The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) is the recognized authority on children’s oral health. As advocates for children’s oral health, the AAPD promotes evidence-based policies and clinical guidelines; educates and informs policymakers, parents and guardians, and other health care professionals; fosters research; and provides continuing professional education for pediatric dentists and general dentists who treat children. Founded in 1947, the AAPD is a not-for-profit professional membership association representing the specialty of pediatric dentistry. Its 10,500 members provide primary care and comprehensive dental specialty treatments for infants, children, adolescents and individuals with special health care needs. For further information, please visit the AAPD website at http://www.aapd.org or the AAPD’s consumer website at http://www.mychildrensteeth.org.

Vision
Optimal oral health for all children.

Mission
To advance optimal oral health for all children by delivering outstanding service that meets and exceeds the needs and expectations of our members, partners and stakeholders.

AAPD Culture
Our members put children first in everything they do, and at the highest standards of ethics and patient safety. As such, the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry is THE leading national advocate dedicated exclusively to children’s oral health. We are the embodiment of our members’ expertise as the big authorities on little teeth.
Status of Children’s Oral Health

- Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the United States. Sadly, it also is the most easily prevented.
- Children living in poverty are twice as likely to suffer tooth decay, and their dental diseases are more than twice as likely to go untreated as their more affluent peers.
- Children with poor oral health are nearly 3 times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain and more likely to have lower school performance.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) most recent data on oral health in America indicates that tooth decay declined for children ages 2-5 years from 23 percent to 18 percent between 2012 and 2016.
- 2016 marked the first year a majority of children covered by Medicaid/CHIP visited a dentist, narrowing the gap in dental care utilization between publicly and privately insured children.
- Over 70 percent of pediatric dentists accept Medicaid or CHIP, and publicly insured patients make up more than 30 percent of the typical pediatric dental practice.

Studies show that early establishment of a Dental Home (by age 1) reduces subsequent dental disease and treatment as well as related hospital costs.

Any children’s health insurance plan—Medicaid, CHIP or ACA—should have a robust network of pediatric dentists in order to help the most children.

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