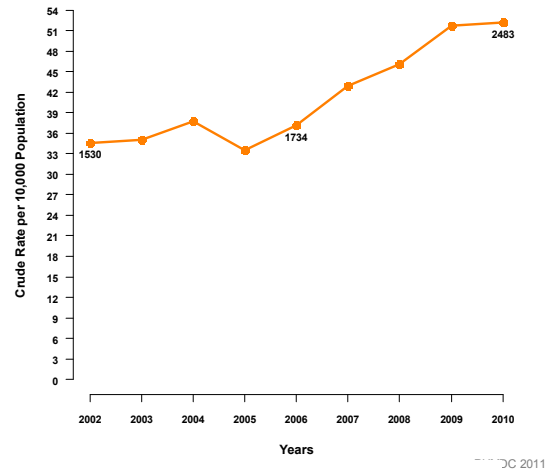


# Dental Disease: Dane County Data

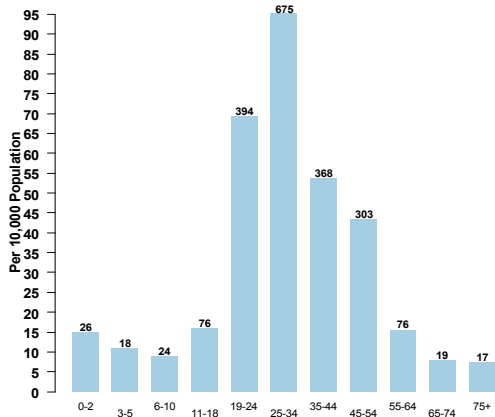
**Dental Disease is affecting the overall health of significant numbers of Dane County residents.**

- There has been an increase in the number of people, from Dane County, visiting the hospital emergency departments (EDs) for dental pain over the past decade; the most notable increase has been in the past three years (2008-2010). This is a costly burden, not only in health care dollars, but further strains our already overwhelmed hospital emergency departments.

ED Visits for Oral Health as Main Diagnosis  
Dane County 2002-2010

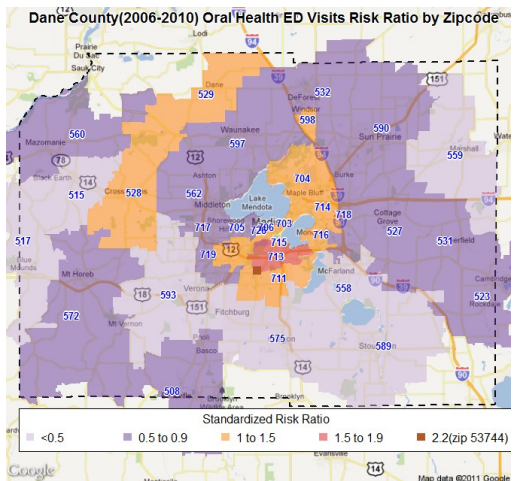


ED Visits for Oral Health as Main Diagnosis  
By Age and Average Annual Counts Dane County 2005-09

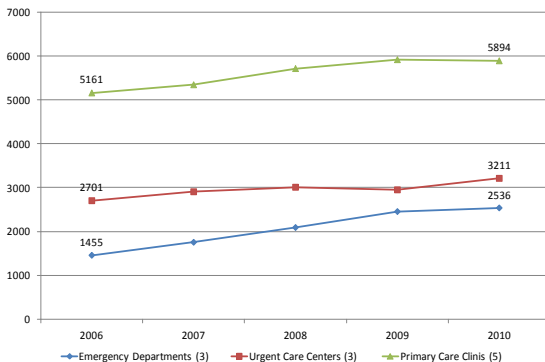


- The most frequent ED oral health diagnosis for Dane County residents was for infection, while the most frequent age group to visit the ED was 25-34 year-olds. Blacks/African Americans visited the ED for dental pain at a rate much higher than whites, Hispanics or other racial groups.

- The rates in some Dane County communities (identified by zip-code) are higher than expected (above Dane County average). Most notably, South Madison, followed by North and East Madison, Monona, Waunakee, Cross Plains and Village of Dane.



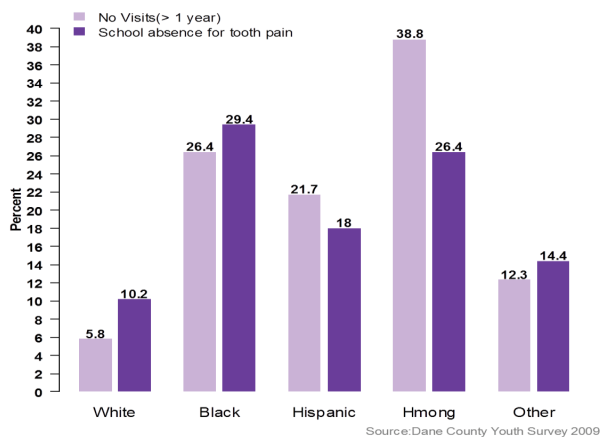
Oral Health Visits to Dane County Emergency Departments (ED),  
Urgent Care Centers (UCC) & Primary Care Clinics (PCC)



- In 2010, more than 11,000 visits were made to Dane County emergency departments, urgent care and primary care clinics for dental pain. For Dane County ED dental visits alone (2549 visits) the total charges were more than \$1.6 million in one year. This is an expensive, inefficient and inappropriate use of resources that provides only palliative care.

- Many patients return to the hospital emergency department (28%) and urgent care center (21%) for dental pain because the treatment they received only addressed pain or other symptoms—not the underlying oral health issue.

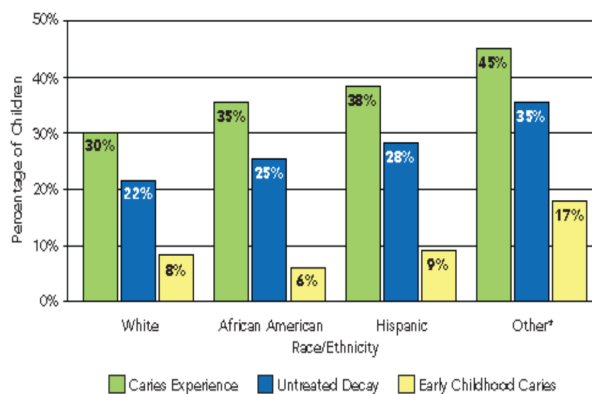
Dane County Youth Oral Health Indicators 2009 by Race/Ethnicity



- At the state level, there are disparities with race and income level. The rates of tooth decay are higher for children eligible for free & reduced meal programs. Non-Hispanic white children are less likely to have decay than African American, Hispanic and Asian. *[Healthy Smiles for a Healthy Start, Make your Smiles Count, WI Department of Health Services]*

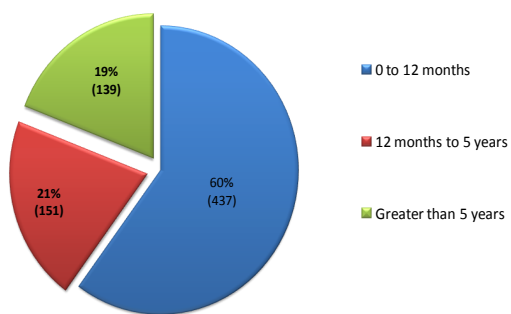
- In 2009, 14% of Dane County middle & high school students were absent from school due to tooth or gum pain and the rates were higher among students of color than white students (10%). The rates were highest among African American (29%) and Hmong (26%). *[Dane County Youth Assessment]*
- In 2009, 73% of the calls to Public Health Madison & Dane County, made by the public that have dental pain and not able to access to dental care, were for those residing in Madison (especially those living in South Madison and North/East Madison) and 27% were from outlying Dane County Communities (especially Sun Prairie and Stoughton). *[Public Health Madison & Dane County]*

Percentage of Wisconsin's Head Start Children with Caries Experience, Untreated Decay and Early Childhood Caries by Race/Ethnicity, 2008-09



\* Other includes: American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, multi-racial and race/unknown  
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Healthy Smiles for a Healthy Head Start

Older Adult Oral Health Survey  
Time Since Last Dental Appointment



- Nearly one-fourth of the 700 Dane County older adult (60 years and older) survey respondents reported that they had oral health problems making it difficult to eat. Almost one-third have had all their teeth removed. In 2011, 40% reported that they had not been to a dentist in the past year, citing due to their inability to afford care. *[Older Adult Oral Health Survey]*

- Oral Health is critical to overall health. Untreated tooth decay and gum disease are linked to chronic conditions like heart disease, stroke, diabetes and low birth weight babies. For children dental disease can interfere with school success and for adults it can result in loss of time from work.
- The use of dental sealants, drinking fluoridated water, using toothpaste with fluoride, limiting sugar intake, and having access to dental care all assist in the prevention of oral diseases.

For further questions about data, including original charts, contact Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne at 444-3542 or email [lbullardcawthorne@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:lbullardcawthorne@publichealthmdc.com)