I-Smile™ is a statewide program connecting children and families with dental, medical and community resources to ensure a lifetime of health and wellness. Dental decay is the most common chronic illness among children and can cause difficulty learning, speaking and eating. I-Smile™ program staff provide preventive dental services at WIC clinics across Iowa, in order to prevent dental decay and establish good oral hygiene habits for young children. An oral health survey was completed during the summer of 2019 using I-Smile™ program data from screenings of WIC-enrolled children.

Children of non-white racial groups are more likely to experience decay.

Nearly 25% of 1-year-olds had seen a dentist by their first birthday, which is recommended by the American Dental Association. This rate has doubled since 2010 (12%).

1 in 2 children had a previous dental visit.

Children served in urban areas are 20% more likely to have a previous dental visit than those in rural counties.

7% had dental decay, improving from 11% in 2010!