

NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH SURVEY VANUATU, 2017

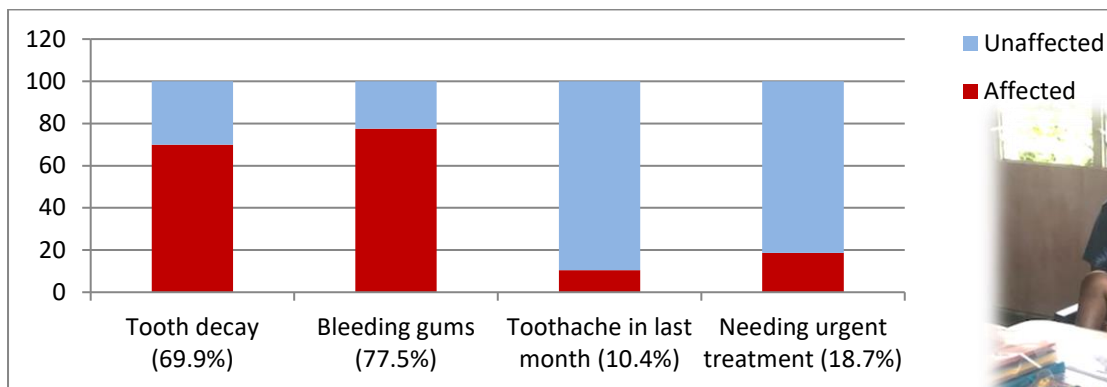
PCV Health in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

The National Oral Health Survey, 2017 examined 1,727 people, across 70 locations, on 24 separate islands, from 5 different age cohorts. It took two years of planning-and-action, more than 60 volunteers and the assistance of over a dozen different institutions and organisations. The key findings are as follows:

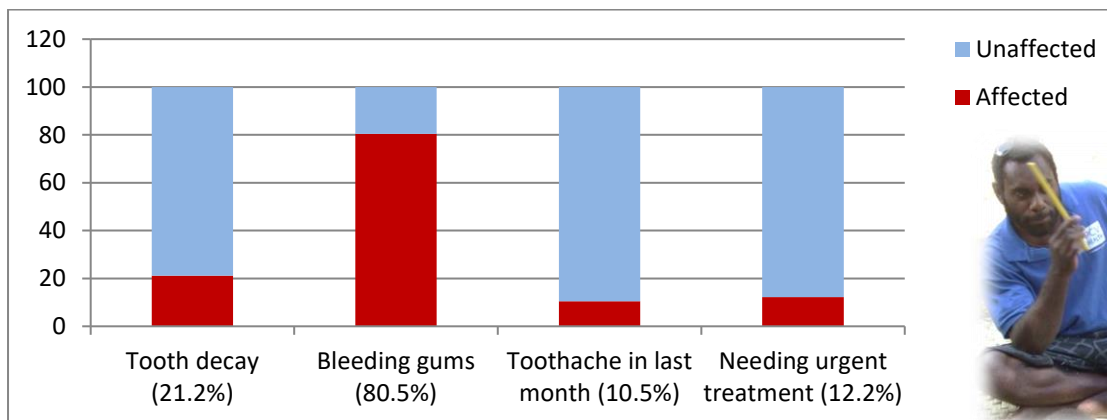
KEY FINDINGS

Tooth Decay, Bleeding Gums, Toothache, Gum Disease & Need for Treatment ...

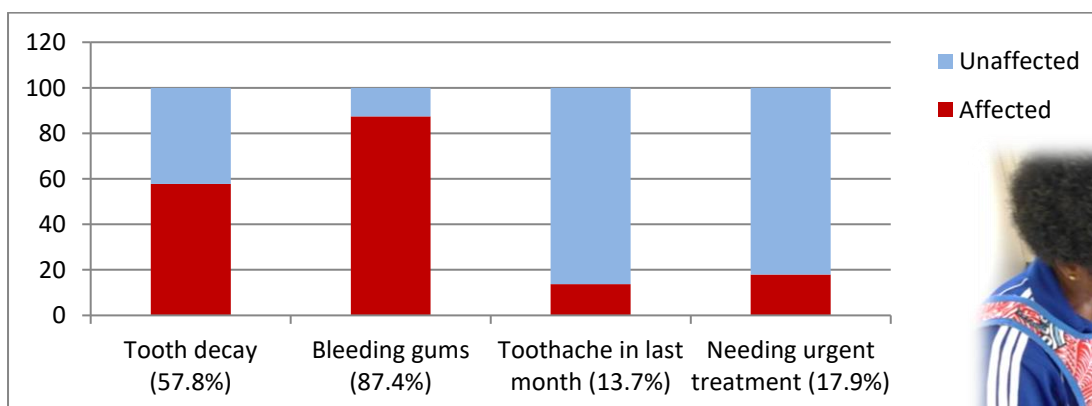
1. 5-7 year-old children [Mean number of primary (baby) teeth affected by decay = 7.10 ± 8.24]



