



Australian Health and Hospitals Association
Chomping on Oral Health Reform

‘Lift the Lip’ a simple screening tool to
identify tooth decay in preschool children

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**Government
of South Australia**

SA Health

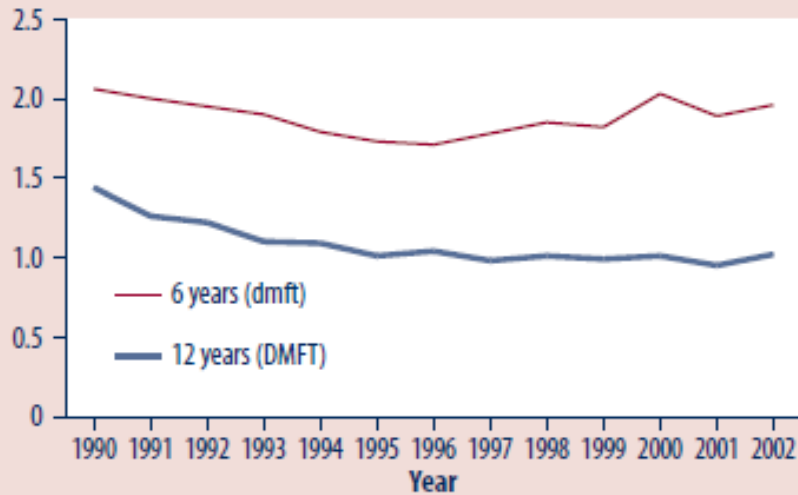


Presentation Outline

- > Background & Rationale
- > Aims
- > Process
- > Results
- > The Future

Dental Decay in Australia

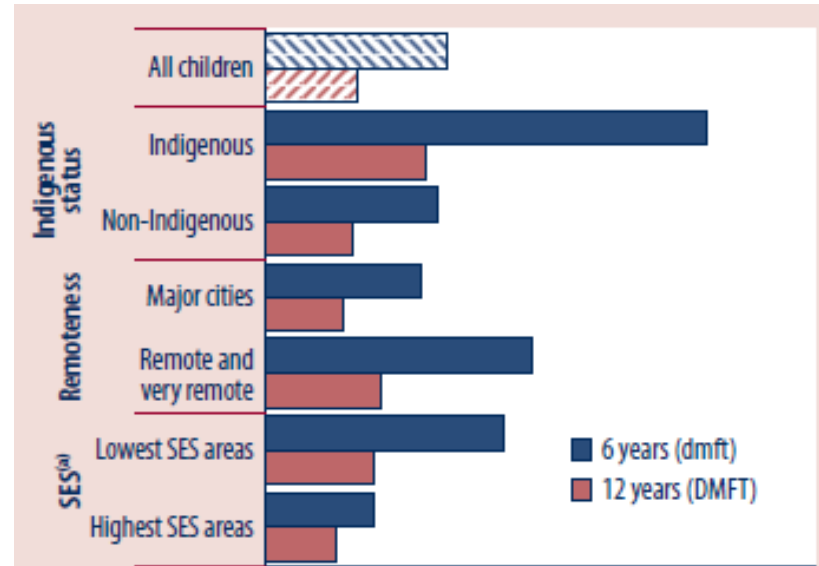
Mean dmft and DMFT



Note: Data for NSW are excluded due to a lack of representativeness of the sample. See AIHW DSRU: Armfield et al. 2007 for further information.

Source: Child Dental Health Survey 2002, unpublished data.

Figure 10.1: Mean number of decayed, missing or filled teeth among children aged 6 and 12 years, 1990–2002



(a) See Appendix 1 Methods for explanation of socioeconomic status (SES).

