



# South Dakota Head Start & Early Head Start Oral Health

South Dakota Head Start Association  
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## Dental Services

According to Healthy People 2020, the goal for oral health is to “prevent and control oral and craniofacial diseases, conditions, and injuries, and improve access to preventive services and dental care.”

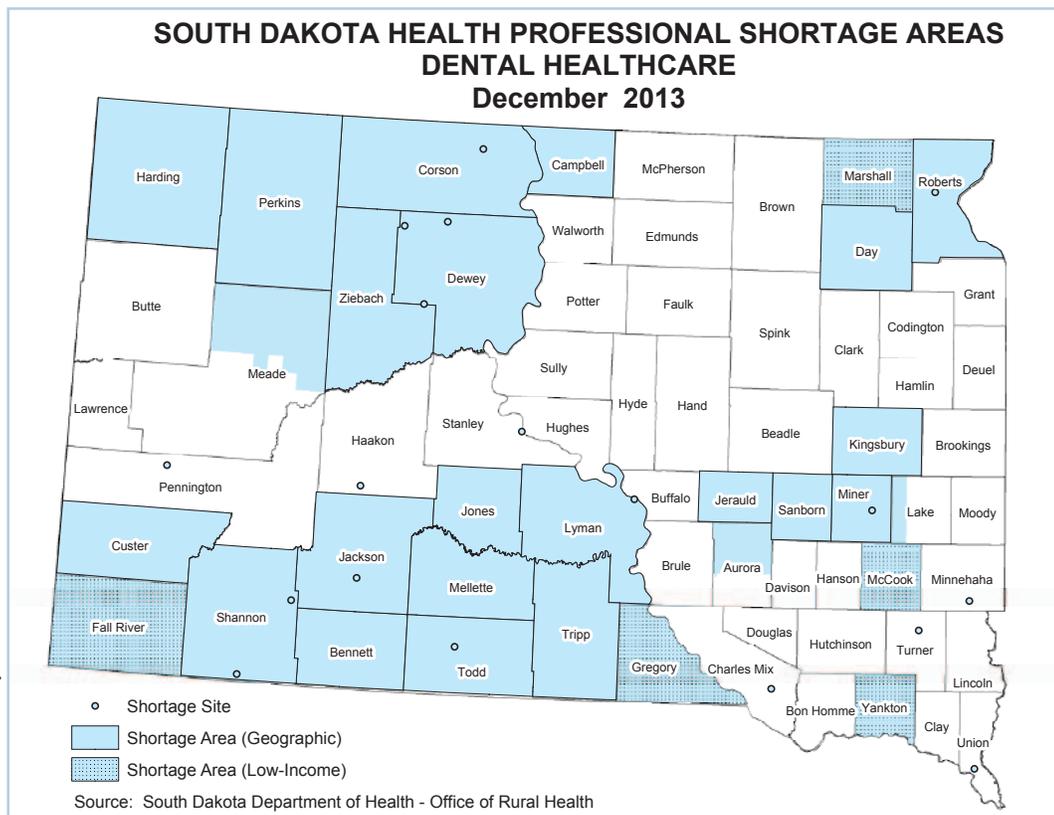
Three objectives, directed at young children, to achieve the goal are to:

- Reduce the proportion of children aged 3 to 5 years with dental caries in their primary teeth.
- Reduce the proportion of children aged 3 to 5 years with untreated dental decay in their primary teeth.
- Increase the proportion of children aged 3 to 5 years who have received dental sealants on one or more of their primary molar teeth.

The map shows, 24 South Dakota counties (whole or part) were designated geographic shortage areas. Five counties were also designated low-income shortage areas for dental healthcare<sup>1</sup>.

Tooth decay (dental caries) affects children in the United States more than any other chronic infectious disease. Untreated tooth decay causes pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. The good news is that tooth decay and other oral diseases that can affect children are preventable. The combination of dental sealants and fluoride has the potential to nearly eliminate tooth decay in school-age children<sup>2</sup>.

