



DENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

TOOTH DECAY AFFECTS CHILDREN IN THE U.S.
MORE THAN ANY OTHER COMMON CHRONIC DISEASE



SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS



UNTREATED TOOTH DECAY causes pain & infections that may lead to problems, such as eating, speaking, growing & learning.

Children in South Dakota have **MORE TOOTH DECAY** than the general U.S. population aged 6-8 years²

1 IN 5 high school students have missed school because of problems with their teeth or mouth during the past 12 months¹

23%

23% of high school students have not seen a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work in the past 12 months¹

15%

Approximately 15% of 3rd grade students haven't visited the dentist in the past 12 months²

40%

Over 40% of children in SD do not have dental sealants²

Resources: 1 - YRBS; 2 - BSS Oral Health Survey

PREVENTION



Brush and floss every day—**especially** before bed time.




Drink water or milk **instead of** sugar-sweetened beverages.



Limit intake of decay causing foods, such as candy or sugary snacks.

NOT TOO MUCH!

Children only need a **PEA-SIZED** amount of toothpaste on their toothbrush.



Visit your dentist **regularly**.

PREVENTION



Use products containing **fluoride**. It keeps tooth enamel strong and helps stop or even reverse tooth decay.



Sealants protect the chewing surfaces from tooth decay by keeping germs and food particles out.



Dental sealants and fluoride has the potential to **nearly eliminate** tooth decay in school-age children.