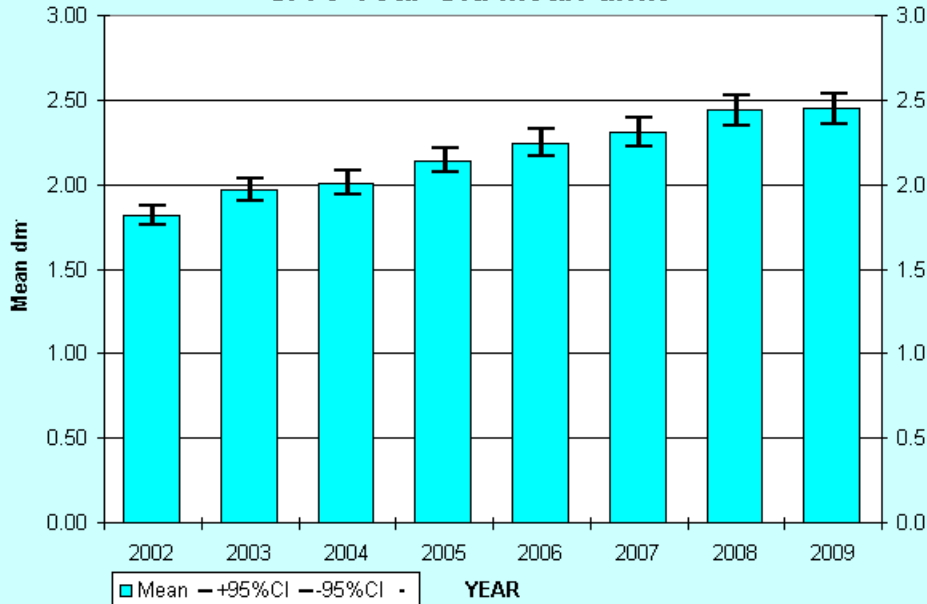
Note: Data for NSW are excluded due to a lack of representativeness of the sample. See AIHW DSRU: Armfield et al. 2007 for further information.

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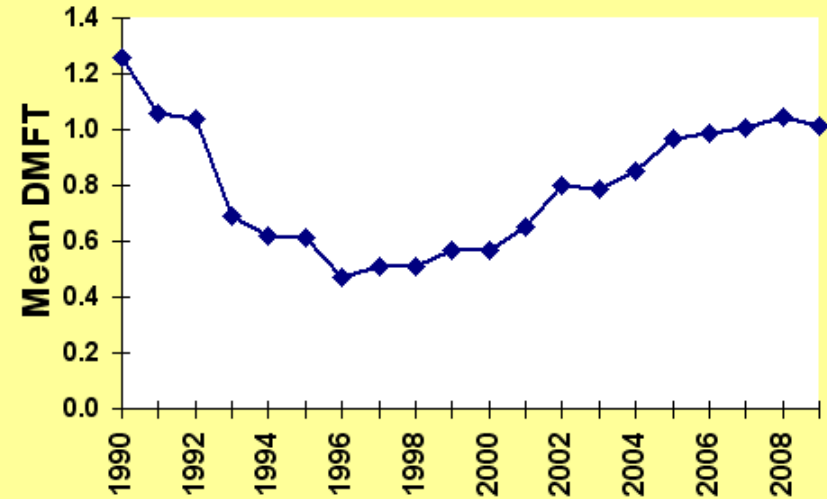
Figure 10.2: Mean number of decayed, missing or filled teeth among children aged 6 and 12 years, 2002

