

# Dental Care is OUT OF REACH

COVERAGE  
does **NOT** equal care.

**3** out of **4**  
dentists  
**DO NOT** accept  
MEDICAID.



**35** out of **39**  
**DON'T** counties  
have enough dental professionals  
to serve the public.

Dental complaints are the number-one reason why uninsured Washingtonians visit the emergency room.

## People across Washington state are suffering:

*"There are no pediatric dentists in this county; families have to travel over 50 miles for treatment of severe dental disease • Many local dentists do not accept Medicaid • It is very expensive • Services under Medicaid for adults are inadequate and hard to access • We are a Head Start site and without our regular screenings the children wouldn't see a dentist at all • You learn to live with the toothaches and with the headaches • Dental insurance only allows minimal help, it's too expensive • We have VERY little access, we need to travel to find a place that will accept state insurance • Even with insurance, the cost for dental care is high • I have friends who lose teeth because they cannot afford dentists • Many do not go due to cost and will wait until a dental emergency exists before seeking treatment • Low-income people cannot afford dental care • At my programs I have had children and teens in DESPERATE need of care: Children who can't eat my free lunches because it hurts too much to chew."*

Sources: Federal Dept of Health & Human Services; Wash. State Hospital Assn.; 2013 Children's Alliance Member & Community Survey.



Washington  
**DENTAL ACCESS**  
Campaign

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