Dental Decay (Children)

Health Status

Indicator: Dental Decay (Children)

Definition: Percent of third grade students who have had a cavity in a primary or permanent tooth.

Why this is important: Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic infectious diseases among U.S. children. Tooth decay may be preventable through proper oral health care.

Where we are: In 2010 in Spokane County, 57% of third grade children had experienced dental decay. The proportion of children having had a cavity was stable from 2005 to 2010. Spokane County has a proportion of children with dental decay similar to that of Washington state.

Health Disparities:

Among Spokane County children in 2010:

- Lower income children were more likely to have experienced dental decay.
Non-white or Hispanic children were more likely to have experienced dental decay.

Data Source: Smile Survey, 2010

Geography:
- Spokane County: 57.2% (54.1-60.1)
- Washington State: 57.9% (54.0-61.7)
- United States: 57.9% (54.0-61.7)

Trend: 05-10 No Trend

Race:
- White Non-Hispanic: 55.0% (51.7-58.2)
- Non-white or Hispanic: 68.2% (61.2-75.1)

Income:
- Eligible for FRL: 68.2% (64.4-72.0)
- Not Eligible for FRL: 44.5% (40.0-48.9)

FRL = Free or Reduced Fee Lunch
Used as a proxy for family income.
