51% of New York adults said they have lost one or more teeth to decay or gum disease.1

Outside of New York City, less than half the state’s population has access to community fluoridated water.6

1 in 4 3rd-graders in New York state has untreated decay.2

32 percent of low-income children had untreated decay, compared with only 15 percent of children in higher-income families.2

61 percent of children on Medicaid did not see a dentist in New York in 2012.3 Individuals with fewer years of education, lower incomes, minorities and younger adults are less likely to visit a dentist.5

Over time, treating severe early childhood cavities can cost up to $10,000 a child.8

The total spending on treating severe early childhood cavities in 2008 equaled $31 million in the state of New York.9

Solutions

Cost per child per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community water fluoridation</td>
<td>72¢ per child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride toothpaste</td>
<td>$6–$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed fluoride supplements</td>
<td>$37 per child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionally applied fluoride gel (for children over 7)</td>
<td>$66 per child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionally applied fluoride varnish (four treatments a year for children 7 and younger)</td>
<td>$120 per child</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over time, treating severe early childhood cavities can cost up to $10,000 a child.8

The total spending on treating severe early childhood cavities in 2008 equaled $31 million in the state of New York.9

6 Personal communication with Dr. Jay Kumar, New York state dental director, Feb. 4, 2014.
11 Ibid. Note: The original figure ($23.63) was corrected in a subsequent edition of this journal and clarified to be $23.65. See: “Letters to the Editor,” Public Health Reports (November–December 2010), 125, 788.