

Health Department Integration into Regional Health Districts will detrimentally reduce Public Health services to the children in Milford.

The Milford Health Department has had a dental program for over fifty years. It employs two full time Dental Hygienists who are available to students from kindergarten to the fifth grade.

The hygienists provide classroom education, dental screenings cleanings, apply fluoride varnish and sealants to permanent teeth. We speak to the ready to learn preschool programs throughout the city and to moms and tots sessions at the Milford Public Library.

Tooth decay is the single most chronic childhood disease.

It is 5 times more common than asthma.

50 % of all U.S. children have had cavities.

20% of U.S children have untreated cavities.

51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental related problems.

Injuries to structures in and around the mouth are among the most common of all injuries to children and adolescents.

In 2007 nearly 60,000 Connecticut children broke a tooth, and 41 % of Connecticut third graders experienced tooth decay.

In Milford it is estimated that 20% of children seen by the school hygienist have never been to a dentist.

In the last school year we completed:

Oral screenings in kindergarten: 167

Oral exams, cleanings and fluoride: 1192

Students receiving sealants: 418

Sealants applied: 1336

Students with primary decay: 91

Students with permanent decay: 21

Students with fistulas: 8

Referrals made to parents to see a dentist: 125

We support Bill HB5757AA prohibiting the Department of Public Health from requiring consolidation of municipal health authorities.

Milford Health Department should be allowed to continue providing essential dental care to the children of Milford.

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