

Oral Health and New Mexico's Children



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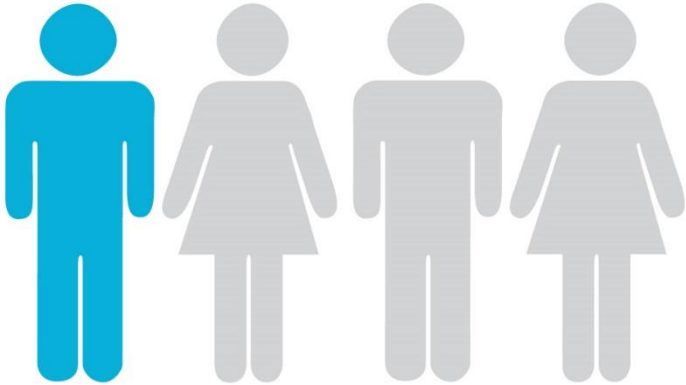
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New Mexico Voices for Children

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Thousands of Children in New Mexico Suffer Needlessly from Dental Disease

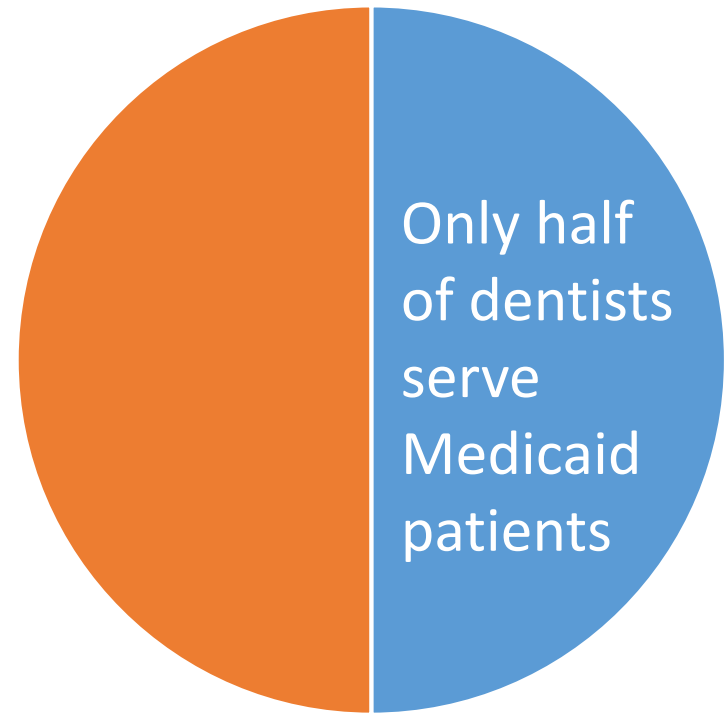
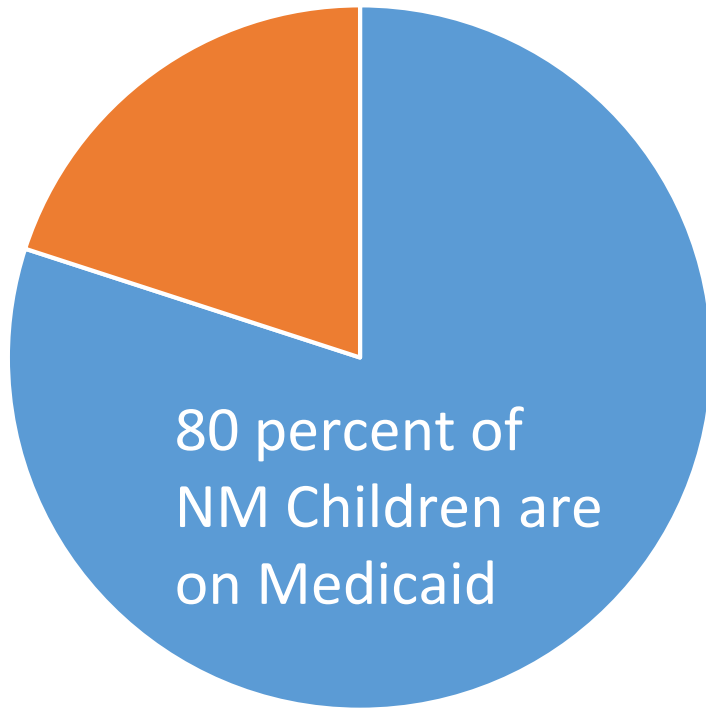


Nearly one-in-four NM children between 1st and 6th grade had untreated dental disease

