



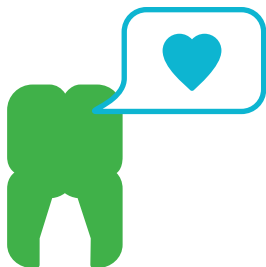
Walla Walla County Oral Health Status



More than 4 in 5 third graders in Walla Walla County experienced preventable tooth decay in 2015-2016

39% of adults in Walla Walla County have lost one or more teeth due to decay

75% of Americans on public water supplies have enough fluoride to prevent cavities. Walla Walla does not.



Oral disease has been linked to heart disease, diabetes and other major health conditions.

Children with poor dental health are nearly **3x** more likely to miss school.

Oral disease is the **#1** preventable chronic disease in children.



Brushing with fluoridated toothpaste, flossing and regular oral health checkups are an important part of prevention.

Walla Walla County

- A 2015 state health survey showed that nearly 8 in 10 third-graders (85%) in Walla Walla have had at least one cavity; and **1 in 3 (31%) third-graders has rampant tooth decay** — meaning 7 or more teeth are decayed or filled because of cavities.
- **Only half (54%) of second graders in 2015 had dental sealants** – a protective coating that prevents cavities.
- Nearly **38% of all children in Walla Walla have not received any dental care** in the last fiscal year. Out of the 62% of children who received care, 32% had at least one restorative service.
- Nearly **75% of all adults did not have dental access** and out of the 25% of adults who received care, 50% received at least one restorative service.
- How does Walla Walla’s dental health compare with adjacent counties? The percentage of third-graders in Franklin County who are cavity-free is 30% or double the percentage in Walla Walla County where **only 15% of third-graders are cavity-free**. One difference that often drives this statistic is community water fluoridation. The most populous city in Franklin County, Pasco, has the benefit of community water fluoridation. The City of Walla Walla does not.
- People are less likely to have dental insurance than medical insurance. Unfortunately, this lack of coverage means people are less likely to visit a dentist and get the care they need. In Walla Walla County, **nearly 47% of adults reported not having dental insurance** in 2016.

What can we as a community do to improve our oral health and reduce health disparities?

- Develop systems that help with care coordination and connections to dental care.
- Integrate oral health into medical care – especially primary care, prenatal care and chronic disease care
- Improving opioid prescription practices and other prevention efforts.
- Develop more school based sealant programs
- Consider community water fluoridation
- Encourage and support more dental providers to accept Medicaid
- Provide community oral health education
- Increase access to healthy beverages and food

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