



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Health.Mo.Gov

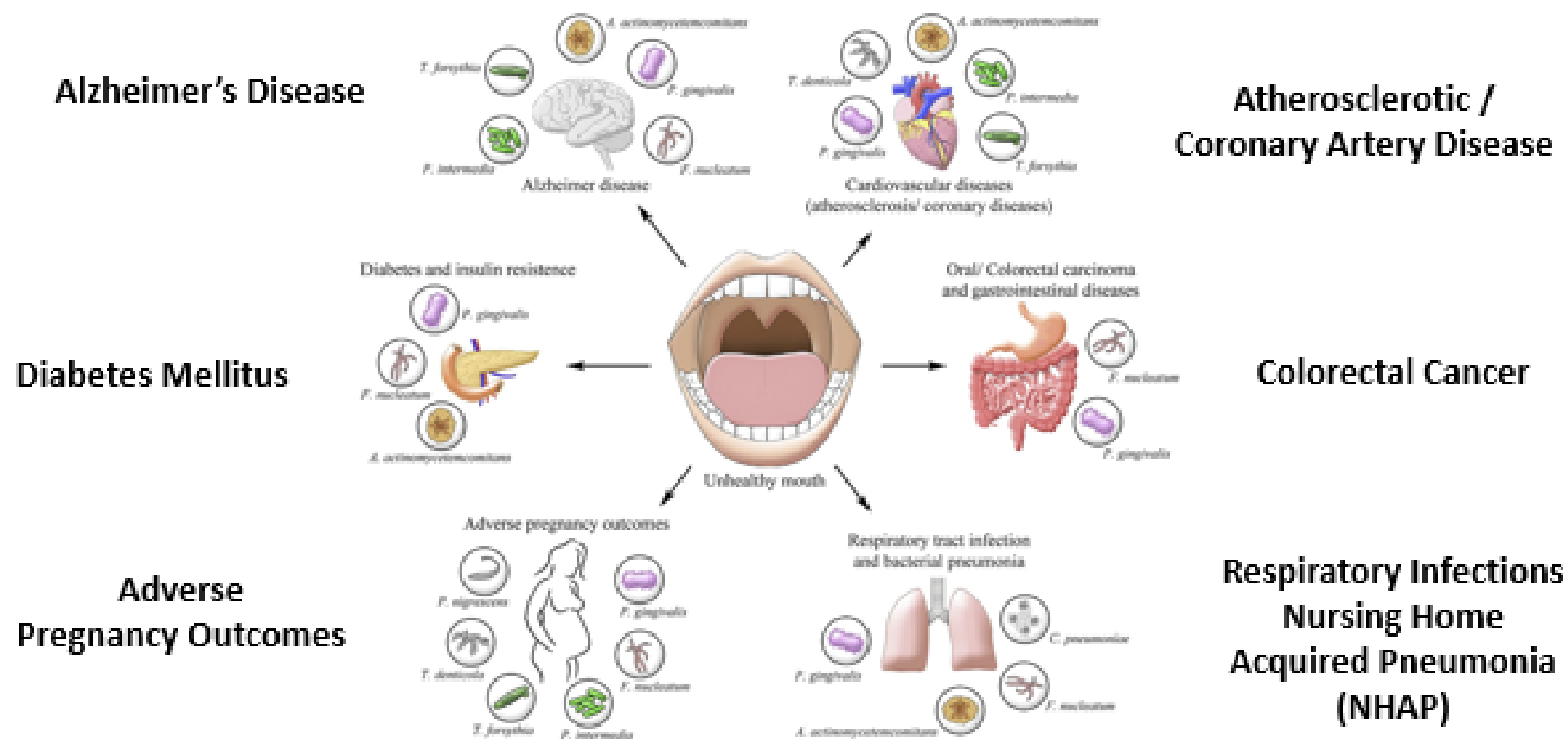


**Oral Health Is
Overall Health**

Importance of Oral Health Care

- **Oral and overall health, and disease are closely interconnected**
- **Oral infections make other disease processes worse**
- **Chronic disease very often has oral signs occurring early in the disease process which is very helpful in diagnosis**

A PICTORAL REPRESENTATION OF THE ORAL-SYSTEMIC CONNECTION



Source: Bui F., et al.. Association between periodontal pathogens and systemic disease. Biomed J. 2019 Feb;42(1):27-35



PREVENTING TOOTH DECAY— Why is it important throughout life?