Dental Decay in South Australia

SA 6 Year-Old Mean dmft

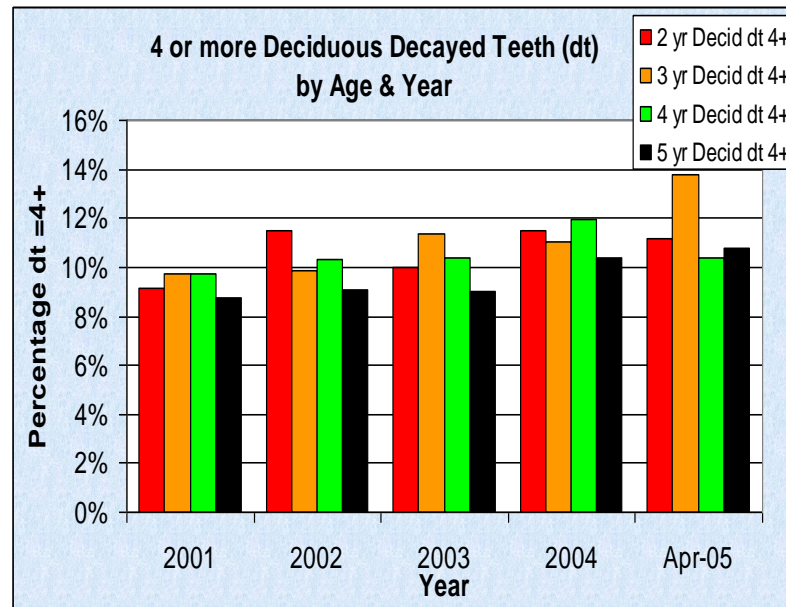


SA School Dental Service DMFT 12 year olds



Dental Caries in South Australia

		YEAR					
dt = 4+		2001	2002	2003	2004	Apr-05	
2 yr Decid dt	4+	9.1%	11.5%	10.0%	11.5%	11.2%	Percent
3 yr Decid dt	4+	9.7%	9.9%	11.4%	11.0%	13.8%	Percent
4 yr Decid dt	4+	9.7%	10.3%	10.4%	12.0%	10.4%	Percent
5 yr Decid dt	4+	8.8%	9.0%	9.0%	10.4%	10.8%	Percent



The problem: severe dental caries affecting young children





Early Childhood Caries is a complex disease with social, behavioural and biological determinants





Protective factors

- > Fluoridated water
- > Early detection
- > Pre school dental visits
- > Social determinants
- > Good oral health of carers
- > Diet
- > Oral hygiene

Rationale & Aim of Population Oral Health Program



Process for Lift the Lip

- > Screening for tooth decay involves simply lifting the top lip and checking the outer surface of the front teeth
- > If identified early, preventive measures can be undertaken to prevent the progress of decay



Lift the Lip Project

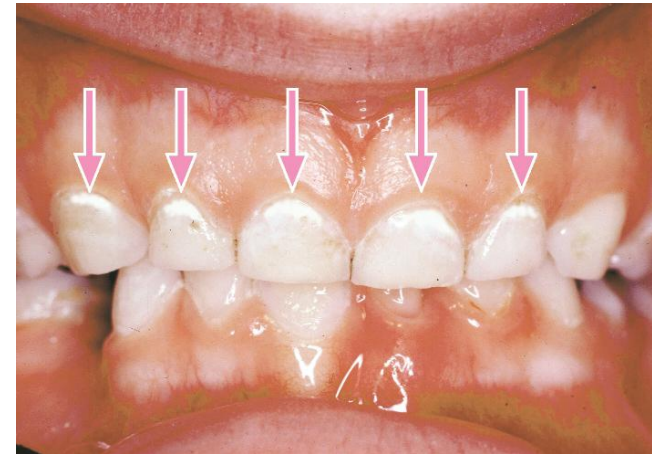
Healthy teeth

No referral required



Early signs of decay

White lines along the gum line can be the beginning of tooth decay. Please refer for a dental visit.



More advanced decay

Brown areas or decayed spots. Please refer for a dental visit.



SA Dental Service Referral → ECC

Unique code

Patient Details

GP/Nurse details

Select Private or Public

Parents Consent

Please complete details below:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Master

Parent/Guardian (name): _____

Child (name): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Health Assessment

Conducted by: _____ Signature: _____

(please print)

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Telephone Number: _____

In the opinion of the health assessor, a dental visit would be beneficial.

Dental check recommended

Does the parent/guardian want the child to attend the School Dental Service?

YES **Post this referral form in the reply paid envelope provided and give the parent/guardian a copy.**

OR **Fax this referral to SA Dental Service 8222 9020 and give the parent/guardian a copy.** School Dental Service staff will contact parent/guardian to make an appointment.

Does the parent/guardian want the child to attend a Private Dentist?

YES **Give this referral to the parent/guardian to take to the Private Dentist and post or fax a copy of the referral to SA Dental Service in the reply paid envelope.**

For names of Private Dentists in your area, phone the Australian Dental Association (SA Branch) on 8272 8111 or look under Dentists in the Yellow Pages.

Parent's/Guardian's Consent

I am happy for this information to be given to SA Dental Service for follow up and evaluation.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date: _____

SA Dental Service Use Only:

Date Received: _____



Government of South Australia
Central/Northern Adelaide
Health Service

SA.DENTAL.SERVICE

Duplicate - Parents Copy

Population Oral Health Project

> Medical Director Automated Referral Form

- Legibility
- Accuracy
- Efficiency

The logo consists of the letters 'MD' in a bold, red, 3D-style font with a slight shadow effect.

SA Health

End of Course of Care/FTA Letter

Dear **Sarah Smith**

Thank you for referring **Anne** to SA Dental Service.

