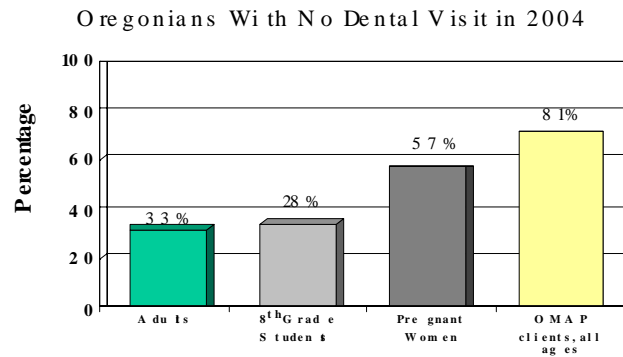


Oral Health in Oregon



How big is the problem?

- One in five Oregonians over age 65 (20.1 percent) have lost all their teeth due to preventable decay or infection.
- Between 2002 and 2007, every major measurement of children's oral condition worsened.
 - Poor oral health is the most prevalent chronic disease among children, five times more prevalent than asthma.
 - Less than a third of Oregon children in grades 1-3 (29.7 percent) have had decay-preventing sealants placed on their teeth.
 - Children in low-income homes are more than twice as likely to have untreated decay.
- Periodontal disease during pregnancy has been linked with low birth weight.
- The number of oral health care providers is low (many communities in Oregon are designated as underserved), particularly in rural areas where the number of providers continues to shrink

What can be done?

- Only 20 percent of Oregonians live in communities with optimally fluoridated water supplies. Research shows that water fluoridation is considered the most effective and economical method to improve oral health.
- In 2000, the Surgeon General issued a call for a national effort to improve oral health (called "the silent epidemic") among all Americans.

For more information contact:

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