- Children and adults with poor dentition can't eat a healthy diet due to difficulties chewing.
- Abscessed (infected) teeth can spread bacteria to the brain leading to death.
- Poor oral health limits your ability to successfully get a job; dental pain makes it hard to work or concentrate in school.
- Nationally children miss **34 million school-hours annually** due to dental-related issues.

The Oral-Systemic Connection Across the Lifespan



Pregnancy/Postpartum

- Periodontal treatment during pregnancy is linked to **lower risk of perinatal mortality, preterm birth, and low birth weight**.¹



Childhood

- Early childhood caries (ECC) and its associated pain are linked to negative **impacts on play, school, sleeping, eating, and overall well-being**.^{2,3}
- Children with ECC face **significant risk of infection** as well as risks associated with the use of general anesthesia to treat ECC.²



Adolescence

- E-cigarette use ("vaping"), the most common form of nicotine used by adolescents, is linked to **increased risk of gum disease and oral lesions**.^{4,5,6}
- Adolescents are more likely to have **oral injuries through school sports**, as well as **chipped teeth from oral piercings and dental decay due to increased sugar intake**, as they become more independent from their parents.⁷



Young Adulthood

- Adolescents and young adults are at **greater risk for eating disorders**, which are linked to increased dental erosion and oral lesions.⁸
- **Use of tobacco and alcohol**, often beginning in young adulthood, increases the risk of developing oral cancer.⁹



Middle Age

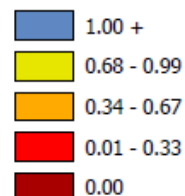
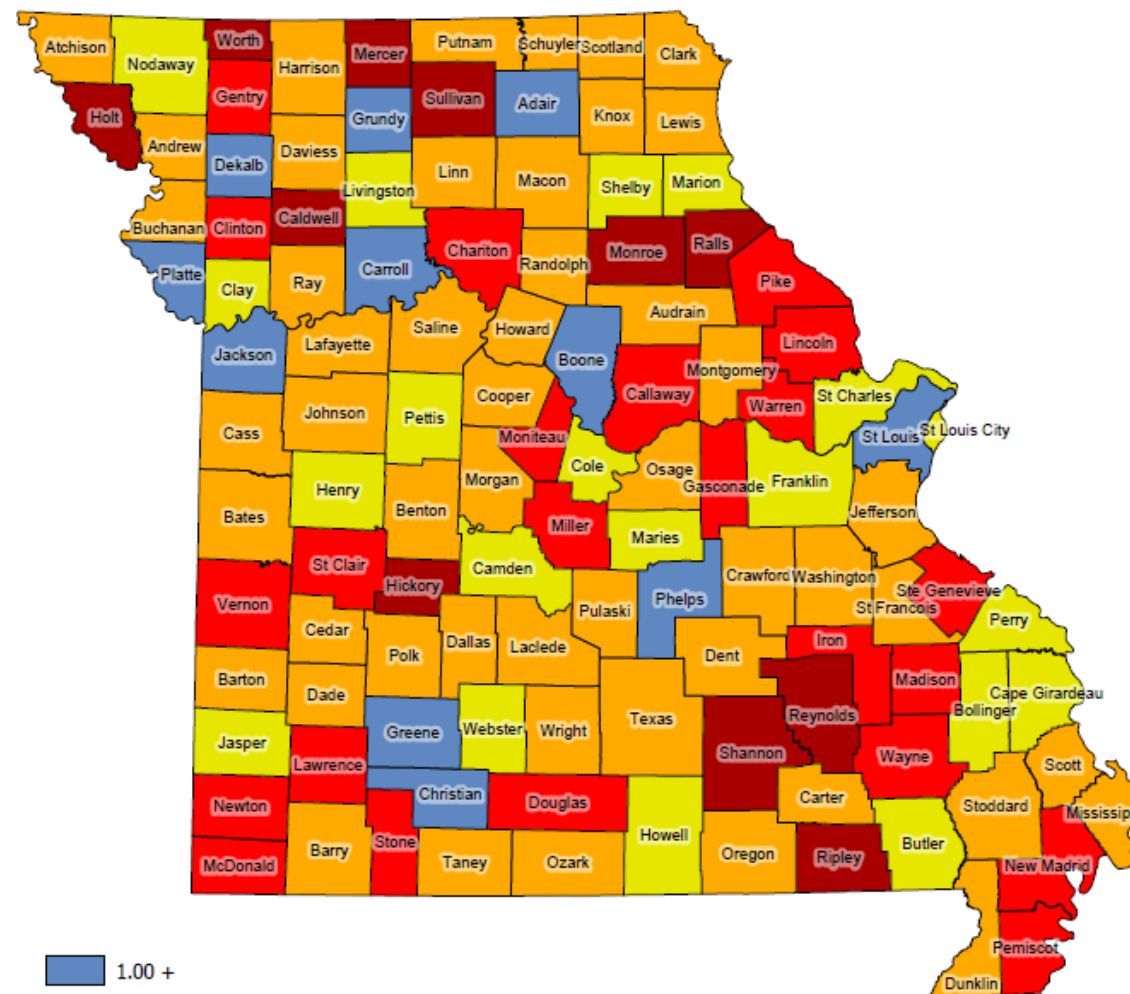
- **Periodontal disease**, which becomes more common in middle and older age, has bidirectional relationships with systemic conditions such as **diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease**.¹⁰⁻¹³



