

Are dental and physical health related?

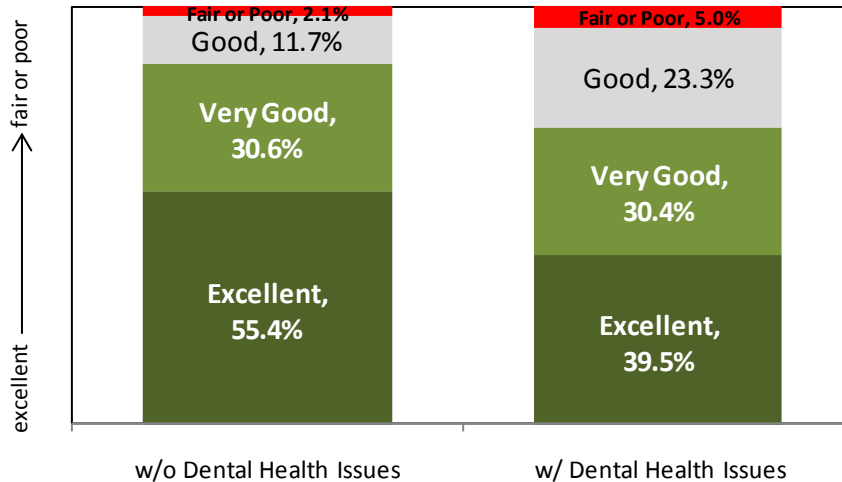
Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise Counties, Texas

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When CCHAPS asked parents, "How much does this child's dental health affect his/her overall health?" 61% of the parents responded "very little or not at all."

However, when parents rated their child's general health, there is a different picture. Children whose parents report dental health problems also rate that child's overall health either only good or much poorer twice as often.



CONCLUSIONS:

A child's dental health has a clear relationship to his/her overall physical health.

That relationship is not well recognized by parents, which may represent a "teaching moment."

These results show two issues that need greater understanding:

1. Does general health directly affect dental health, or does dental health directly affect general physical health?
2. Are general health and dental health both related to a family's ability to maintain a healthy life-style?

Source: CCHAPS 2008 at www.cchaps.org accessed October 2009.

CCHAPS is a random household survey reporting responses from 7,439 families with a child aged 0 – 14

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