



## ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### **Adams County Oral Health Fact Sheet** (Companion Document to Adams County Smile Survey 2005)

Tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease of childhood, five times more common than asthma. Poor oral health and loss of teeth, impacts:

- speech
- eating
- self-esteem
- social interaction
- ability to learn
- emotional state

***Two years of age is too late to begin prevention. To be effective, prevention programs should be targeted toward infants and toddlers.***

#### Adams County Significant Concerns:

- 54% of Adams county 2 and 3 grade children have experienced decay (cavities or fillings)
- 61% of 8 year olds do not have sealants placed on permanent molars
- Only 42% of Medicaid eligible children 0-5 utilize dental care
- 20% of Adams County residents on public water systems that are fluoridated

(Sources: *Adams County 2005 Smile Survey and Department Of Health 2006 Oral Disease Burden Document*)

Although tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, it can be prevented. Community water fluoridation, topical fluoride treatments, and dental sealants are some of the proven ways to prevent tooth decay.

In Adams County:

- Families may be on water systems that may not be appropriately fluoridated. *More information about the fluoride level in water systems needs to be researched for accuracy and made available to the public.*
- Topical fluoride treatments are available through local dental providers and the health department. *More families need to take advantage of topical fluoride treatment.*
- Sealant placement is proven to prevent decay and protect teeth. *More children need to have protective sealants placed on permanent molars.*
- Families may not understand the importance of good oral health. *More education needs to be available in health care settings to inform families of taking care of their mouth and teeth.*

In order to improve the oral health of the children in Adams County we must make concerted efforts to assure that our children receive the proven prevention strategies.

Adams County Oral Health Coalition works to assure improvements in the oral health of the children in our county.

Our vision is: "Una sonrisa soluble para todos/Healthy smiles for everyone"

Our mission statement is: "Promoting dental education, caries prevention and access to affordable quality dental services by increasing community awareness of dental needs in our county"

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