Older Adulthood

- Poor oral health, including periodontal disease, is linked with **increased risk of Alzheimer's disease** and other forms of dementia as well as **hospital-acquired pneumonia**.^{14,15}
- Older adults with fewer than 20 teeth are more likely to experience **greater overall disability and cognitive decline**.¹⁶

Dental Workforce in Missouri

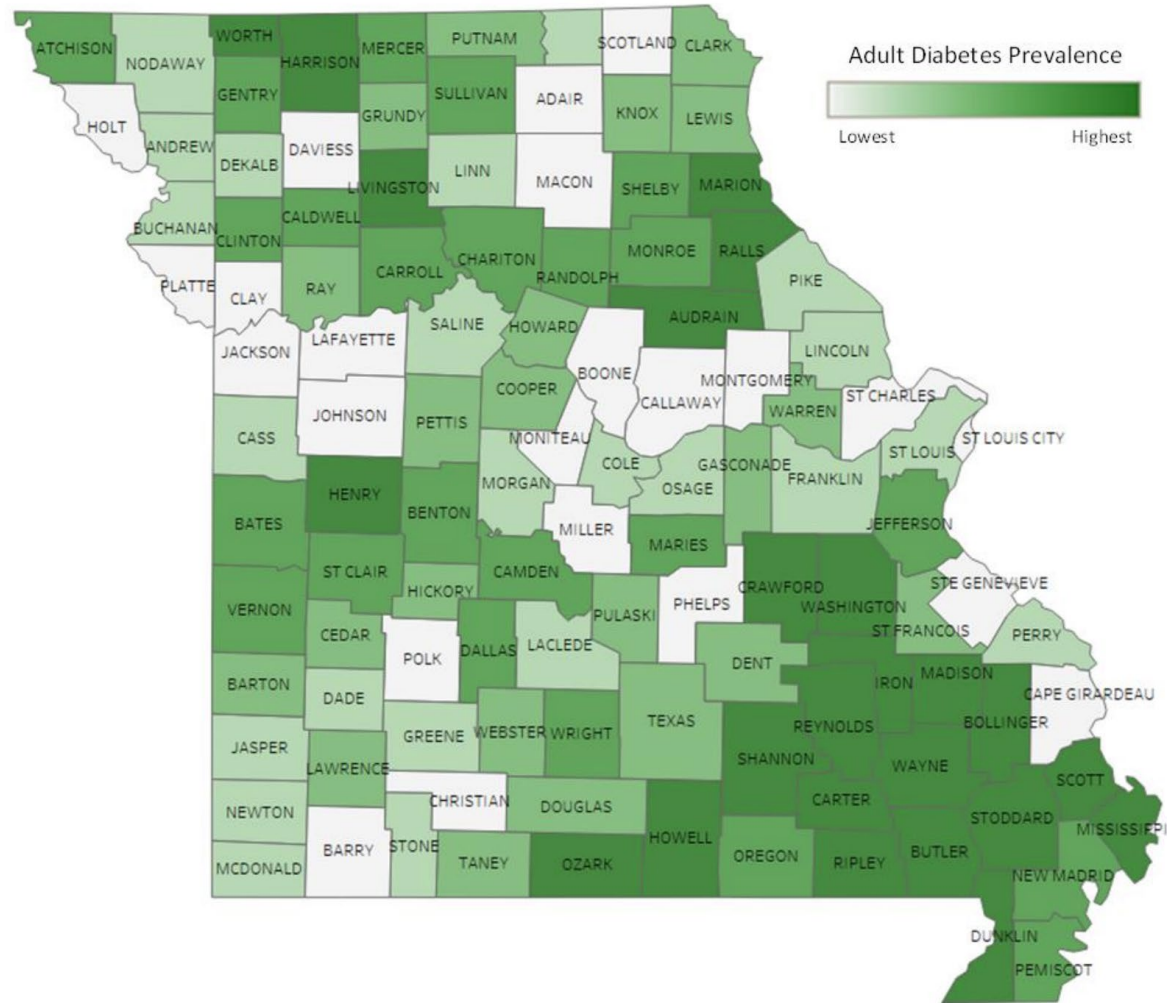


Ratio Dentist per 2100 Individuals by County
 Population data 2020 MICA
 Dentist <https://pr.mo.gov/listings-den.asp> (01/04/2023)
 Ratio based on: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28765446/>



