

For Kids, Dental Is Fundamental

These Numbers Reveal the Challenge. Prevention Is Key.

children's
dental health
project



44%

Percentage of U.S.
5-year-olds who have
had tooth decay

Kids with cavities in baby teeth are
3 times more likely to develop
cavities in their permanent
(adult) teeth

24

Number of states
that made at least
a 10% improvement
in the proportion of
Medicaid-enrolled
kids who had a
preventive dental
visit.



49,959

Estimated number of visits (2011)
by children to hospital ERs for
preventable dental problems



SOURCES: 44%: Hirsch et al., Preventing Chronic Disease, 2012; 3 Times: HealthPartners Dental Group and Clinics caries guideline, March 31, 2008; 24: CMCS Informational Bulletin, April 18, 2013; and 49,959: Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, using weighted national estimates of 2011 data from HCUP database.

