



METROPOLITAN DENVER
DENTAL SOCIETY

YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ORAL HEALTH

Metropolitan Denver Dental Society

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Fact sheet...

IMPORTANT STATISTICS from the Surgeon General

In 2000, the Office of the Surgeon General released its first report on oral health. Here is what they discovered regarding the oral health of our nation's children:

- Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease, 5 times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever
- More than 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental related illness
- More than half of children ages 5-9 have had at least one cavity or filling; 78% of 17-year-olds have experienced tooth decay
- By age 17, more than 7% of children have lost at least one permanent tooth to decay
- 25% percent of all low-income children have not visited a dentist before entering kindergarten
- More than 1/3 of low income children have untreated tooth decay
- For every child that lacks medical insurance, there are 2.6 that lack dental insurance
- Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting 50% of 1st graders and 80% of 17-year-olds