

# Policy on Oral Health Care Programs for Infants, Children, and Adolescents

Originating Committee  
Dental Care Programs Committee

Review Council  
Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted  
1972

Reaffirmed  
1999

Revised  
1976, 1992, 1995, 2002

## Purpose

Unless oral care is included in the design and provision of health care programs for individuals as well as communities, comprehensive health care cannot be achieved.

## Background

Oral health can have a significant impact on overall health and well-being. Major themes of the US Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America<sup>1</sup> include:

1. "Oral health means much more than healthy teeth."
2. "Oral health is integral to general health."

## Policy statement

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry emphasizes the importance of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment necessary to restore and maintain the oral health of infants, children, and adolescents. Comprehensive health care cannot be achieved unless dental care is a strong priority in all health service programs.

## References

1. US Dept of Health and Human Services. *Oral health in America: A report of the Surgeon General*. Rockville, Md: US Dept of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health; 2000.

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