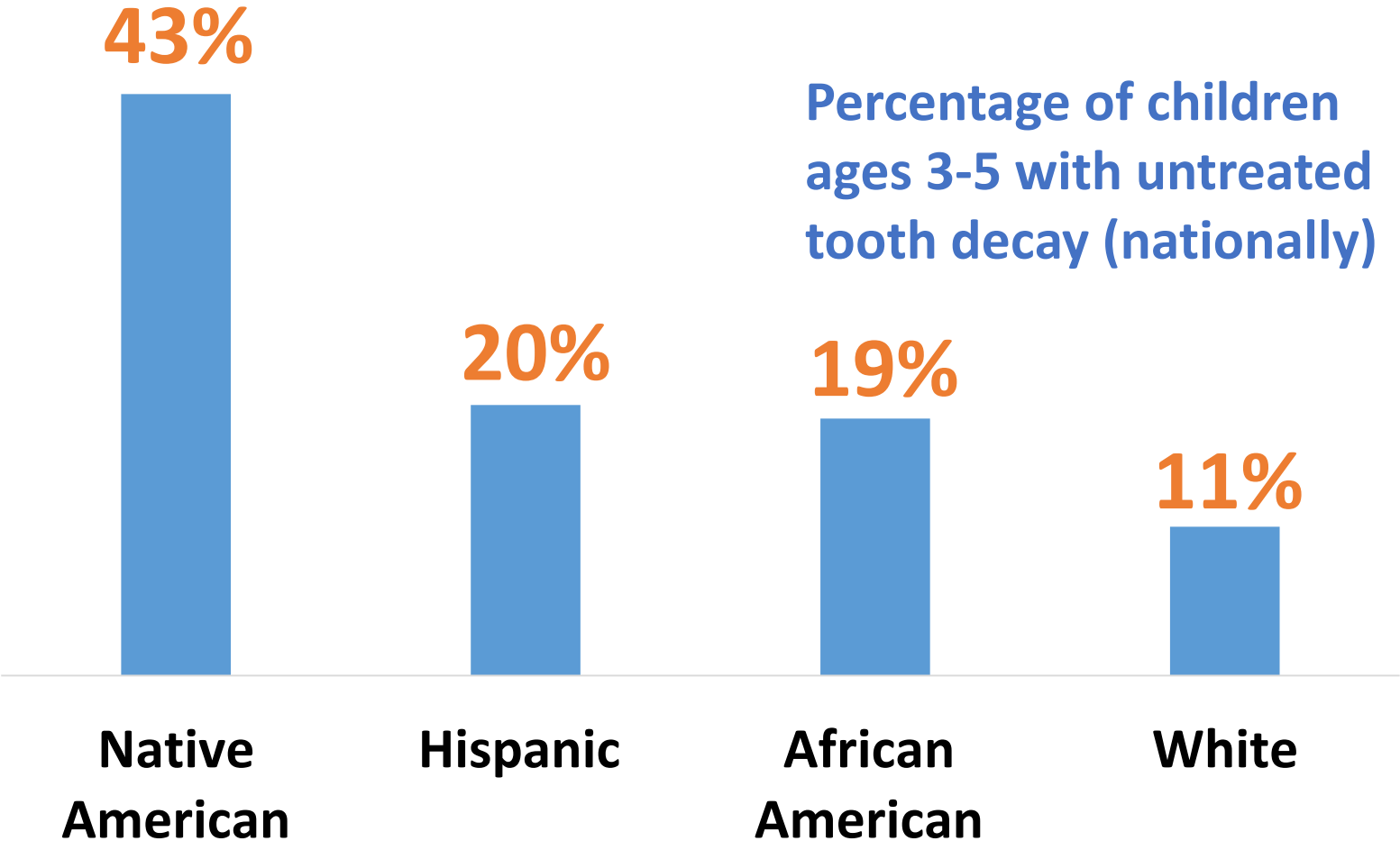
Tooth decay (cavities) is one of the most common chronic conditions of childhood in the United States and in New Mexico and is the most common unmet health need for kids.

Untreated tooth decay can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. It can even cause death.

Large Numbers of New Mexico's Children Are Not Getting the Dental Care They Need



Certain Children Are at Particular Risk for Lacking Access to Dental Care and Increased Dental Disease



Children with Poor Dental Health Struggle to Learn

- Students with toothaches were almost 4 times more likely to have a low grade point average.
- About 11% of students with inaccessible needed dental care missed school compared with 4% of those with access
- Parents averaged 2.5 absent days from work or school per year because of their children's dental problems.

[Source: American Journal of Public Health \(2012\)](#)