



DELTA DENTAL OF MINNESOTA

The Importance of Preventive Dental Care for Children

Our focus is to help stop oral health problems before they start. Preventive dental care will help you maintain a great smile for a lifetime and consist of:

- cleanings
- exams
- fluoride treatments
- sealants

ORAL HEALTH QUESTIONS?

Visit Delta Dental’s online **Oral Health Library** featuring a database of comprehensive articles and definitions:

www.oralhealth.deltadental.com

Preventive dental care starts with YOU:

- brush 2 minutes twice a day
- floss daily
- visit your dentist regularly

Delta Dental’s Preventive Dental Care Study, the largest claims study of its kind, found that many individuals at higher risk for tooth decay or periodontal disease aren’t getting proper preventive dental care. Most dental plans are designed to cover preventive care to protect against more painful, time consuming and expensive restorative care. In the findings below, many of these at-risk individuals are simply not taking advantage of their benefits.

Parents are encouraged to make use of preventive treatments to reduce future oral health issues, and the cost and discomfort associated with them.



One-third of children ages 6-18 are at higher risk for tooth decay. More than **70%** of those children did not receive two fluoride treatments per year.



More than **60%** of high-risk children ages 6-9 did not receive sealants on their first molars.

More than **80%** of high-risk children ages 10-14 did not receive sealants on their second molars.

Delta Dental’s Preventive Dental Care Study is a landmark analysis of 96 million national dental claims revealing the disparity between recommended preventive dental care and the actual behavior of insured patients.

Preventive care is essential to keeping children’s mouths healthy and it’s also good for grown-up wallets—preventing or addressing issues before they get worse is much less expensive than treating severe dental problems.

Preventive care is often covered with no or a low deductible under most Delta Dental plans. If you haven’t already, be sure to get your child’s regular dental checkup scheduled.

FIND A DELTA DENTAL NETWORK DENTIST

It’s easy to see if your dentist participates in the Delta Dental PPOSM or Delta Dental Premier[®] network. Visit our website at www.deltadentalmn.org and select “Find a Dentist” or call Customer Service at **1.800.553.9536**.

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