Many Head Start children and families utilize the Ronald McDonald® Care Mobile, a dental office on wheels, which provides restorative and preventive dental care to underserved children across South Dakota. The Care Mobile began in 2004 and has provided more than \$10 million in dental care to more than 22,000 children in 74 different South Dakota communities<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>See SD Rural Health website: <http://doh.sd.gov/providers/RuralHealth/>

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Website [http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/children\\_adults/child.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/children_adults/child.htm) accessed 1/06/14.

<sup>3</sup>Delta Dental of South Dakota. Website <http://www.deltadentalsd.com/> accessed 1/24/14.

Data Sources: Data are from the Head Start Program Information Reports 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013. Unless otherwise noted, figures for are all Head Start and Early Head Start programs in South Dakota, including Tribal programs.

### The Head Start / State Collaboration Office - (<http://doe.sd.gov/oess/headstart.aspx>)

The Head Start / State Collaboration Office, at the Department of Education, established in 1990, is the state's central point of contact between South Dakota Head Start programs and State agencies. Its purpose is to disseminate information about Head Start, assist in development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships between Head Start and the State, assist with interagency agreements for services and transitions from early childhood into the public schools, collaborate with other agency initiatives, and help build early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services for all low-income children.

## Dental Services

Data for the 15 South Dakota Head Start programs show a decrease in the 2013 program year in the percentage of preschool children who have received dental preventative care (fluoride application, cleaning, sealant application, etc.) and preschool children who completed oral health exams.

The percentage of Head Start enrolled children who have been diagnosed as needing dental treatment decreased slightly in 2013 from the previous year and is still below the percentages for 2009 and 2010.

The percentage of Head Start children who received or are receiving dental treatment increased from the previous year to 74%.

### Dental Services Comparison South Dakota, Nation, Region 8\*, & Region 11\*\*

The chart compares South Dakota with Regions 8 and 11 and the nation on dental services. South Dakota has a higher percentages than Regions 8 and 11 and the nation for children continuous access to dental care at enrollment and at the end of enrollment year. However, South Dakota has a lower percentage than Regions 8 and 11 and the nation for children who received dental preventative care and children who completed an oral health examination.

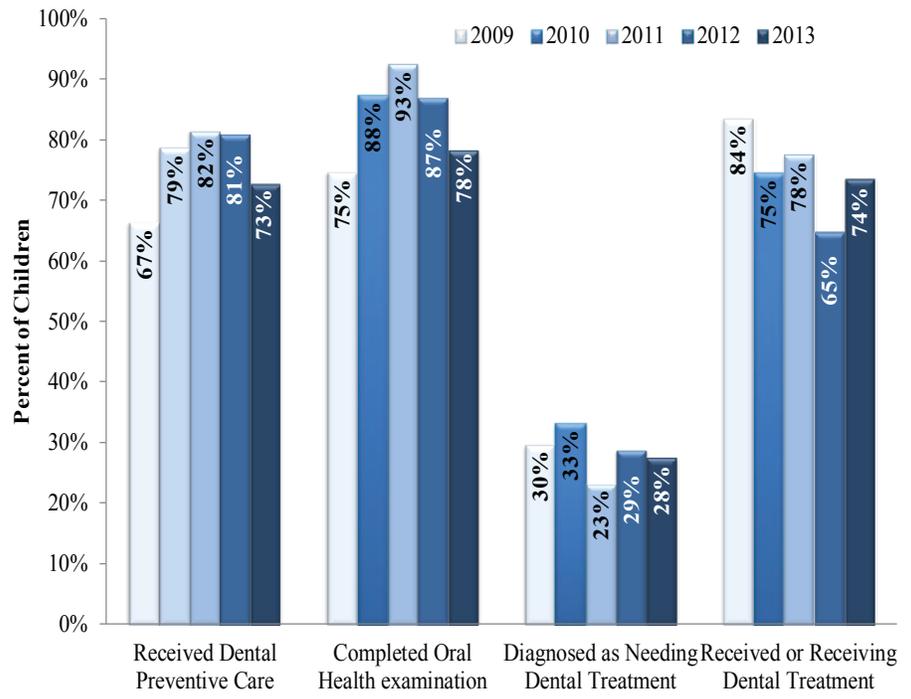
South Dakota had a higher percentage than Region 8 and the nation for children diagnosed as needing dental treatment. The percentage for Region 11 was slightly higher than South Dakota.

