



South Dakota Head Start & Early Head Start Oral Health

South Dakota Head Start Association
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Dental Services

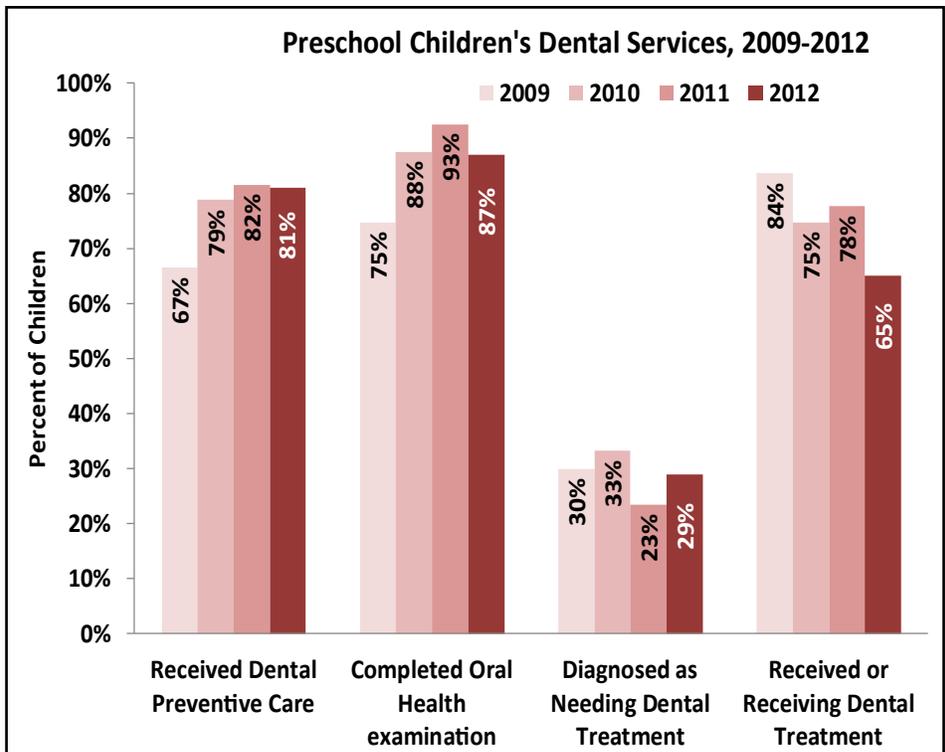
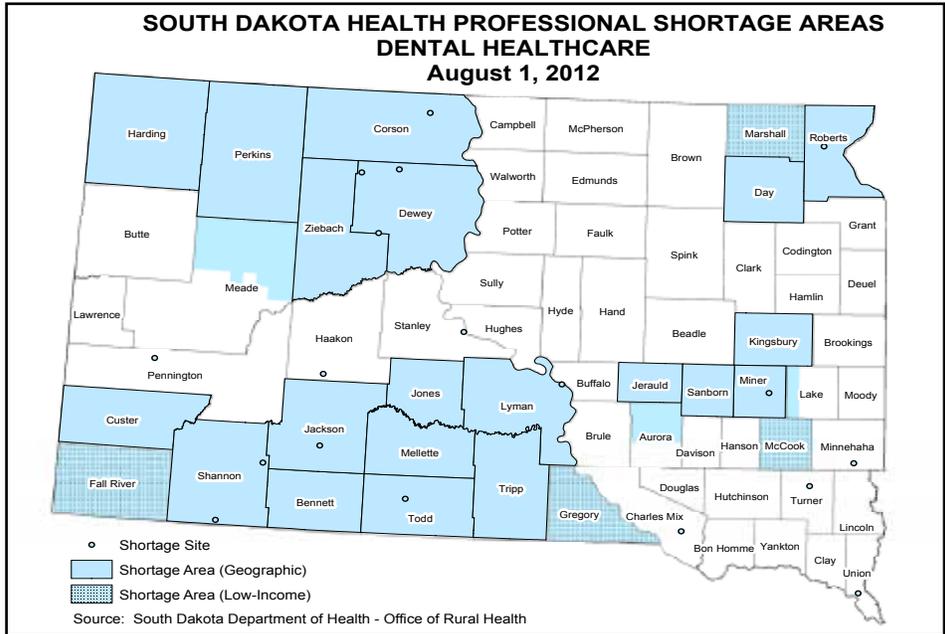
Tooth decay (dental caries) affects children in the United States more than any other chronic infectious disease. Untreated tooth decay causes pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning¹.

Oral health care continues to be an area of great concern for South Dakotans. Tooth decay is preventable, however the shortage of resources has led to a prevalence of the disease especially among children living in low income families.

As of August 2012 in South Dakota, 22 counties (whole or part) were designated geographic shortage areas and four counties were designated low-income shortage areas for dental healthcare² (see map).

Data for all 15 South Dakota Head Start programs show a slight decrease in the 2012 program year in the percentage of preschool children who have received dental preventative³ care. There was a larger decrease from the previous year for preschool children who completed oral health exams, and received dental treatment.

The percentage of Head Start enrolled children who have been diagnosed as needing dental treatment increased in 2012 from the previous year but is still below the percentages for 2009 and 2010.



