

ORAL DISEASE IS NO SMILING MATTER



ORAL DISEASES & CONDITIONS ARE SERIOUS

- Dental decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, 5-times more common than asthma.
- Cleft lip / cleft palate is the 4th most common birth defect.
- Oral cancers are associated with one of the lowest 5-year survival rates of all cancers.
- Injuries to structures in and around the mouth are among the most common of all injuries in children and adolescents.

ORAL HEALTH IMPACTS OVERALL HEALTH

- Tooth decay and gum and bone disease of the mouth (“periodontitis”) are infectious diseases. They progressively become more serious and difficult to treat. When left untreated even for a short period of time they begin to negatively affect the entire body.
- Oral bacteria can cause or seriously worsen infections throughout the body, particularly in individuals with weakened immune systems.
- Dental decay, and gum and bone disease of the mouth have been linked to:
 - Low birth weight
 - Cardiovascular conditions
 - Cancer
 - Diabetes
 - Poor nutrition
 - Speech impairments
 - Psychosocial problems.

ORAL HEALTH REFLECTS OVERALL HEALTH

- Ulcerations and other lesions in the mouth are associated with and may be the first signs of:
 - Diabetes
 - HIV Infection
 - Kidney Disease
 - Several different cancers
 - Measles, Chicken Pox
 - Many Other Medical Problems.