Treatment is now complete for **Anne**

Anne still requires a dental appointment.

This is because

They missed their appointment/s

We have not been able to contact them

Please reinforce the importance of good oral health and the need to attend dental appointments when you next see **Anne**

Healthy Kids Check

Check oral health – teeth and gums

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

- Check hearing - including but not limited to:**
- conducting an ear examination
 - seeking parental/other concerns regarding the child's hearing or listening, following instructions or language
 - questioning any history of ear infections, ear discharge, recurrent or chronic otitis media
 - referring the child to an audiologist for a hearing assessment if appropriate

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

- Check oral health - teeth and gums (a potential tool could include Lift the Lip)**
- questioning whether the child has visited the dentist
 - questioning how often the child brushes their teeth

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

- Question toilet habits – including but not limited to:**
- questioning whether the child needs assistance or can use a toilet independently
 - questioning whether the child is a bed wetter

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION

- Note known or suspected allergies**

IDENTIFIED ISSUES	ACTION



Get Set 4 Life

Habits for Healthy Kids



Page 40 – Daily Care



Partnerships & Training

Partnerships with other agencies are key to the success of this program

Training

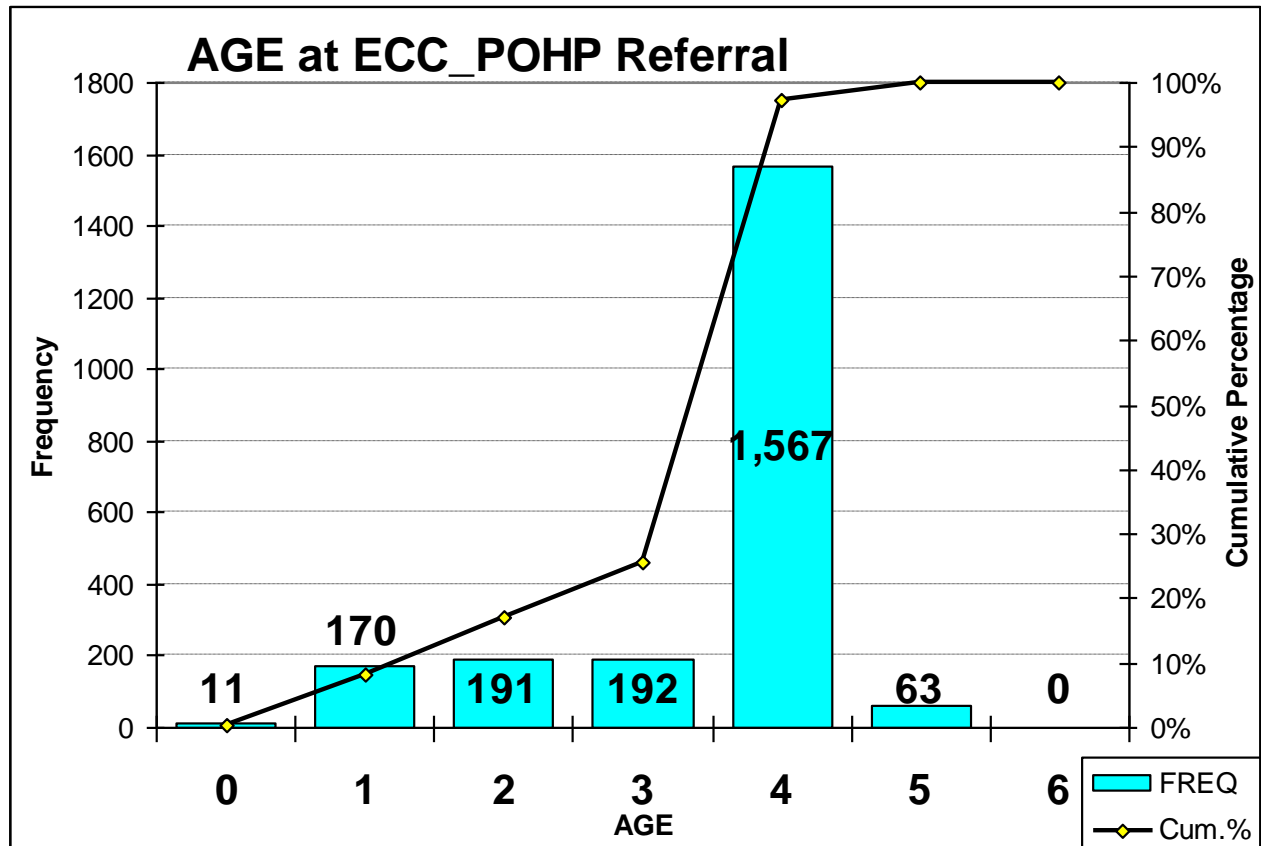
- >3 Oral Health Education evenings have been held for Divisions of GPs
- >Over 200 child and maternal health nurses
- >170 practice, immunisation nurses
- >Aboriginal health workers
- >Midwives in public hospitals have attended oral health in pregnancy information sessions
- >All School Dental staff
- >Migrant health staff, childcare centres



