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 years[2]

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

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 months[1]

15%

Approximately **15%** of 3rd grade students haven't visited the dentist in the past 12 months[2]

40%

Over **40%** of children in SD do not have dental sealants[2]

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.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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