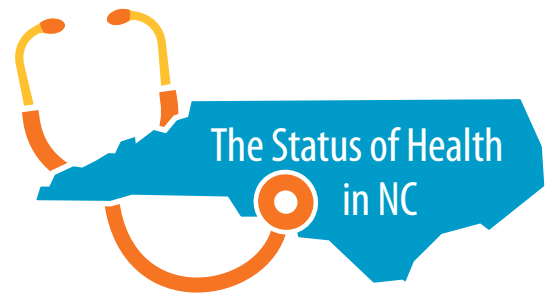


Dental health is vital to overall health



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



Nearly **half of all adults** in NC have had at least one tooth removed due to tooth decay or gum disease, a trend that has remained unchanged since 2008.



15% of NC kindergarteners have untreated tooth decay (2016).



Every year, **over 600,000 adults** in NC lose all of their teeth because of tooth decay or gum disease. That's more than 2 times the population of Durham.



More than half of local health departments in NC do not offer dental treatment and four health departments have ended dental services since 2013.

SOURCE: NC Center for Health Statistics BRFSS Annual Survey Results, 2008-2016; Kids Count Data Center, 2016; Local Health Department Staffing and Services Summary, 2013-2017; OBSM, 2016.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS IN NC?

Improving the level of investment in public health ensures that more North Carolinians can access dental care. Dental health in North Carolina is supported by Medicaid funding and state public health dollars allocated towards oral health preventative services.



Since 2012, NC has invested **27% less** in oral health preventative services.

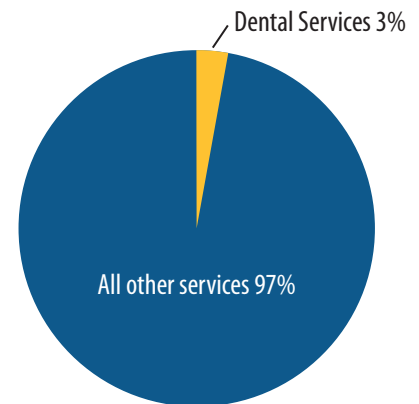
3.1%

Only 3.1% of NC Medicaid dollars go towards dental services.



Medicaid dollars spent specifically on child dental services have **decreased by nearly half** since 2010.

Share of Medicaid dollars spent on dental services in NC, 2017



SOURCE: NC DHHS, 2010-17

WHY TREATMENT MATTERS



✓ **Investments in dental health enhance quality of life.**

✓ **ADULTS: Strong dental health keeps adults connected to the workforce because there are fewer barriers to securing a job when adults have all of their teeth.**

✓ **CHILDREN: With good dental health, kids can focus on learning instead of painful dental conditions.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

www.ncjustice.org/NCHHealthStatus #NCHHealthStatus