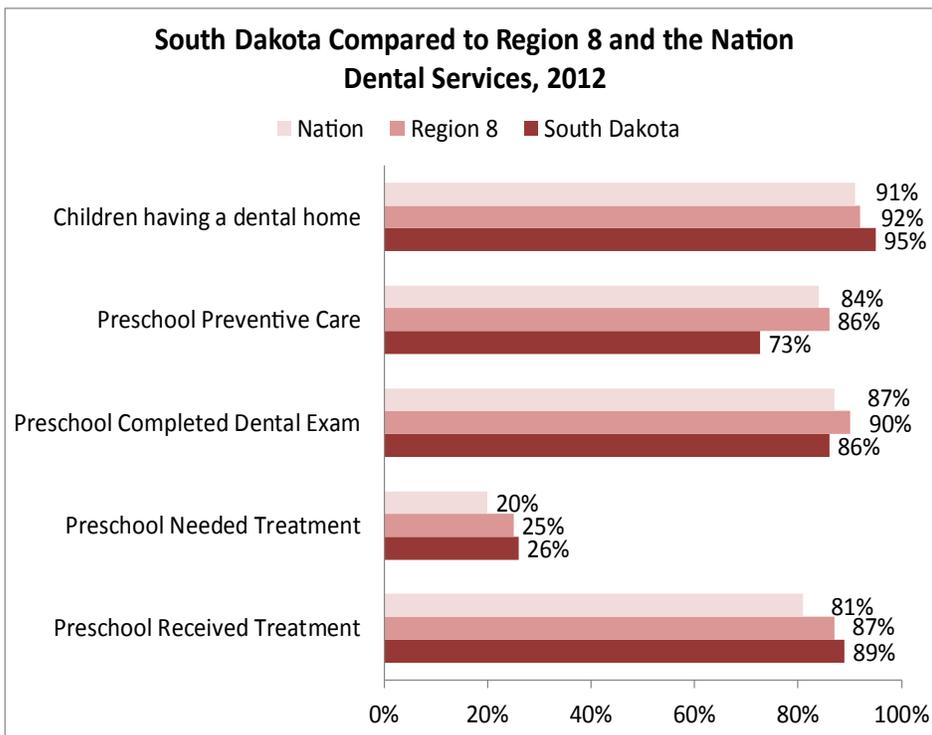
¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Website <http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/topics/child.htm> accessed 1/29/13.

²See SD Rural Health website: <http://doh.sd.gov/RuralHealth/Documents/Dental.pdf>

³Preventive care includes fluoride application, cleaning, sealant application, etc.

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

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.



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.”

Two objectives to achieve this 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.

Dental Services Comparison South Dakota, Nation, Region 8*

The graph on the left compares South Dakota, Region 8, and the Nation data for Head Start agencies. South Dakota is above the Nation and Region 8 in three areas: children having a dental home, preschool needed treatment, and preschool received treatment.

South Dakota is below Region 8 and the Nation for preschool preventive care and preschool completed dental exam.

**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 federal Office of Head Start determines the Regions throughout the nation.*

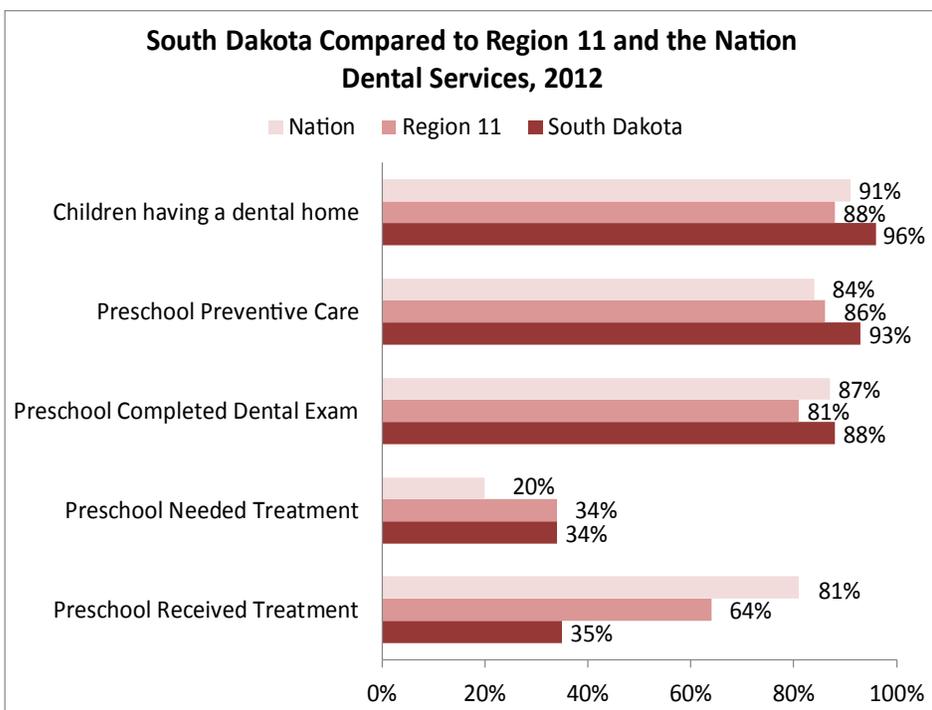
Dental Services Comparison South Dakota, Nation, Region 11*

The graph on the right compares South Dakota, Region 11, and National data. South Dakota is above both the Nation and other Region 11 agencies for children having a dental home, preschool preventive care, and preschool completed exam.

Preschool needed treatment data show South Dakota agencies above the National and the same as other Region 11 agencies.

South Dakota lags behind the Nation and Region 11 in preschool received treatment.

**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.*



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

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.

