

## Survey questions

### Poll 10 – Child oral health: Habits in Australian homes

The below questions were reported on in the tenth RCH National Child Health Poll – Child oral health: Habits in Australian homes.

Healthy teeth and gums are an important part of a child's overall health. Different people have different habits and understanding about teeth and oral health. We are interested in learning about how you care for your children's teeth and oral health.

#### Question 1

Thinking about children in general, in your opinion, at what age should children first visit a dentist for a check-up?

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, *Children don't ever need to attend the dentist for a check-up, Not sure*

#### Question 1b

Why did you select age [answer from previous question]?

*Please select all that apply.*

- Child's doctor suggested it
- Dentist suggested it
- Read it in parenting book/information
- That's when I first went to the dentist myself
- Advice from friends/family
- Advice found on the internet
- Child health nurse suggested it
- Other, please say...

#### Question 2

Has your child ever been to a dentist? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

#### Question 2b

How old was your child when they first visited the dentist? BY CHILD

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

### Question 2c

What was the main reason for your child's first visit to the dentist? BY CHILD

*Routine check-up, Toothache or pain, Injury (e.g. broken, knocked out, or dislodged tooth), Concerns about holes in teeth, Concerns about discolouration or the appearance of teeth, Concerns about the growth of teeth, Other, please say...*

### Question 2d

What was the main reason for your child's first visit to the dentist? BY CHILD

Why has your child not been to the dentist? BY CHILD

*Please select all that apply.*

- My child's teeth are healthy
- My child is not old enough to go to the dentist
- My child would be scared of the dentist
- Dental visits cost too much
- Children only need to go to the dentist if there is a problem (e.g. toothache)
- I could not find a dentist who sees young children
- I was unable to get an appointment (e.g. my child was put on a waiting list)
- It was too hard to travel to the dentist
- It was too hard to find time to see the dentist
- I do not like to go to the dentist myself
- Other, please say...
- None of the above

### Question 3

When was the last time your child saw a dentist for a check-up? BY CHILD

*Within the past year, Within the past two years, Within the past three years, Within the past four years, More than four years ago, Never, Not sure*

### Question 4

How often are your child's teeth cleaned or brushed (either by themselves or by someone else)? BY CHILD

*Twice per day, Once per day, Less than once per day, Never, My child does not have teeth yet*

### Question 5

How often do you clean or brush your child's teeth for them? BY CHILD

*Always, most of the time, some of the time, rarely, never, my child does not have teeth yet*

### Question 6

Has your child had toothache in the last year? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 7

Has your child ever had a tooth filling for decay, holes or cavities? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 8

Has your child ever had a tooth pulled out for decay, holes or cavities? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 9

Has your child ever been hospitalised or put to sleep (under general anaesthesia) for a dental procedure? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 10

Has your child ever had an injury to their teeth or gums (such as a knocked out, chipped or broken tooth)? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 10b

Has your child had an injury to their teeth or gums when playing sport?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 10c

Was your child wearing a mouthguard when they got an injury to their teeth or mouth playing sport?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 11

Thinking about a typical week, how many days per week does your child drink soft drinks or other sugar sweetened drinks (such as flavoured milk, sports drinks, energy and electrolyte drinks, artificial fruit drinks, or cordial) BY CHILD

*Every day of the week, Almost every day of the week, 4 to 5 days a week, 2 to 3 days a week, 1 day a week, Less than 1 day a week, Never*

Child health nurses provide, information, support and guidance to parents and caregivers about a range of child health issues. Child health nurses are also known as maternal and child health nurses or well-child nurses in some states of Australia.

### Question 12

Have you ever seen a child health nurse about your child/ren's health?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 12b

Sometimes child health nurses examine children's teeth as part of a routine visit. Has a child health nurse ever done the following?

- Examined your child's teeth
- Talked with you about how to keep teeth healthy
- Talked with you about taking your child to the dentist
- Told you there was a problem with your child's teeth

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 13

Have you ever been shown how to care for your child's teeth by a health professional (such as a dentist, doctor or nurse)?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 14

Thinking about a typical week, how often does your child fall asleep drinking from a bottle of milk, juice, cordial or soft drink? BY CHILD

*Every day of the week, Almost every day of the week, 4 to 5 days a week, 2 to 3 days a week, 1 day a week, Less than 1 day a week, Never*

### Question 15

Family Tax Benefit A is a two-part payment that helps with the cost of raising children. It is available to families that:

- have a dependent child or full time secondary student younger than 20 years of age who is not receiving a pension, payment or benefit such as Youth Allowance
- provide care for the child for at least 35% of the time
- meet an income test

Do you know if you are eligible to receive Family Tax Benefit A?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 16

Are your children eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?

*Yes, my children are eligible, No, my children are not eligible, I don't know*

### Question 17

Are you aware of any free or government funded dental health services that are available for your children?

*Yes, No*

### Question 18

Have your children ever attended a dental appointment at a free or government funded dental health service?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 19

In the last year, has a dental check-up for any of your children been put off or delayed? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 19b

For what reason was your child's dental check-up put off or delayed?

*Please select all that apply.*

- My child's teeth are healthy
- My child did not want to go to the dentist
- My child is scared of the dentist
- Dental visits cost too much
- I was unable to get an appointment (e.g. my child was put on a waiting list)
- I could not find a dentist who sees young children
- It was too hard to travel to the dentist
- It was too hard to find time to see the dentist
- I do not like to go to the dentist myself
- Other, please say...
- None of the above

### Question 19c

In the last year, have any of your children been unable to visit the dentist when they had a problem with their teeth or mouth (such as toothache, holes in the teeth, injury to teeth or other mouth problems)? BY CHILD

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 19d

For what reason was your child unable to visit a dentist when they had a problem with their teeth or mouth?

*Please select all that apply.*

- My child refused to go to the dentist
- My child is scared of the dentist
- Dental visits cost too much
- I was unable to get an appointment (e.g. my child was put on a waiting list)
- I could not find a dentist who sees young children
- It was too hard to travel to the dentist
- It was too hard to find time to see the dentist
- I do not like to go to the dentist myself
- Other, please say...
- None of the above

### Question 20

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements

*Strongly agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Unsure*

- Children only need to see a dentist if they have a problem (e.g. toothache)
- Children only need to brush their teeth if they eat sugary foods
- Toothpaste needs fluoride to effectively protect children's teeth
- It does not matter if young children get tooth decay since their baby teeth fall out anyway
- Baby's need their teeth cleaned every day
- Visiting the dentist is usually a frightening experience for my child
- I am concerned that my children do not see the dentist often enough
- I am confident that I know how to care for my child's teeth properly
- Drinking fruit juice can cause tooth decay
- Bottled water is better for children's teeth than tap water
- If children eat fruit after dinner they don't need to brush their teeth
- Tooth decay is mostly inherited and cannot be changed by tooth brushing or diet
- Brushing teeth once a day is often enough for children
- The first thing to do if an adult tooth is knocked out is to try to put it back in yourself
- Teething can cause a fever (high temperature) in babies
- It is okay for children over three years of age to use adult toothpaste

### Question 21

Does your family have private health insurance?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 22

Does your family's private health insurance policy cover dental procedures for your children?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

### Question 23

Do you have a regular dentist that provides care to your child/children?

*Yes, No, Not sure*

Participants were also asked demographic questions on gender, country of birth, languages spoken at home, annual household income, education and health care card status.

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