

# WISCONSIN HEALTHY SMILES SURVEY



## 2015 | THE ORAL HEALTH OF WISCONSIN'S NINTH-GRADERS

During the 2014-15 school year, baseline data were collected on the oral health of Wisconsin's ninth grade students. Overall, the data showed that tooth decay, which is common among younger children, is also prevalent among adolescents. The amount of tooth decay and access to protective dental sealants varied significantly by race, ethnicity, and income. These disparities require action among state, local, and private partners to ensure equitable access to dental care. Reducing caries experiences—while continuing to meet or exceed statewide goals for dental sealants and untreated decay—also means helping teens access school-based sealant programs and other prevention initiatives.

### TOOTH DECAY



Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood.

### IMPACT OF TOOTH DECAY

Tooth decay can impact a child's life in the following ways:



learning



self-esteem



speaking



sleeping



eating



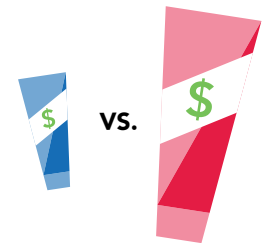
### INCOME DISPARITIES

Lower income ninth-graders are more than twice as likely to have untreated tooth decay.

### DECAY PREVENTION AND SEALANTS



Dental sealants prevent tooth decay.

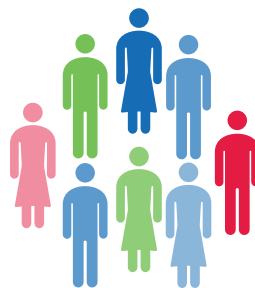


Dental sealants are about one-third the cost of a filling.

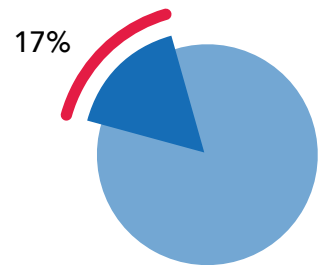
### DECAY BY THE NUMBERS



Tooth decay falls short by 7% of the Healthy People 2020 target (48%).



More than 18,000 ninth-graders have had tooth decay in their adult teeth.



1 in 6 ninth-graders need dental treatment for tooth decay.

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## OTHER FACTORS

2x

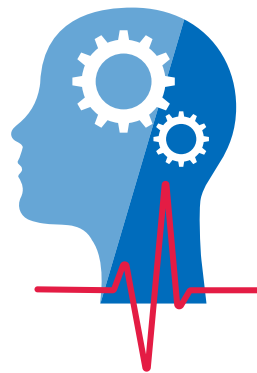
### RACE AND ETHNICITY DISPARITIES

Non-Hispanic White ninth-graders are twice as likely to have five or more dental sealants compared to Non-Hispanic Black ninth-graders.



### ORAL HEALTH 101

Adolescent oral health requires good oral hygiene and healthy choices about diet, mouthguards, and tobacco use.



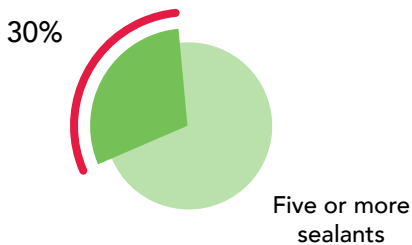
### CONSEQUENCES

Among young people, poor oral health may have consequences for general health and psychosocial well-being.



### TOOTH BRUSHING

Nearly 50% of ninth grade students reported brushing their teeth less than twice per day.

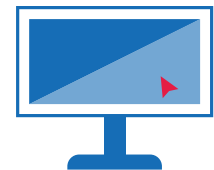


### SEALANTS

More than 6 in 10 ninth-graders have at least one dental sealant while about 3 in 10 have five or more.

For more information about the Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey visit:

[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01825.pdf](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01825.pdf)



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES