The most common chronic health problem facing California’s kids is a largely preventable one. Tooth decay disproportionately affects low-income children and children of color in the state. Untreated tooth decay can lead to devastating academic, physical, social-emotional, and economic consequences.

In Los Angeles County, more than 57% of kids under 6 are covered by Medi-Cal. But, Medi-Cal dental service utilization rates are decreasing.

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Annual Dental Visit | 59.3% | 56.5% | 54.6%
Preventive Services | 54.8% | 51.9% | 49.9%
Use of Dental Treatment | 31.7% | 29.1% | 27.2%
Exams/Oral Health Evaluations | 53.1% | 50.4% | 48.5%
Sealants ages 6–9 | 24.6% | 23.6% | 22.9%
Sealants ages 10–14 | 14.4% | 13.3% | 12.8%

More than 50% of California’s kindergartners have experienced untreated tooth decay.

More than 25% of California’s kindergartners have untreated tooth decay.

More than 52% of dental related ER visits were for our littlest kids 0–3 years old.

More than 63% of dental related ER visits were for kids 0–5 years old.

Help make sure children are achieving optimal oral health!

Attend the Los Angeles Stakeholder Meetings convened by the California Department of Health Care Services.

Engage in the Local Control Accountability Process to make oral health a priority in schools!

Contact: Eileen Espejo, eespejo@childrennow.org for more information.