Indian Health Service

Oral Health Status of American Indians & Alaska Natives

- 6.2 million dental services in 2019
- 525 thousand American Indian/Alaska Native dental patients in 2019
- 1 in 3 American Indian/Alaska Native children get protective fluoride
- 20% increase in access to dental care since 2000

5% fewer children that have EVER had cavities
10% fewer adults with gum disease
20% fewer children with unfilled cavities

Despite this success, American Indians and Alaska Native children and adults continue to suffer disproportionately from dental disease compared to the rest of the U.S.:

- 3-5 times as many cavities across all ages
- Twice as much gum disease in adults

Data Sources: 1999 & 2010-2020 IHS oral health surveys, IHS National Dental Data Mart, 2019 national GPRA results, and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data