

THE STATE OF LITTLE TEETH IN AMERICA



TOOTH DECAY IS THE
NUMBER ONE

chronic infectious disease affecting children in the United States and is on the rise, but is largely preventable.¹

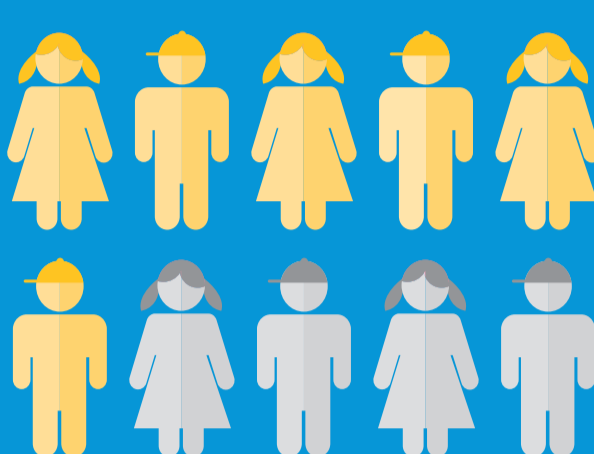
THE RATE OF TOOTH DECAY IN BABY TEETH of children aged 2 to 5 years increased nearly **17%** from 1988-1994 to 1999-2004.²



BY AGE 5,

ABOUT **60%**

of children will be affected by tooth decay.³



CHILDREN WITH ORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS ARE

THREE TIMES

more likely to miss school due to dental pain than children with no oral health problems.⁴

AAPD RECOMMENDS TAKING A CHILD FOR THEIR FIRST DENTAL VISIT BY THE AGE OF 1.⁵



DELAYING DENTAL CARE TO AGE 2 OR 3 CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON A CHILD'S ORAL HEALTH

40% OF PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS SURVEYED

are delaying their child's first dental visit until after age 2.⁶

More than half of parents and caregivers (53%) surveyed are not aware that pediatric dentists have two to three years of specialized training beyond dental school.⁶



UPON LEARNING ABOUT ADDITIONAL TRAINING,

NEARLY **100%**

are likely to seek out a pediatric dentist for their child.⁶



LESS THAN 1 IN 10 PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS SURVEYED ARE AWARE OF THE

DENTAL HOME CONCEPT:

an ongoing relationship with a primary dental care provider and patient in which oral health care is delivered in a comprehensive, continuously-accessible and family-centered manner.⁶

After learning about the concept, nearly **9 IN 10** parents indicate they are likely to take their child to a pediatric dentist.⁶



For more information, visit AAPD's consumer website at MYCHILDRENSTEETH.ORG or AAPD's professional website at AAPD.ORG.