



Oral Health Awareness Colorado!

Oral Health Awareness Colorado! Supports House Bill 1116

Did you know that 40% of new Army recruits could NOT be deployed due to their poor oral health status?

Colorado can make a difference! We must maximize the opportunity for dental care for those children most at risk and least likely to have access to oral health services. The Dental Assistance Program for children is one such opportunity.

- Currently the Dental Assistance Program for children does not have sufficient funds to provide preventative care to all eligible children
- Available funding allows the Program to only reach 43% of children in need of services
- The Dental Assistance Program:
 - provides sealants and treatment for decay primarily in schools;
 - reaches many of the 70% of Medicaid-eligible children who do not get dental care; and
 - provides services to those children most at risk for poor oral health.
- Dental disease and children- the facts:
 - 80% of dental disease is in the poorest 20% of children
 - 26% of Colorado children in kindergarten and the 3rd grade have untreated tooth decay
 - Colorado children lost 540,000 elementary school hours in 2007 due to poor oral health

What you can do- vote to eliminate the current ban on access to the general fund for additional resources.

Oral Health Awareness Colorado! is a coalition of professionals representing a wide range of public, private and non-profit organizations interested in advancing oral health care in Colorado. Its mission is to develop and promote strategies that achieve optimal oral health for all Coloradans.