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Oral health disparities exist for Arizona 3rd graders, especially for those among certain racial and ethnic groups and by socioeconomic status.

# State of Arizona Disparities Among 3rd Grade Students



64% of Arizona 3rd graders have Decay Experience



of Arizona 3rd graders have Untreated Tooth Decay



of Arizona 3rd graders need Dental Sealants

### **Disparities by Family Income**

**Family Income** 

**With Decay Experience** 

**With Untreated Tooth Decay** 

**Needing Dental Sealants** 



Children from low income families



families





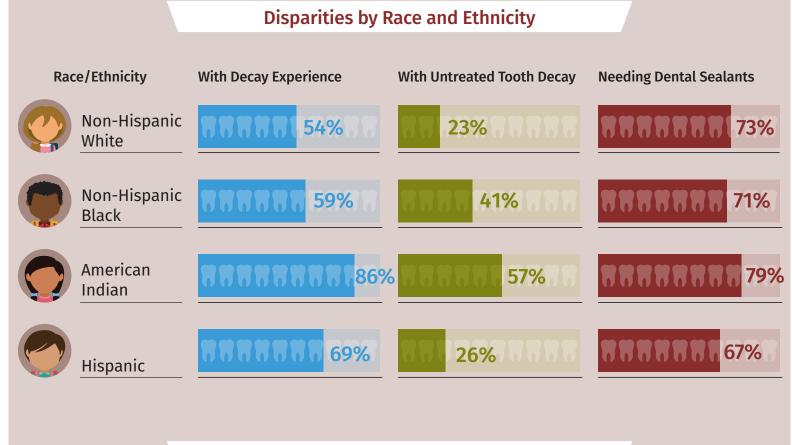








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### **Disparities by Health Insurance Status**



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## WHY?

#### **Access to Health Services**



**Availability** 



Cost



Insurance Coverage



Language

#### Individual Factors



Dietary Choices



Oral Hygiene



Transportation



**Social Factors** 

Built Environment



Norms & **Attitudes** 



# The Good News:

Most tooth decay can be prevented.

Interventions such as community water fluoridation and school-based dental sealant programs can help reduce the number of children who experience tooth decay.

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### **Community Water Fluoridation**

Reduces and aids in preventing tooth decay among different socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups.



**School-Based Dental Sealant Programs** 

Provide sealants to children who may not receive routine dental care.

#### **Sealants**



Thin coatings applied to the tiny grooves on the chewing surfaces of the teeth thereby

keeping out food and bacteria that can cause tooth decay.



These programs include children at highest risk for tooth decay: those from low-income families and certain racial and ethnic groups.