



# Oregonians Face Challenges In Getting Dental Care

Poor oral health affects Oregonians of all ages. Dental problems can lead to low performance in and absences from school and work and are associated with serious health concerns, including heart and lung disease, stroke, diabetes, low birth weight, and premature births.<sup>1</sup>

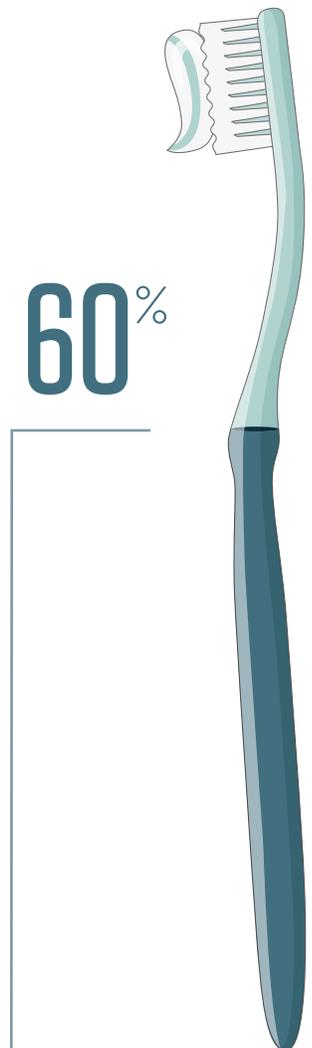
**1,010,000** Oregonians lived in areas with a **shortage of dentists** in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

**60 percent** of young people ages 1-20 with Medicaid coverage **did not see a dentist** in 2014.<sup>3</sup>

**1 in 5** children ages 6-9 had untreated tooth decay in 2012.<sup>4</sup>

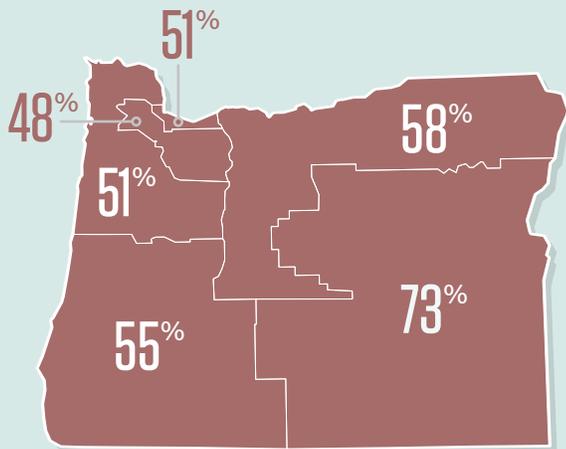


**3,800** On a single day in 2012, an estimated 3,800 children ages 6-9 **needed urgent care** to treat dental pain or infection.<sup>5</sup>



## Tooth Decay Was Widespread Among Children in 2012

Cavity rates among 6- to 9-year-olds by geographic region



Tooth decay is worse for those from lower-income families and in rural areas.

Source: Oregon Health Authority, "Oregon Smile Survey 2012 Report," <https://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/oralhealth/Documents/SmileSurvey2012.pdf>.

**1 in 9** Oregon seniors lost all their teeth due to tooth decay or gum disease as of 2013.<sup>6</sup>



## Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General* (2000), <http://silk.nih.gov/public/hck1ocv.@www.surgeon.fullrpt.pdf>.
- 2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics, accessed Nov. 5, 2015, <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/Tools/quickreports.aspx>.
- 3 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "Annual EPSDT Participation Report, Form CMS-416 (State) Fiscal Year: 2014," accessed Sept. 29, 2015, <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Benefits/Early-and-Periodic-Screening-Diagnostic-and-Treatment.html>. This figure counts children who were eligible for the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefit for 90 continuous days and received any dental service.
- 4 Oregon Health Authority, "Oregon Smile Survey 2012 Report," <https://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/oralhealth/Documents/SmileSurvey2012.pdf>.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Oregon Health Authority, "Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey" (2013), <https://public.health.oregon.gov/BirthDeathCertificates/Surveys/AdultBehaviorRisk/brfssresults/Documents/2013/Oralhealth13.pdf>.

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