Did you know?
Cavities are largely preventable, but tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among children and adults.

A focus on health equity
I-Smile™ assists Medicaid-enrolled, uninsured and underinsured children and pregnant women; I-Smile™ @ School (sealant) includes elementary and middle schools with 40% or greater free and reduced lunch rates; and the I-Smile™ Silver pilot project works with older Iowans who have difficulty accessing dental care. These oral health programs focus on referrals to dentists and improved access to resources that address social determinants of health through individualized care coordination. Community water fluoridation benefits everyone, regardless of age, income or socio-economic status.

What does the department do?
- Operate the I-Smile™ program, helping 23 local public health partners promote the importance of oral health; provide preventive fluoride applications for infants, children and pregnant women; help families make appointments and find payment sources for dental care; work with dental offices to build referral networks; and provide oral health education for families and the public to build awareness about healthy behaviors. More than 55,000 children benefited from I-Smile™ in 2018.
- Manage the evidence-based I-Smile™ @ School program through local public health organizations to provide dental screenings, fluoride, dental sealants, and oral health education for children in grades 1-8. During school year 2017-2018, nearly 17,000 children participated and 47,838 sealants were placed.
- Monitor fluoride levels throughout Iowa and provide education and outreach to the public about the benefits of community water fluoridation.
- Oversee oral health surveillance through data analysis and distributing reports about Iowans’ oral health status and ability to access and pay for care.
- Administer the school dental screening requirement for children newly enrolling in kindergarten and ninth grade and ability to access and pay for care.
- Facilitate interdisciplinary approaches that assure optimal oral health through education of medical practitioners.
- Track services provided by dental hygienists working under public health supervision, to assure necessary gap-filling services are provided to underserved Iowans. (Cont.)
Oral Health
Iowa Department of Public Health

Cont. What does the department do?
- Develop and administer the I-Smile™ Silver pilot project through contracts with three county health departments, to improve older Iowans’ ability to have optimal oral health.
- Partner with Department on Aging, Department of Education and Department of Human Services to align program goals, leverage funding and seek optimal oral health outcomes.

Cont. Why is Oral Health important to Iowans?
In 2018 in Iowa:
- Four out of five (78%) Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-2 years did not see a dentist. In comparison, just one out of three (31%) Medicaid-enrolled children ages 3-12 years did not see a dentist.

How do we measure our progress?

- Percent of Medicaid-enrolled children ages 0-12 receiving a dental service from dentists

What can Iowans do to help?
- Learn about the importance of good oral health and how to keep your mouth healthy.
- Use the department’s oral health staff and programs as trusted sources of oral health information and policy development.
- Advocate for community water fluoridation to reduce tooth decay.

Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SFY 2017 Actual</th>
<th>SFY 2018 Actual</th>
<th>SFY 2019 Estimate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Funds</td>
<td>$274,487</td>
<td>$266,419</td>
<td>$274,658</td>
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<td>Federal Funds</td>
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<td>Other Funds</td>
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<td>FTEs</td>
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For more information, please visit [http://idph.iowa.gov/](http://idph.iowa.gov/) or call us at (515) 281-7689.