For children who received or are receiving dental treatment, South Dakota had a lower percent than Region 8 and the nation and a lower percent than Region 11.

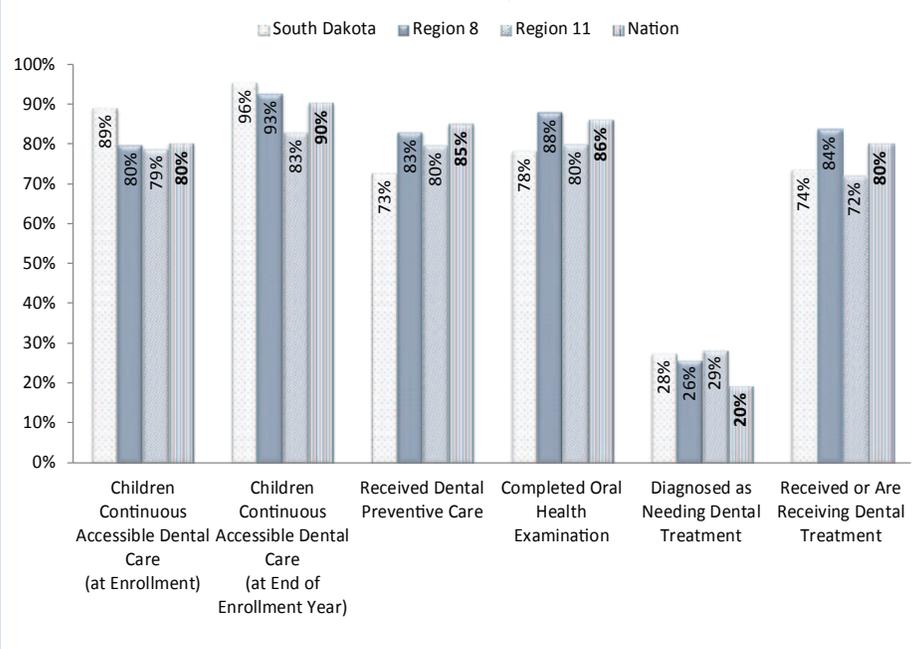
\*The data for Region VIII is for the 8 programs under Region VIII jurisdiction, which include these states: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, & Wyoming.

\*\*The data for Region 11 is for the seven programs under Region 11 jurisdiction, which includes HS/EHS grantees serving American Indian/Alaska Native Tribes throughout the nation.

## Preschool Children's Dental Services, 2009-2013



## South Dakota Compared to Region 8, Region 11 and the Nation Dental Services, 2013



## South Dakota Head Start Association (<http://sdheadstart.org>)



The South Dakota Head Start Association, established in 1989, is to coordinate and conduct activities designed to enhance awareness of Head Start in South Dakota, to be a support link between local, regional and National Head Start programs, to develop joint policy positions and statements which reflect a consensus of the opinions of Head Start Parents, Staff, Directors, and Friends, to establish communication, cooperation and an action network between head Start Directors, Staff, Parents, and Friends within the State of South Dakota, to conduct training on a statewide basis for Head Start parents, Staff, Directors, and Friends and to coordinate efforts with other interested groups.

**Our Mission:** The South Dakota Head Start Association is a leading voice supporting the work of Head Start programs and their partners through education, advocacy, training and networking for quality early childhood education and services to families. **Our Vision:** To be a positive voice, a powerful advocate and promoter of quality programs for children, families, and communities in South Dakota.