Date: 2/21/2023

Map 1. Prevalence of Diabetes in Missouri Counties, 2022

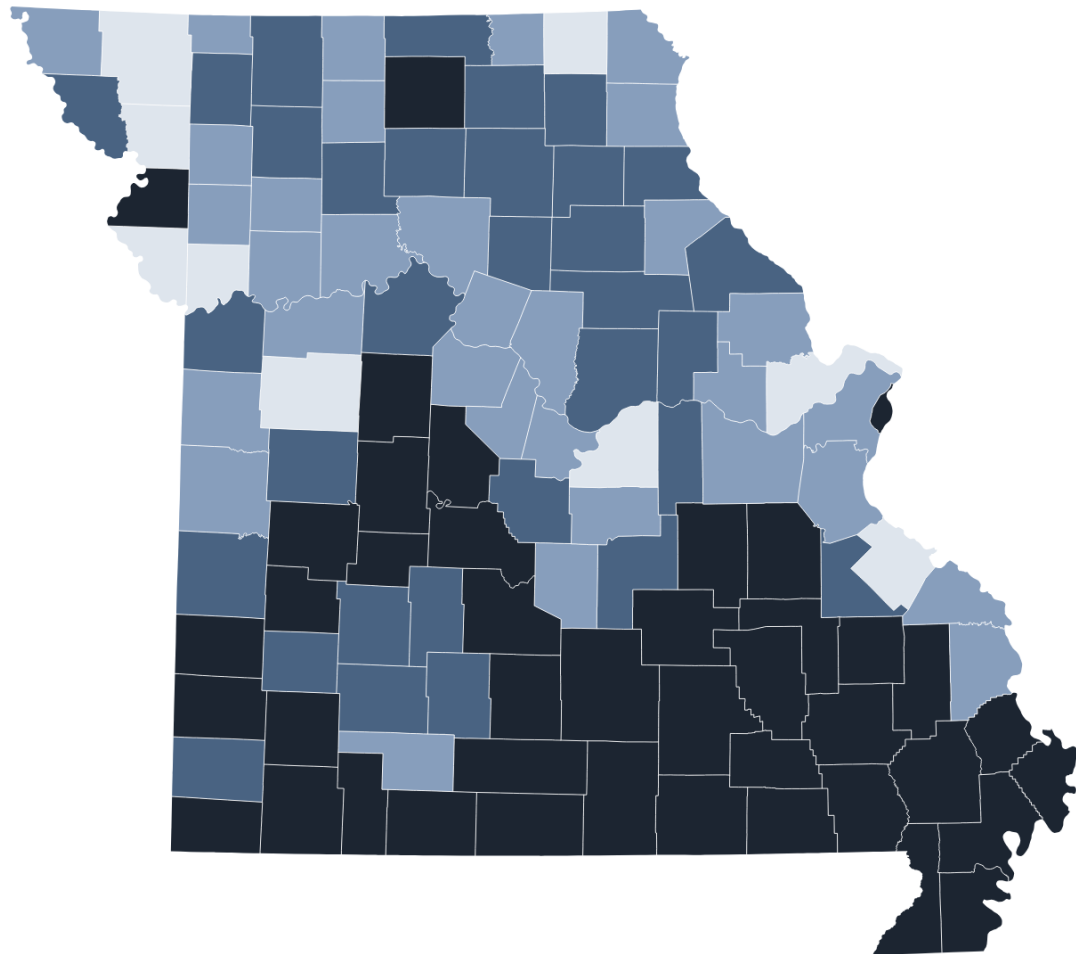


Medical-Dental Integration - Diabetes

2025 Diabetes Report

Share of Missouri Children with Medicaid by County (2023)

<30% 30%-39% 40-49% 50%+



Source: Missouri Budget Project analysis of Department of Social Services Family Support Division/MO HealthNet Division Monthly Management Report June 2024 and American Community Survey 2023 Five-Year Estimates • Created with Datawrapper

Children's Medicaid by County

2023 Medicaid Data



Oral Health Snapshot

Missouri

Overall State Totals 2023

1

24.5%



of 3rd grade children have untreated tooth decay

2



71,222

assessments or dental screenings were completed through the state dental program

3

14.3%



of Medicaid eligible children aged 1-2 years received preventive dental services

4



33.7%

of Medicaid eligible children and teens aged 1-20 years received preventive dental services

5



27.9%

Medicaid eligible children and teens aged 1-20 years received oral health services provided by a non-dental provider

6



39.0%

of intellectually or developmentally disabled persons aged 0 and older have untreated tooth decay

7

47.9%



of Medicaid eligible pregnant women received preventive dental services

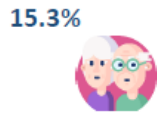
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44.0%

