

# SNAPSHOT OF CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH

Aged 0-17 in Thunder Bay & District, 2017-2018



**PREVALENCE**  
The rate of decayed, missing and filled teeth of children in Northwestern Ontario is twice as high as other regions of Ontario.



**NON-FLUORIDATED DRINKING WATER**  
Thunder Bay and District communities do not add fluoride to their drinking water. Evidence shows that fluoridated water reduces tooth decay.



**NEGATIVE EFFECTS**  
Poor oral health may cause:  
Lower self esteem  
More school absences  
Speech and language delays  
Pain and infection  
Risk for adult chronic diseases



**SCHOOL SCREENINGS**  
6227 children screened  
17% have tooth decay  
9% identified with an urgent oral health care need



**HOSPITAL VISITS**  
232 oral health-related visits to emergency department  
522 day surgeries

## WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH IS DOING:



**PREVENTIVE SERVICES**  
1650 children participated  
Services include:  
Scaling, polishes, fluoride, sealants, and oral health education



**JK-GRADE 1 FLUORIDE VARNISH**  
9 schools participated  
237 students enrolled



**START EARLY PROGRAM**  
816 children ages 0-4 screened  
909 children received fluoride varnish

## Building Collaborative Relationships with Partners to Improve Oral Health

28 Education & Promotional Sessions provided

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board | Our Kids Count | Dilico Anishinabek Family Centre | Anishnawbe-Mushkiki Nurse Practitioner LED clinic | Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program - TBDHU | Nurse Practitioner Clinic - TBDHU | Lakehead District School Board | Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board | Confederation College

