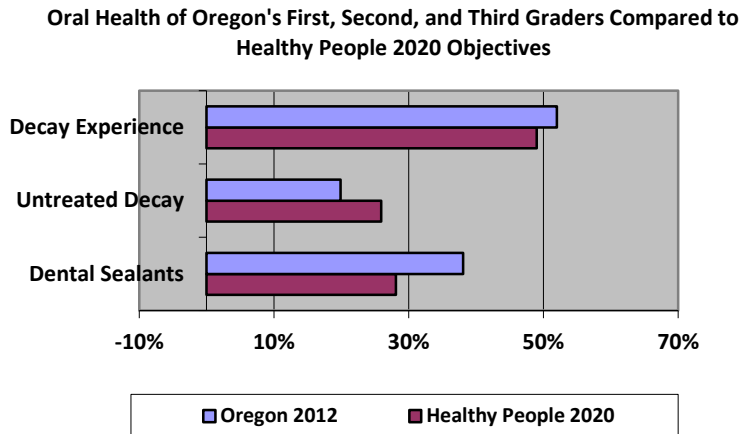


Oral Health in Oregon



How big is the problem?

- One in six Oregonians over age 65 (16 percent) have lost all their teeth due to preventable decay or infection.
 - Between 2002 and 2007, every major measurement of children's oral conditions worsened. By 2012, every major measurement had improved, similar to the 2002 levels.
 - 20 percent of children need dental treatment.
 - 14 percent of children have rampant decay – decay in 7 or more teeth.
 - 52 percent of children have a history of dental decay (cavities filled or unfilled).
 - Children from lower-income homes had substantially higher rates of cavities and untreated cavities, and more than twice the rate of rampant decay.
 - The rural southeast quarter of the state had a decay rate of 73percent, compared to the statewide average of 52 percent.
- 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?

- Early childhood cavity prevention programs get children on the path to remaining cavity-free.
- School-based programs like dental sealant and fluoride supplements are cost-effective and proven best practices.
- Optimal community water fluoridation is one of the top 10 public health achievements of the 20th century.
- Linking oral health programs to other chronic disease programs is an effective and efficient way to utilize existing systems to improve oral health.
- Promoting oral health as an integral part of overall health and well-being is essential.

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