of adults aged 18+ years have had at least one permanent tooth extracted

9



15.3%

of adults aged 65+ years have had all of their permanent teeth extracted due to decay or disease

10



76.8%

of the population served by public water systems receive fluoridated water

11



15.3%

of adults currently smoke cigarettes

12



8.2%

of adults aged 18+ years currently use e-cigarettes

Snapshot of Oral Health in Missouri

Tooth decay is the most frequent childhood disease, but it's also the most preventable.



Dental Caries Statistics

Prevalence of Dental Caries

- Most common chronic disease in children
- 5 times more common than asthma
- 7 times more common than hay fever

Rate of Dental Caries

- Age 2-5 years: 28%
- Age 6-8 years: 52%
- Age 12-17 years: 59%
- 80% of decay found in 20-25% of children

Missouri School Disease and Chronic Health Condition Statistics

- 23.7% Untreated Decay (PSP)
- 32.01% Treated Decay (PSP)
- 17.7% Mental Health
- 9.0% ADD/ADHD
- 7.6% Asthma
- 3.5% Anxiety
- 3.3% Life Threatening Allergies
- 0.85% Seizure Disorder
- 0.33% Diabetes

Office of Dental Health's Mission

- ODH's mission is to:
- Promote optimal oral health,
- Improve access to dental care, and
- Reduce all forms of dental disease for Missourians.

With your help, we will be able to continue to move the needle in a positive way, improving oral and overall health for Missourians.

- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Grant
 - Preventive Services Program (PSP)
 - Improving oral health to the MCH population
- Elks Mobile Dental Program
- Donated Dental Program
- Community Water Fluoridation Training, Equipment Repair and Replacement (PHHS and Delta Dental)
- PHHS & Delta Dental Grant for Dental Assisting in High Schools (Workforce)
- HRSA (competitive 4-year grant)
 - Tele-dentistry in nursing homes and increasing dental services for veterans (ATSU Dental School, Veteran's United and Align Technology)
- CDC (competitive 3-year contract)
 - Evidence-Based Preventive Services (Sealants & water fluoridation)
 - Medical – Dental Integration
 - Infection Prevention & Control



School-Based Caries Prevention, Tooth Decay, and the Community Environment

Living in a dental-shortage area and a higher proportion of children receiving free or reduced lunch were significantly related to an increased risk of dental caries.

Preventive Services Program (PSP)

- Oral Health Education
- Oral Health Review (0-18 years of age)
- Fluoride Varnish Application (2)
- Free toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss
- Referrals



Impact of PSP

From 2014 until 2022, overall reduction of dental decay = 4%.

Identification of schools and areas that are having problems accessing dental care by the Untreated Decay rate.

Fluoride Varnish dramatically reduces children's dental decay

No fluoride treatments - more than twice as likely to have decay as those who received a yearly application of fluoride varnish and

Almost four times as likely to have decay as those who received fluoride varnish applications at six-month intervals.

Preventive Services Program (PSP)

**653 schools took
part in PSP for 2024-
2025 school year**

**Allowing more
people to conduct
oral health review**

THANK YOU
for helping with PSP

**Screenings at
Missouri State
Schools for
Severely Disabled
(MSSD)**

**ODH Hygienist
conducts screening
for MSSD**

Preventive Services Program Statistics 2024-2025 School Year

**67,793 children took
part in PSP for 2024-
2025 school year**

**15,715 or 23.2% of
children had
untreated dental
decay**

7,976 or 11.8%

**Screenings at
Missouri State
Schools for Severely
Disabled (MSSD)**

**ODH Hygienist
conducts screening
for MSSD**

- Students receive 2 varnish applications, education, and oral care supplies

AHR Ranks MO as 41st in Maternal Oral Health —Healthy Teeth = Healthy Pregnancy

- 43.4% of Missouri Medicaid participants don't use pregnancy dental benefits —MO HealthNet provides comprehensive dental care for pregnant women and **one-year post-partum** as of 2023!!



Provide oral health education as well as information for infant oral health.

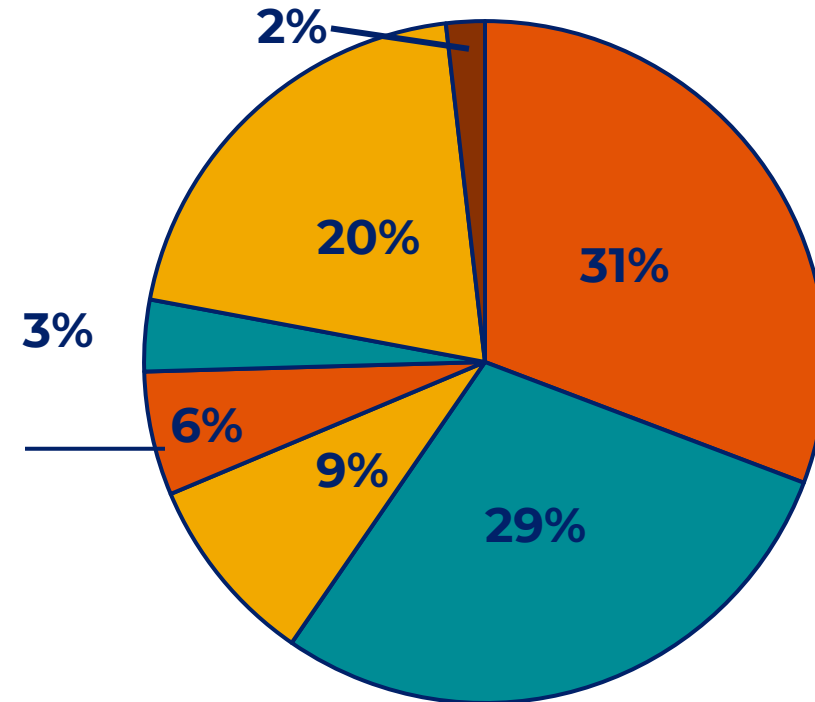
Express importance of good oral health is good for the baby.

