% of children have experienced dental decay by kindergarten; 57% by third grade.**

Low-income children and non-White or Hispanic children are more likely to have dental decay.

- 2. One in four adolescents and adults have not visited the dentist in the last year; 8% of adolescents have never seen a dentist.**

- 3. Over 30% of adults have lost one or more teeth due to decay; 5% have lost all their teeth.**

Low-income adults and those with less than a high school education are more likely to have dental decay. Tooth loss, dental decay and oral cancers can be minimized with preventive care, good oral hygiene, early diagnosis and treatment.

- 4. One-third of seniors are missing all their teeth; half have not seen a dentist in the last year.**

39% of seniors feel they are currently in need of dental or denture treatment, 20% have teeth or gums that hurt, and 32% have trouble biting or chewing food.

- 5. 13% of smokers have lost all their teeth compared to 3% of non-smokers.**

Tobacco use is a risk factor for cavities, oral cancer, periodontal disease, and tooth loss.

- 6. Only 3% of our residents get fluoridated water.**

Research has shown that the most effective and efficient method for receiving fluoride is through fluoridated public water.

- 7. Visits to hospital emergency rooms increased 114% over the past 5 years.**

In 2005 there were over 2,100 oral health-related visits; in 2009 there were over 4,600.

- 8. One in three adults does not have dental insurance.**

Younger adults (18-34 years) and older adults (55+ years) are less likely to have insurance.

- 9. Nearly one in four residents have Medicaid, but less than half use their dental benefit.**

It can be difficult to find a dentist that accepts Medicaid. The Health District's ABCD and ABCDE programs provide dental resources for Medicaid-eligible children ages 0-6.

Access to Baby & Child Dentistry Program:
Call 509.324.1478

- 10. Spokane has four facilities that provide dental services to low-income and uninsured individuals:**

Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)

Downtown Clinic • 1001 W. 2nd Ave.
Spokane, WA 99201 • 509.444.8200

North Side Clinic • 3919 N. Maple St.
Spokane, WA 99205 • 509.444.8200

**Riverstone Dental
(Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic)**

4001 N. Cook St.
Spokane, WA • 326.4382

Lake Spokane Dental

5952 Blackstone Way
#100 (Lower Level)
Nine Mile Falls, WA
464.0002

