



The L.A. Trust Oral Health Initiative

Reference: Children's Dental Health Project

<http://www.endcavities.org>

What is the #1 chronic childhood disease?



Dental caries or cavities

Tooth decay (caries) is 2 - 3 times more common than obesity or asthma throughout childhood

Ages	Caries	Obesity	Asthma
2 to 5*	23%	8%	8%
6 to 8*	56%	17%	15%
12 to 15	50%	23%	24%
16 to 19	67%	18%	22%

*primary teeth

Source: Columbia University/CDHP analysis of 2012 NHANES/CDC data

Tooth decay can impose long-term costs on children and families. Kids who suffer dental pain are:

- Three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain
- Four times more likely to have a lower grade-point average

Childhood tooth decay creates an economic burden for families and state budgets:

- Nearly **1 in 5** of all children's healthcare dollars are spent on dental care.
- The lifetime cost of treating a single decayed tooth can exceed \$6,000.
- Young children with rampant tooth decay generally must be treated in hospital operating rooms (ORs) under general anesthesia, which can be a risk to developing brains.
- The average per-child cost of OR treatments can range from **\$5,500 to \$15,000**.



Prevention efforts must start during pregnancy

- A pregnant woman's oral health is a strong predictor of her newborn's risk of cavities.
- The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists found that about 4 of 10 pregnancy women have tooth decay or gum disease, putting their children at higher risk for poor oral health
- The health and behavior of moms and other caregivers shape a young child's risk for cavities.
- In a recent survey, only 18% of adults know that the bacteria that cause tooth decay can be transmitted from parent to child.



The bacteria that causes caries is transmissible.

The effect of tooth decay on a child:



- Children with cavities in their baby teeth are three times more likely to develop cavities in their permanent teeth
- The early loss of baby teeth can make it harder for permanent teeth to grow in properly
- Nearly a quarter of all children ages 2 to 5—and more than half of all children ages 6 to 8—have experienced tooth decay
- Tooth or gum pain can hurt a child's healthy development, including the ability to learn, play and eat healthy foods

By 3rd grade, tooth decay affects 71% of students in California



1 in 3 school absences
is dental related

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among American children. Painful and obvious decay compromises one's ability to eat, sleep, play, and learn, and negatively affects self-esteem and social development. Although tooth decay is entirely preventable, access to preventive disease care is problematic for low-income families.

For LAUSD students that averages to 2.2 missed days of school each year

650,000 students
x 2.2 days
1,430,000 missed days
due to dental illness
each year



The L.A. Trust Oral Health Initiative

Community-wide Oral Health Education

For children and parents, especially pregnant women including:

- Dental care habits
- Use of fluoride toothpaste
- Tobacco use prevention

Universal Screening & Prevention on School Campuses

Prevention and early intervention including:

- Screening and assessment
- Fluoride varnish & Sealants

Access to Restorative Care

Referrals to school and community providers for restorative care



October 11, 2015





Highlights from the day

- Educational messages from 14 Community Partner Booths
- Free healthy and delicious food
- The LADWP Water Wagon handing out ice cold fluoridated drinking water
- Free dental screenings
- Linkages to dental homes
- Youth activity area
- Prizes
- Ratoncito Perez, Potter the Otter, The Drop and Tooth Fairies
- Awarded 130 parent volunteers and 5 Tooth Fairies of the Year...



Working Upstream

Preventive behaviors (Tooth Fairy Pledge)

- I promise to brush my teeth twice a day for two minutes
- I promise to floss every day
- I promise to drink more water
- I promise to talk to 3 other people about what I learned today
- I am powerful, I am an advocate, I am a tooth fairy



Universal Screening & Fluoride Varnish Program

April 2013 – December 2015

In 25 fluoride varnish programs at 17 LAUSD schools:

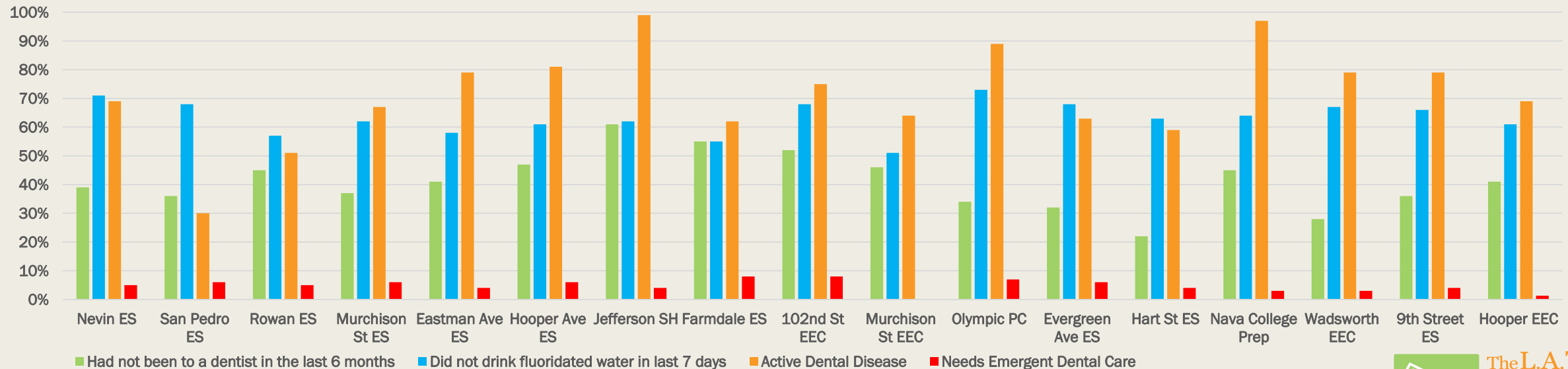
Oral Health Education for 15,981 students

Total number of students treated: 5,164

Total number of caries identified: 5,149

Total number needing emergent care: 247

Potential number of school days saved: 6,882



Barriers and how they are addressed

- Limited awareness about oral health program in school
 - *Regularly plan school-wide assemblies or classroom presentations to teach students and teachers about importance of oral health and to promote screening program*
- Parental support
 - *Educational workshops/mini-fairs at school to encourage signing their child up to see the dentist, reinforce oral health habits*



Example of Program Success

Repeat screenings at our first 6 pilot school sites from year 1 to year 2:

- 631 repeat participants
- 56% had improved exams or maintained normal exams
- 27% saw no worsening of their existing dental disease

■ Compare:

- 6.2% urgent care in year 1
- 3.7% urgent care in year 2

Example of Misunderstanding

- With a dentist on campus at Jefferson High, referrals for urgent cases should be 100% successful. One parent refused to force her son to see the dentist when he was too scared to go. She thought his dental problem was not bad enough although he had severe decay.



Future steps...

- Annual ToothFairy Convention
 - *Upcoming February 2017*
- Establishing community-based providers as dental “Hubs”
 - *24 total throughout LAUSD*
- Case management system developed
- Develop funding for mandatory health education and screening at schools





END CAVITIES

<http://www.endcavities.org>

An online resource aimed at helping health and children's advocates, health providers and policymakers change the conversation about ECC by focusing on opportunities to prevent or halt the disease process

Thank You

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WWW.THELATRUST.ORG