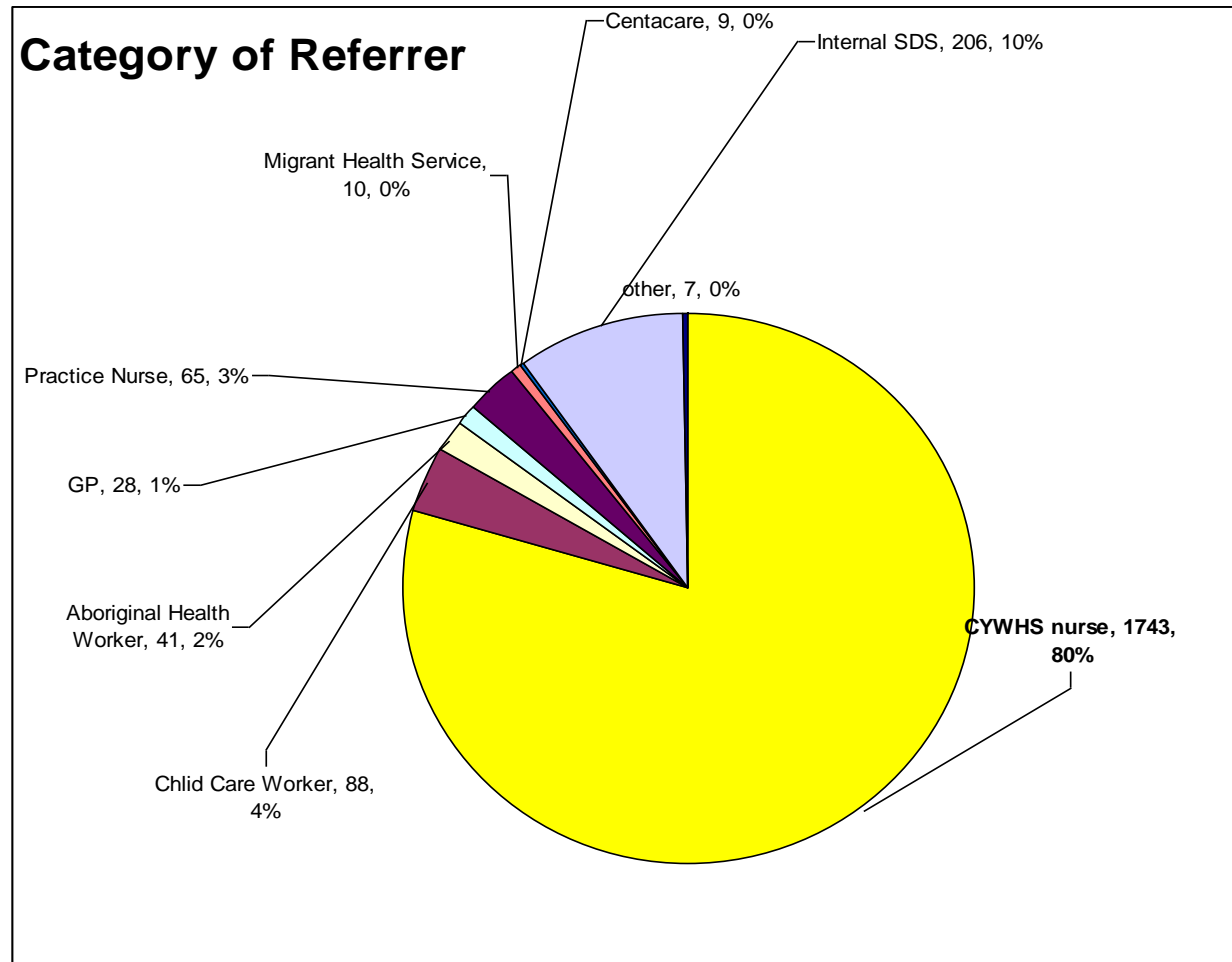
Results

- > 2,200 referrals to March 10
- > Mostly 4 year olds
- > Majority of referrals so far from nurses
- > Twice as much caries as the general school dental population
- > Higher percentage of Aboriginal children (10%) compared to general school dental population (4%)

