



**ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
FY 2023 APPROPRIATION FACE SHEET  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY 2023 Request</b>
\$19,500,000	\$19,750,000	\$19,500,000	\$22,878,000

Dental cavities are one of the greatest unmet treatment needs among children. Pain and suffering associated with untreated cavities can lead to problems with eating, speaking, and learning. Most cavities in children can be prevented through the placement of dental sealants. Further, people who live in communities with water fluoridation experience 25% fewer cavities than those who do not have access to water fluoridation. Both population-based approaches provide a positive return on investment.

CDC's Division of Oral Health (DOH) promotes cost-saving interventions to prevent tooth decay among children and adults, including community water fluoridation and dental sealants. It provides support to 20 states to collect data on the burden of oral health to ensure that dental disease prevention programs are targeted to those at highest risk. With an increase in funding, CDC's Division of Oral Health would fund additional states, as well as provide additional funding to states with programs already implemented. CDC's Division of Oral Health works in partnership with NACDD, the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), and the American Dental Association (ADA), to coordinate cost-saving approaches to oral health prevention and chronic disease risk reduction and management, to improve oral health and the overall health of people across the country. CDC would update guidelines for infection prevention and control in dental settings—focusing on new dental technologies—to better protect the health of patients receiving care in dental offices across the United States. CDC would also expand education efforts to improve oral health literacy.

**Basic Facts**

- Children with poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't.
- About one in five (20%) children aged 5 to 11 have at least one untreated decayed tooth.
- One in seven (13%) adolescents aged 12 to 19 have at least one untreated decayed tooth.
- Children aged 5 to 19 years from low-income families are twice as likely (25%) to have cavities, compared with children from higher-income households (11%).
- Almost half (46%) of adults over age 30 already show signs of gum disease, and more than 40% have felt pain in their mouth during the past year.

**Cavities are Preventable**

- Fluoride varnish can prevent about one-third (33%) of cavities in primary (baby) teeth.
- Children living in communities with fluoridated tap water have fewer cavities than children whose water is not fluoridated.
- Children who brush daily with a fluoride toothpaste will have fewer cavities.
- Applying dental sealants to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth can prevent 80% of cavities in children and last for years.

**Impact of Poor Oral Health**

- Oral health affects our ability to speak, smile, eat, and show emotions. It also affects self-esteem, school performance, attendance at work and school, and the ability to thrive.
- Oral diseases—which range from cavities to gum disease to oral cancer—cause pain and disability for millions of Americans.
- Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic conditions in the United States. Among adults aged 20 and over, about 90% of people have had at least one cavity.
- On average, the nation spends more than \$124 billion a year on costs related to dental care. More than \$45 billion of productivity is lost each year due to unplanned dental visits.
- Oral health has been linked with other chronic diseases, like diabetes and heart disease. It is also linked with risk behaviors, such as tobacco use, and consuming foods and beverages high in sugar.
- Public health strategies, such as community water fluoridation and school dental sealant programs, have been proven to save money and prevent cavities.

\*For more information visit [www.cdc.gov/oralhealth](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth)

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