- Make dental appointment at clinic.
- Educate obstetricians on importance of dental care during pregnancy.

“If gum inflammation is treated during pregnancy, the risk of a baby being born preterm is reduced by approximately 50 percent.”

Professor Joerg Eberhard

Pregnant Moms Need Dental Visits Too Impact



- # Educated
- # Receiving Fluoride Varnish
- # of Dental Appts. Kept
- # OBs/MDs Educated
- # Screened
- # of Dental Appts. Made
- # Medicaid Participants

Increase in Medicaid Services

- MMAC reported an increase of 761 new dental providers from SFY2022 through SFY2026.

Dental Providers Enrolled with MO HealthNet	
SFY 2022	1,038
SFY 2023	1,063
SFY 2024	1,198
SFY 2025	1,371
SFY 2026	1,389

Increase in Medicaid Services

Dental Providers Enrolled with MO HealthNet	
SFY 2022	1,038
SFY 2023	1,063
SFY 2024	1,198
SFY 2025	1,371
SFY 2026	1,389

This provides a net increase of 351 enrolled dental providers from SFY2022 to present.

Increase in Medicaid Services

The number of performing providers increased by 183 from SFY2022 to SFY2024.

Performing Providers	
SFY 2022	743
SFY 2023	845
SFY 2024	926

What does this look like overall?

Licensed Dental Providers in Missouri	
SFY 2022	3,058
SFY 2023	3,212
SFY 2024	3,218
SFY 2025	3,162

Dental Providers Enrolled with MO HealthNet		
SFY 2022	1,038	34%
SFY 2023	1,063	33%
SFY 2024	1,198	37%
SFY 2025	1,371	43%

Increase in Medicaid Services

Percentage of children ages 1-20 who received at least two topical fluoride applications as:

	CY2022	CY2023	Difference
Dental or oral health service	8.9%	10.5%	1.6%
Dental service	10.0%	11.7%	1.8%
Oral health service	9.7%	11.5%	1.8%

Percentage of enrolled children under age 21 who received a comprehensive or periodic oral evaluation

Oral Evaluation / Dental Services	28.1%	30.4%	2.2%
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Healthy People 2030: Water Fluoridation



OH-11: Increase the proportion of people whose water systems have the recommended amount of fluoride



Target: 77.1%



Baseline: 72.8% of persons were served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water in 2016



Status: 23 states have met the target (2022)



Data source: CDC Fluoridation Census, CDC, NCCDPHP
<https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-policy/increase-proportion-people-whose-water-systems-have-recommended-amount-fluoride-oh-11>

COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION (CWF)

CWF achieves 25% decay reduction in all citizens regardless of income or other socio-economic factors.



Missouri's Current Fluoridation Statistics

Missouri has **388 water systems** that either have natural fluoride levels at 0.6 mg/L or higher or that participate in a local water fluoridation program.

There are **94 primary water systems** that have a local water fluoridation program.

These primary systems sell water to **163 consecutive systems**.

Missouri has **130 naturally fluoridated water systems**. These systems have natural fluoride levels ranging from **0.61 to 3.81 mg/L**.

The population served by these water systems is over **4 million people** or **76.8%** of the total Missouri population.

Of the 76.8% (4 million people) who have fluoridated water, only **63.5%** (3.3 million people) have **optimally fluoridated water** in Missouri.

Missouri Fluoridati on Status

- Rollback – when a community decides whether to end a local water fluoridation program.
- Initiation – when a community decides whether to start a local water fluoridation program.
- Missouri has had 30 communities that have attempted a rollback and five communities that have considered an initiation.



