

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 and ABCD "Expanded"

Call (509) 324-1478 or www.srhd.org/services/dental.asp

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.

Community Health Association of Spokane (CHAS)
Maple Street Clinic • 3919 N. Maple St.

The Native Project
1803 W. Maxwell

**Spokane Falls Family Clinic
(Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic)**
120 W. Mission

