



Pregnancy/Postpartum

- Periodontal treatment during pregnancy is linked to **lower risk of perinatal mortality, preterm birth, and low birth weight**.¹



Childhood

- Early childhood caries (ECC) and its associated pain are linked to negative **impacts on play, school, sleeping, eating, and overall well-being**.^{2,3}
- Children with ECC face **significant risk of infection** as well as risks associated with the use of general anesthesia to treat ECC.²



Adolescence

- E-cigarette use (“vaping”), the most common form of nicotine used by adolescents, is linked to **increased risk of gum disease and oral lesions**.^{4,5,6}
- Adolescents are more likely to have **oral injuries through school sports**, as well as **chipped teeth from oral piercings and dental decay due to increased sugar intake**, as they become more independent from their parents.⁷



Young Adulthood

- Adolescents and young adults are at **greater risk for eating disorders**, which are linked to increased dental erosion and oral lesions.⁸
- Use of tobacco and alcohol**, often beginning in young adulthood, increases the risk of developing oral cancer.⁹



Middle Age

- Periodontal disease**, which becomes more common in middle and older age, has bidirectional relationships with systemic conditions such as **diabetes, kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease**.¹⁰⁻¹³



Older Adulthood

- Poor oral health, including periodontal disease, is linked with **increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease** and other forms of dementia as well as **hospital-acquired pneumonia**.^{14, 15}
- Older adults with fewer than 20 teeth are more likely to experience **greater overall disability and cognitive decline**.¹⁶

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