Tooth decay is an infectious disease that can be spread! Oral bacteria can be passed from mothers to children through spoon sharing and pacifiers!

There is a link between gum infection and poor birth outcomes. All infections are a risk for pregnant women because they can harm the health of the baby, and lead to pre-term delivery, low birth-weight babies, and preeclampsia!

Pregnancy causes hormonal changes that increase the risk of developing oral health problems like inflammation of the gums AND gum disease.

Improving oral health of expectant mothers and providing oral health education may reduce the transmission of bacteria, delaying the onset of tooth decay among children, and reducing the cost of future dental treatment.

Did You Know???

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Dental care usage during pregnancy remains low due to affordability, lack of insurance, and lack of knowledge on good oral health during pregnancy.

Approximately one third of all pregnant women have gum disease (periodontal disease).

Preterm birth rate has been reported to be 11.2% in women without periodontal disease compared to 28.6% in women with moderate to severe disease.

In 2014, there were almost 87,000 live births in Arizona. More than 6,000 of these births were low birthweight babies, and 7 out of 10 were pre-term.

For more information, contact the Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA)

www.AzPHA.org