



AMERICA'S PEDIATRIC DENTISTS **THE BIG AUTHORITY** on little teeth®



The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) is the recognized authority on children's oral health. As advocates for children's oral health, the AAPD promotes evidence-based policies and clinical guidelines; educates and informs policymakers, parents and guardians, and other health care professionals; fosters research; and provides continuing professional education for pediatric dentists and general dentists who treat children. Founded in 1947, the AAPD is a not-for-profit professional membership association representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. Its 10,500 members provide primary care and comprehensive dental specialty treatments for infants, children, adolescents and individuals with special health care needs. For further information, please visit the AAPD website at <http://www.aapd.org> or the AAPD's consumer website at <http://www.mychildrensteeth.org>.

Vision

Optimal oral health for all children.

Mission

To advance optimal oral health for all children by delivering outstanding service that meets and exceeds the needs and expectations of our members, partners and stakeholders.

AAPD Culture

Our members put children first in everything they do, and at the highest standards of ethics and patient safety. As such, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is THE leading national advocate dedicated exclusively to children's oral health. We are the embodiment of our members' expertise as the big authorities on little teeth.

Little teeth are a big deal

1 in 5

children under the age of 5 are affected by tooth decay.



\$10,000

per child is the treatment cost for severe tooth decay, up to \$25,000 for the most serious cases.



34 million

school hours are lost each year due to dental problems.



Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease.

4 times

more common than **asthma**

3 times

more common than childhood **obesity**

Nearly half of children aged 6–11 in the U.S. population are affected by **tooth decay**, along with **more than half** of those aged 12–19.

“Help us take care of the children.”

- Dr. Heber Simmons Jr.

Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children is the foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). The Foundation supports initiatives providing Dental Homes to children from families who cannot afford dental care. Since 2010, it has supported 98 organizations in 32 states and the District of Columbia through grants from \$20,000 to \$375,000. So far, Foundation grantees have provided Dental Homes to more than 350,000 underserved children.

Status of Children’s Oral Health

- Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the United States. Sadly, it also is the most easily prevented.
- Children living in poverty are twice as likely to suffer tooth decay, and their dental diseases are more than twice as likely to go untreated as their more affluent peers.
- Children with poor oral health are nearly 3 times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain and more likely to have lower school performance.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) most recent data on oral health in America indicates that tooth decay declined for children ages 2-5 years from 23 percent to 18 percent between 2012 and 2016.
- 2016 marked the first year a majority of children covered by Medicaid/CHIP visited a dentist, narrowing the gap in dental care utilization between publicly and privately insured children.
- Over 70 percent of pediatric dentists accept Medicaid or CHIP, and publicly insured patients make up more than 30 percent of the typical pediatric dental practice.

Studies show that early establishment of a Dental Home (by age 1) reduces subsequent dental disease and treatment as well as related hospital costs.

Any children’s health insurance plan—Medicaid, CHIP or ACA—should have a robust network of pediatric dentists in order to help the most children.



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American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60611

Congressional Liaison: Dr. Heber Simmons, Jr. (hebersimmonsjr@aol.com); 601-982-8585
Washington, D.C. Contact: C. Michael Gilliland, Hogan Lovells (mike.gilliland@hoganlovells.com); 202-637-5619
AAPD Staff Contact: C. Scott Litch (slitch@aapd.org); 312-337-2169

Children's Oral Health Legislative Issues