



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Oral Health

Who needs to be concerned about healthy teeth?

Everyone needs to be concerned about preventing dental disease. According to the Surgeon General, recent studies point to an increased risk of heart disease and stroke in people with gum infections; the risk increases with the severity of the oral infection.

Almost three of every 10 adults over age 65 have lost all of their teeth, primarily because of tooth decay and gum disease, which affects about 25 percent of U.S. adults. Tooth loss has more than cosmetic effects—it may contribute to nutrition problems by limiting the types of food that a person can eat.

When should children begin to seek dental professional dental care?

Unless a problem is suspected, most dentists would like to see children at six months of age after the first tooth erupts, but no later than 12 months of age.

How can you improve your oral health?

- Brush at least twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste
- Floss teeth daily
- Avoid sugary snacks
- See your dentist for preventive care every six months
- Drink fluoridated water
- Drink milk
- Stop the pop
- Cut the candy
- Eat more fruits and veggies

Why is good oral health important to having a healthy pregnancy?

Some women have dental problems during pregnancy. Emerging evidence shows that periodontal disease may be a significant risk factor for pre-term, low-birth-weight babies. Brushing and flossing daily may prevent these problems. It is recommended that pregnant women see their dentist regularly.

Who can receive dental care at the Sedgwick County Health Department?

Children between the ages of 5 and 15 can receive dental care if they are referred by their school nurse and do not have private insurance or Medicaid. Each year, more than 30 dentists volunteer their time to serve these vulnerable populations of children. The school nurses in USD 259 refer over 700 children to this clinic each year.

For more information:

Contact the Sedgwick County Health Department for more information on oral health or other health issues at 660-7300.