

# Oral Health in Hawaii



Good oral health is important for a healthy body; poor oral health is linked to diabetes, heart disease, decreased readiness to learn and work, and even preterm birth. Dental disease is preventable. What can you do?

**26 %**

of less than 2 year olds had a preventive dental visit through Medicaid.



When children begin dental visits by age one, it saves money and improves health outcomes for all.

**50%**

of children and teens aged 1 - 18 years old had a preventive dental visit through Medicaid.



Preventive dental visits are vital to maintaining healthy teeth and gums and laying the foundation for lifelong oral health.

**71%**

of third graders have tooth decay.



Hawaii had the highest rate in the U.S. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood despite the fact that it is preventable.

**38%**

of third graders have a sealant on their permanent molars.



Sealants are thin plastic coatings that act as a barrier to prevent tooth decay and are among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent cavities.

**3,000**

residents visited emergency departments for dental problems.



Dental services are generally not available in emergency departments. The majority of people are suffering pain from tooth decay that could be prevented.

**12%**

of the population is served by fluoridated water systems (mostly military bases).



Hawaii has the lowest rate in the U.S. Fluoridated water enables easy access to proven cavity prevention.

**45%**

of pregnant women visited a dentist.



Dental care is a safe and necessary part of prenatal care.

**47%**

of adults aged 45-64 have lost at least one tooth because of tooth decay or gum disease.



Tooth loss can contribute to poor nutrition, lack of employment and social isolation.

All Hawaii residents should have equal access



to culturally appropriate oral health care where they live in a timely manner.