Results - age



Results - referrers



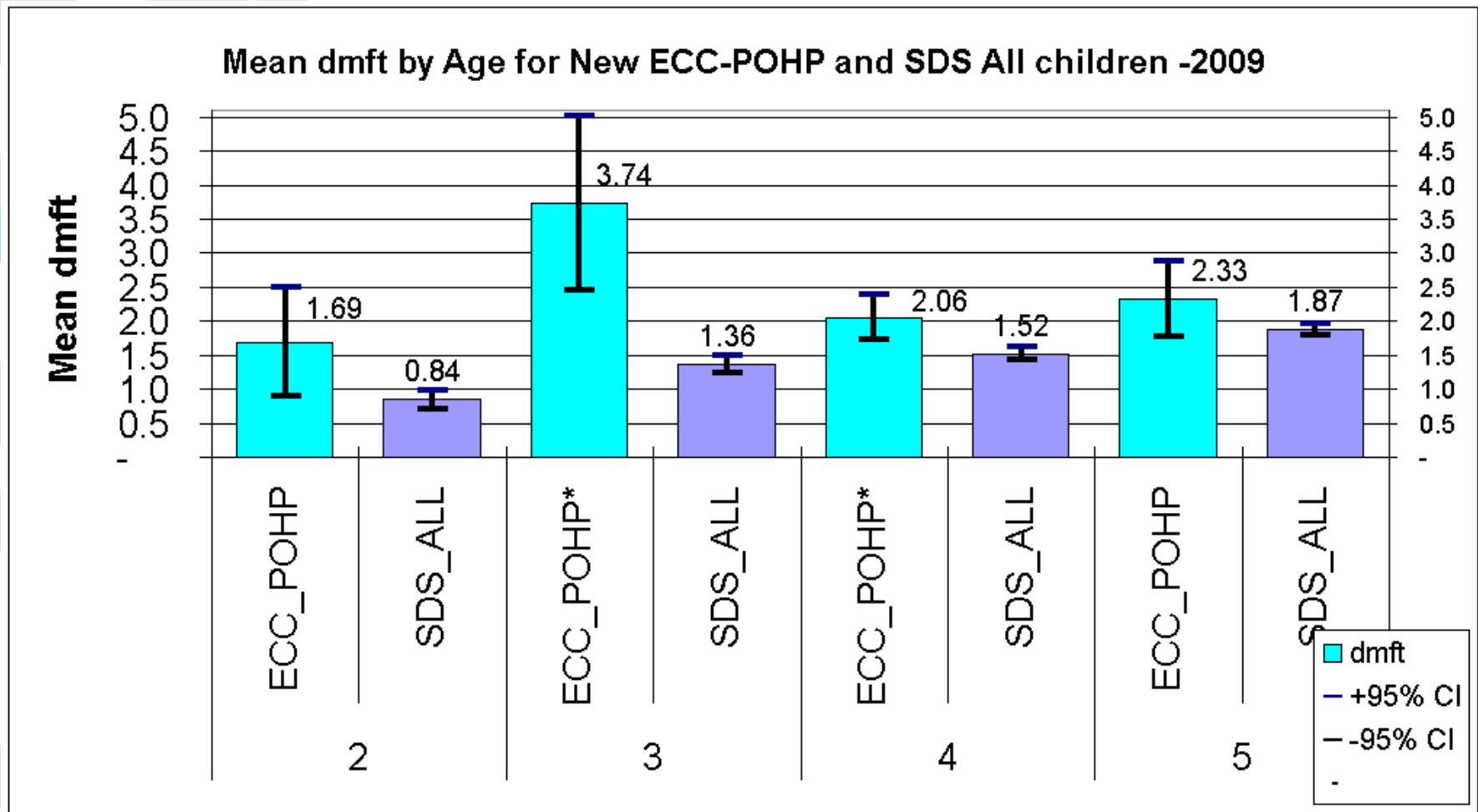


Time from Registration to School Dental Service First Visit

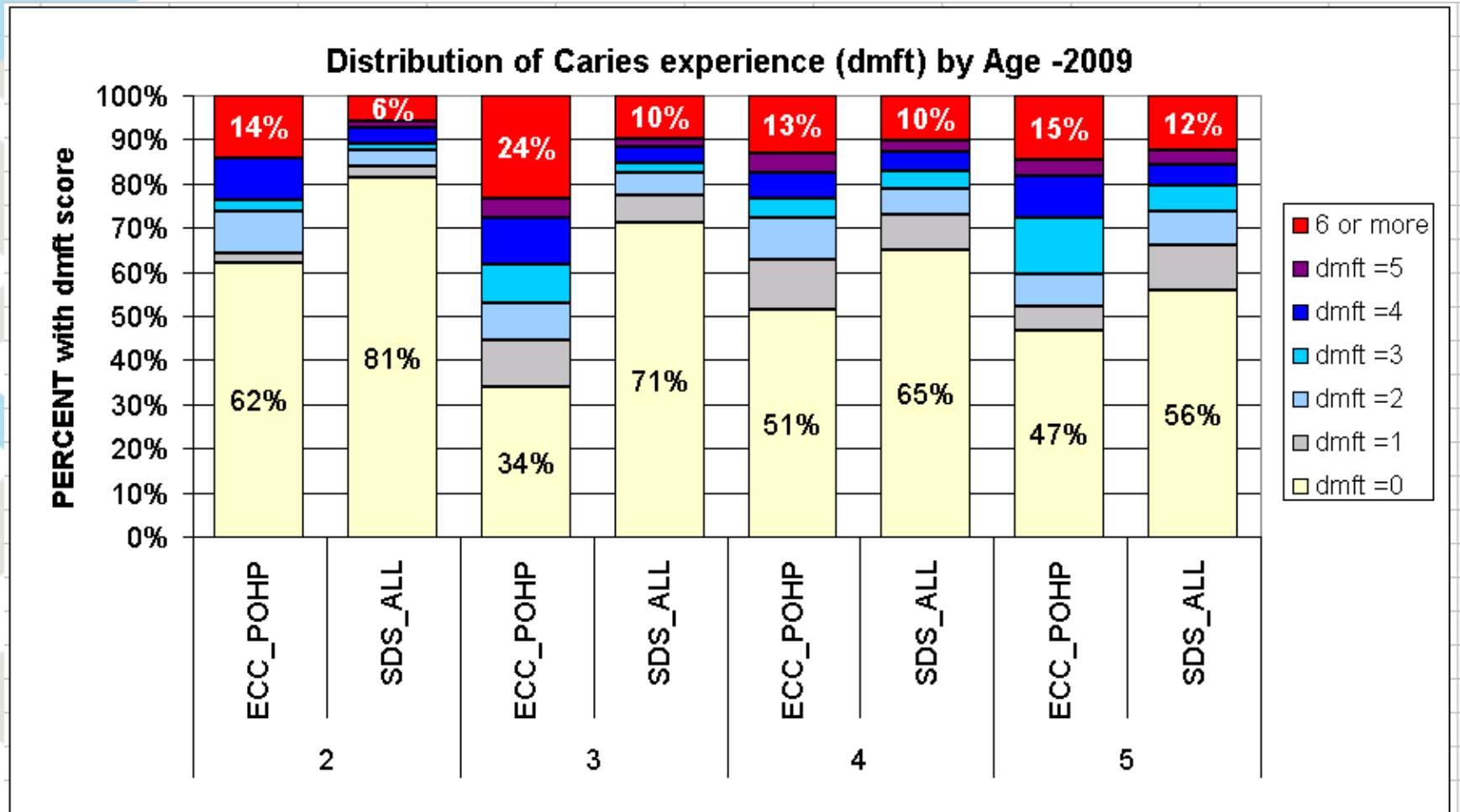
- > 53% are accessing School Dental Care within 5 weeks
- > 81% access dental care within 10 weeks of registration
- > 91% within 16 weeks
- > 4% take more than 6 mths to access School Dental Care

