



national children's dental health month
i-smile™ dental home initiative



**February is National Children's Dental Health Month.
How well do you know the facts about children's oral health?**



*2 year old in pain
with severe decay*



Advanced tooth decay



Treatment cost \$7500

FACT: Very young Iowa children can suffer from severe tooth decay like those pictured at left. Tooth decay can cause extreme pain and result in a child having difficulties eating, speaking, learning, and interacting with others.

FACT: Tooth decay is preventable, and costs for dental care are nearly 40 percent lower for Medicaid-enrolled children when their first visit occurs before the age of 1. However, two-thirds of low-income Iowa children under 5 years old have never seen a dentist. More than 1 in 5 low-income 3- and 4-year olds have decay.

FACT: The I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative helps Iowa families prevent tooth decay. I-Smile™ Coordinators across the state assist families with preventive care and coordinating treatment. Nearly 57,000 Iowa children received assistance from I-Smile™ last year.

FACT: The Iowa Department of Public Health can provide more information on I-Smile™ and children's oral health in Iowa. Contact us at 1-866-528-4020 or visit our Web site at www.ismiledentalhome.org.



*An Iowa child living and
playing without tooth decay*

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I-Smile