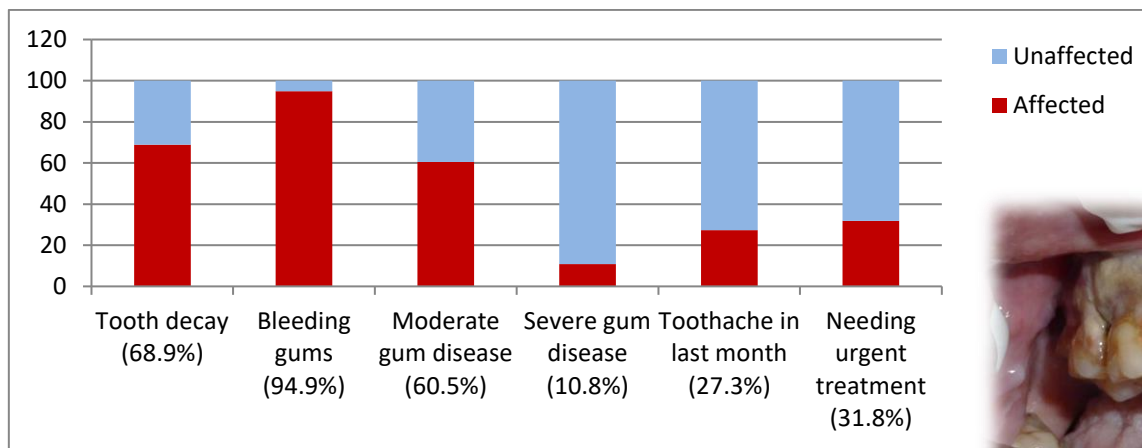
2. 11-13 year-olds [Mean number of permanent (adult) teeth affected by decay = 0.76 ± 2.18]



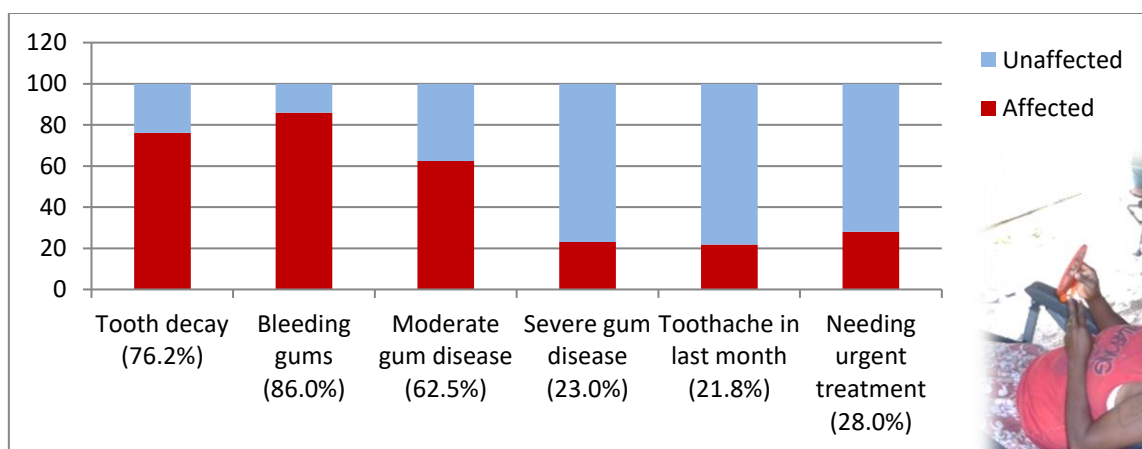
3. 14-16 year-olds [Mean number of permanent (adult) teeth affected by decay = 2.08 ± 2.78]



4. **30-49 year-olds** [Mean number of teeth affected by decay = 5.22 ± 5.71]



5. **60+ year-olds** [Mean number of teeth affected by decay = 15.76 ± 10.00]



6. **Mean decay experience in all age groups by geographical division**

Age group (Years)	Urban	Rural 1	Rural 2
5-7	10.92	10.38	4.34
11-13	1.41	1.08	0.34
14-16	3.23	2.91	1.35
30-49	7.49	4.49	3.75
60+	18.58	12.48	15.57

Table left: Dental decay experience is generally higher in urban areas than Rural 1 and Rural 2 with two exceptions:
 1. 5-7 yo Urban and Rural 1 similar
 2. 60+ yo decay is high in all three divisions with Rural 2 between

7. **Why so bad** - main causes:

- 7.1. Change in dietary pattern to increased sugar consumption – e.g. lollies, biscuits, high-sugar drinks
- 7.2. Low compliance with recommended twice daily tooth brushing using fluoride toothpaste
- 7.3. Low exposure to fluoride in the two major urban centres, Port Vila and Luganville

8. **What is the impact** - of tooth decay and gum disease:

- 8.1. Associated link to other NCDs such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and low birth weight
- 8.2. High prevalence of pain and suffering from toothache
- 8.3. Time lost from school or work
- 8.4. Potential effect on child growth and development
- 8.5. Increased musculoskeletal frailty in the elderly
- 8.6. Financial cost of treatment and lost production