Mean decay experience

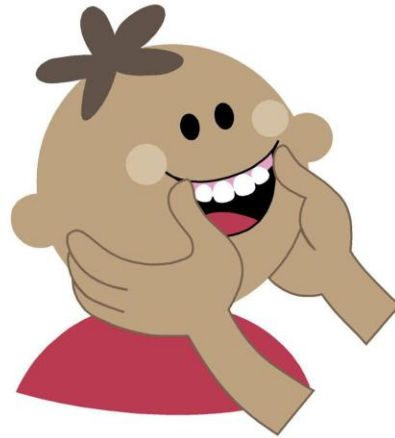
- > Statistically Significantly worse for ages 3 & 4 years



Decay Distribution

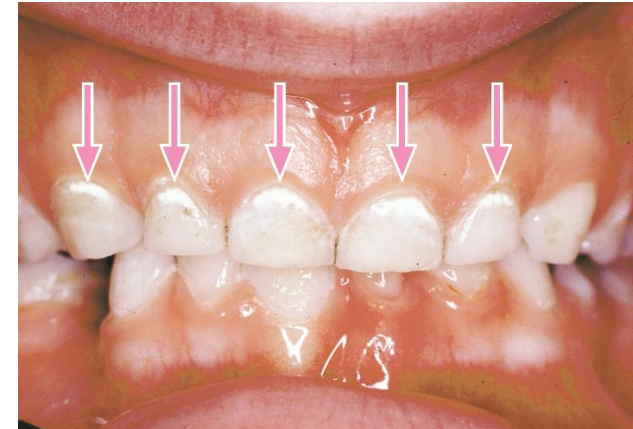


Lift the Lip



Lift your child's top lip to check for early signs of tooth decay.

Please seek dental advice if you notice any change in your child's teeth.



Cleaning your child's teeth

You can start cleaning your child's teeth with a clean cloth or a small, soft toothbrush.



Clean your child's teeth as soon as they come through.



Toothpaste

0 – 17 months no toothpaste

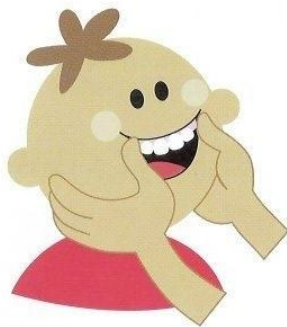


18 months – 5 years, use low fluoride children's toothpaste



Lift the lip

Lift your child's top lip once a month to check for early signs of tooth decay. White lines along the gum line can be the beginning of tooth decay. Please seek dental advice if you notice any changes in your child's teeth.



For more information contact

**SA Dental Service
Health Promotion Division**

8222 9016

www.sadental.sa.gov.au

**Children, Youth & Women's
Health Service**

Child and Youth Health

8303 1500

24 hr Parent Helpline 1300 364 100

Healthy Smile  Healthy Life

08/08

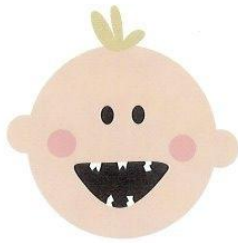
HP1

Give your child's teeth a healthy start



Government of South Australia
SA Health

Stop your child's teeth rotting!



Breastmilk is best



If you are not breastfeeding, use infant formula

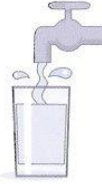
Around 6 months, your child can start to eat from a spoon. Start with smooth foods.



Give your child



Breastmilk or formula



Tap water after 6 months



Cow's milk after 1 year

Don't give your child



Soft drink



Fruit juice



Flavoured milk



Cordial



Coffee/Tea

If your child has a dummy, DO NOT put anything sweet on it.



Clean your child's dummy under running water NOT in your mouth. Avoid sharing spoons with your child.



If bottle feeding



Take the bottle away when your child has finished.



DON'T let your child keep sucking on the bottle too long. Give up the bottle by 1 year.



At 6 months your child can use a cup.

Put your child to bed WITHOUT a bottle





The future

- > Improve the oral health of 0-5 year olds
- > Increase types of health professional participating
- > Increase number of younger children being assessed
- > Oral health seen as an integral part of general health and well being to health professionals
- > Decrease in the number of admissions for general anaesthetic for dental treatment
- > Include program for pregnant women
- > Decreased financial burden to the health sector



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