

Oral Health Disparities In Colorado A fact sheet

What is the Issue?

- The percentage of Colorado children with untreated decay is unevenly distributed in the state, with the greatest unmet needs in areas of the state with a high percentage of low-income populations. ¹
- Children in low income schools (those with greater than 50 percent eligible for free or reduced price meals) have a significantly higher prevalence of both decay experience and untreated decay compared to children from higher income schools (less than 25 percent eligible for free and reduced price meals). ²
- Children from lower income schools also had a significantly lower prevalence of dental sealants. ¹

In addition, children at low-income schools had more areas of the mouth that needed care. If the mouth is split into four quadrants, those at low-income schools required one or more quadrants of treatment.

More Oral Health Disparities

- For both kindergarten and third grade children, Hispanic children, compared to white children, have a significantly higher prevalence of caries experience and untreated decay. ²
- Conversely, the prevalence of dental sealants is significantly lower in Hispanic third grade children compared to similar white non-Hispanic children. ²

(Note: The racial/ethnic disparities noted may be associated with differences in socioeconomic status)



“...the estimated amount of treatment needed for Colorado’s children exceeds half a million hours.”

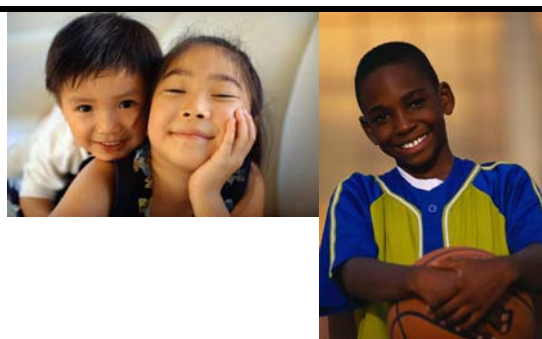
What is Needed? ²

- Of the kindergarten and third grade children screened, slightly more than 25 percent required one or more quadrants of treatment.
- Based on an average one-hour appointment per quadrant of treatment, more than 2,000 hours of treatment are currently needed to meet the needs of the children screened.
- As the screening sample represents 4 percent of all Colorado kindergarten and third grade children, the estimated amount of treatment needed for Colorado’s children exceeds half a million hours.

Oral health disparities are evident from the 2004 Basic Screening Survey. ²

References:

1. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Oral Health Program, Basic Screening Survey, 2004.
2. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Oral Health Program. *The Impact of Oral Disease on the Health of Coloradans*, Denver, CO 2005. <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/oralhealth/impact.pdf>.



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment