



Basic Screening Survey Reference Guide August 2009

INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN

Preschool Children

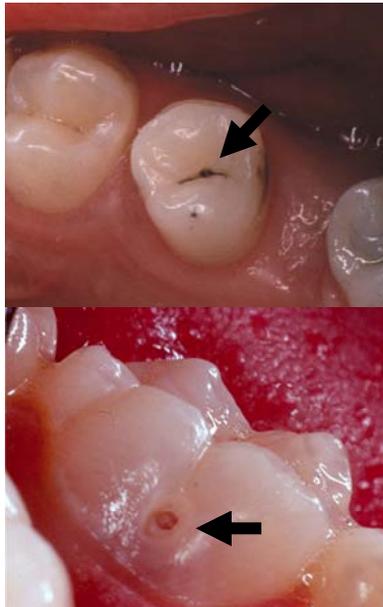
- Untreated decay
- Treated decay
- Early childhood caries (ECC)
- Urgency of need for dental care

School Children (Kindergarten to 12th grade)

- Untreated decay
- Treated decay
- Dental sealants on permanent molars
- Urgency of need for dental care

UNTREATED DECAY

A tooth is considered to have untreated decay when the screener can readily observe **break-down of the enamel surface**. In other words, only cavitated lesions are considered to be untreated decay.



Untreated Decay: Cavitated Pit & Fissures

UNTREATED DECAY (Continued)



Untreated Decay: Cavitated Smooth Surfaces



Not Untreated Decay
Stained fissures but no enamel break



Not Untreated Decay
White spot lesions but no enamel break

TREATED DECAY

The presence of any type of filling, including a temporary filling, or a tooth that is missing because it was extracted as the result of tooth decay.

A crowned front tooth may be the result of injury rather than caries. You should question the child about injury and code the child accordingly. If a tooth is crowned for trauma rather than decay, then the tooth is considered to be sound.

The same scenario is true for teeth that are missing because of orthodontics; they are not considered treated decay.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES (ECC)

ECC is only collected for preschool children; this indicator is not used for children in kindergarten or higher grades. Any preschool child with **one or more** of their six maxillary anterior teeth decayed, filled, or missing **because of decay** is considered to have ECC.



Early Childhood Caries

A good rule of thumb in a screening survey is — when in doubt, be conservative. That means that if you are not sure that a condition is present, assume it is not.

DENTAL SEALANTS ON PERMANENT MOLARS

Dental sealants on permanent molars, is collected only for school children. Children will be coded as having sealants if they have at least one sealant on a **permanent molar tooth**, whether or not the sealant covers all or part of the pits or fissures or is partially lost. Do not record sealants on primary teeth. Even a partially retained sealant will cause an individual to be categorized as having sealants.



Transparent Sealant



Opaque Sealant



Partially Retained Sealant

URGENCY OF NEED FOR DENTAL CARE

After categorizing a child according to his or her caries status, assign one of three treatment urgency codes to estimate how soon he or she should visit the dentist for clinical diagnosis and any necessary treatment.

Urgent need for dental care is used for those who need dental care within 24 to 48 hours because of signs or symptoms that include pain, infection, or swelling. The most common reason for being classified as needing urgent care is an abscess.

If a child needs to see a dentist because of untreated decay but they do not have pain or an infection they are classified as needing early dental care. For our purposes, early treatment means that they should see a dentist within the next several weeks or before their next regularly scheduled dental appointment. An individual with a broken or missing filling, but no other untreated decay, would be classified as needing early dental care.

Children with no untreated decay or other dental problems requiring early attention are considered to have no obvious problem, which means that they should receive routine dental checkups.



Urgent Dental Care Needed

URGENCY OF NEED (Continued)



Early Dental Care Needed



No Obvious Problem



No Obvious Problem: Primary tooth with untreated decay about to exfoliate