Missouri's Current Fluoridation Landscape

- Rollbacks where water fluoridation continued: 25 communities
- Rollbacks where water fluoridation was stopped: 5 communities
- Initiations attempted but fluoridation was not started: 4 communities
- Initiations which were successful, and fluoridation was started: 1 community



Reasons communities discuss stopping fluoridation

Misinformation provided by people who are against fluoridation

Scare tactics

Mistrust of public health and the government

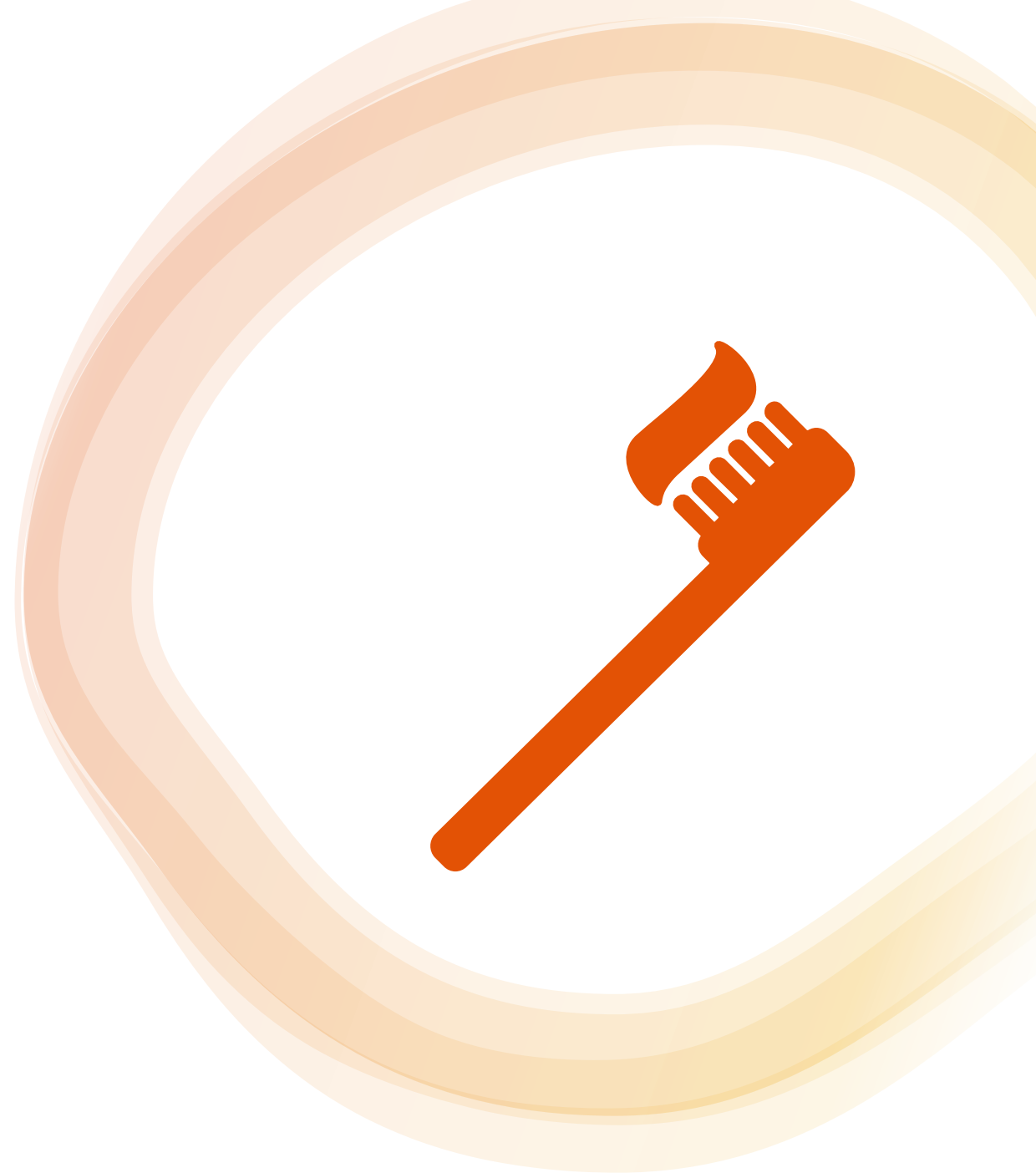
Not trusting the current science

Lack of finances and infrastructure to support the continuation of the program

Lack of water personnel being appropriately trained

The Oral Health Toolkit

- Oral Health Toolkit
- Two dental visits, cleanings preventive services each year,
- Brush your teeth 2x per day and floss 1x per day,
- Eat a well-balanced, low-sugar diet, and
- Drink fluoridated water.





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