

The economic burden of poor oral health

TOOTH DECAY IN ENGLAND

Approximately **1 in 3 adults¹** and **34% of 12 year olds²** have tooth decay.



Children and teenagers are at risk groups, with most tooth decay developing before the age of 15²



Dental diseases such as tooth decay are often preventable, but still cost NHS England... **£3.4 billion each year!**³

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF SUGARFREE GUM

A new study - using 12-year-olds as an example population - shows that:



If all UK 12-year-olds chewed sugarfree gum twice a day, potential NHS cost savings range from **£1.2 to £3.3 million**⁴



If three pieces were chewed each day, an estimated **£8.2 million** per year could be saved⁴

SUGARFREE GUM VS TOOTH DECAY RISK FACTORS

pH curve

After eating, plaque acids form and the pH value falls



Chewing gum stimulates saliva production



Saliva neutralises plaque acid and the pH value rises



Neutral pH range

Acid pH range

Chewing sugarfree gum tackles causes of tooth decay

THIS ECONOMIC MODEL HAS BEEN APPLIED TO ONLY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION - THE COST SAVING COULD RISE SIGNIFICANTLY IF THE MODEL WERE TO BE APPLIED TO A LARGER GROUP

INCREASED CHEWING SUGARFREE GUM COULD...



Save the NHS money



Help reduce incidence of tooth decay



Improve quality of life!

Ref 1: NHS Choices – Tooth Decay. Available at: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Dental-decay/Pages/Introduction.aspx>. Last accessed October 2015.
Ref 2: Health and Social Care Information Centre. Children's Dental Health Survey 2013. Available at: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB17137/CDHS2013-Executive-Summary.pdf>. Last accessed October 2015
Ref 3: NHS England. Improving Dental Care – A Call to Action. Available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/imp-dent-care.pdf>. Last accessed October 2015.
Ref 4: Oral Health Promotion: the Economic Benefits of Sugarfree Gum in the UK. York Health Economic Consortium. 2015