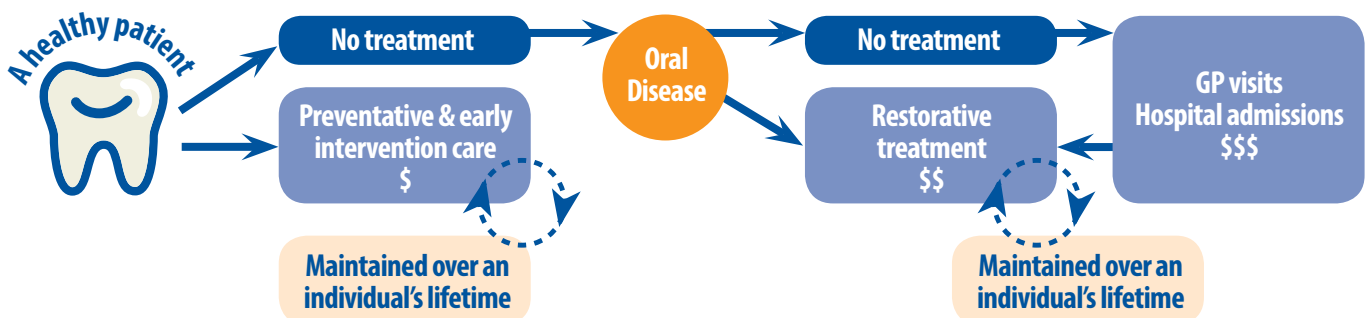


The preventable costs of poor oral health ^(1, 2, 3)

Avoidable Cost Category	Annual Total Cost
Lost productivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half day per year or more off work or study (\$113.25 million) Cutting down on usual activity (\$25.75 million) 	\$ 139 million
Costs to the health system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially preventable GP visits (\$7 million) Impact on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (\$ unknown) Potentially preventable hospitalisations (\$3733 per patient, around 16,000 episodes per year in Vic - \$60 million) 	>\$ 67 million
Quality of life, wellbeing and general health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding eating certain foods Difficulties with eating, sleeping, socialising and working without pain or embarrassment Anxiety, depression, poor self-esteem and social stigma Lost opportunities for employment, education and social relationships Association with other diseases – heart disease, respiratory infections, diabetes complications, stroke 	\$ unknown, but impacts significantly on the community, especially those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage
Total estimated minimum annual cost to Victoria	> \$ 206 million

Regular access to dental care helps people to maintain good oral health, and can reduce the cost of care ⁽²⁾



The broader cost of dental disease:

- Decreased quality of life (difficulty eating, poor diet, poor appearance, low self-esteem)
- Decreased productivity (including days lost at work and school)
- Effect on general health

Image adapted from Fig 12.1 of (2)

References

- Victoria's share of the cost burden is calculated as 25% of national costs (approx. 25% of Australians live in Victoria) (2), except for potentially preventable hospitalisations, which are calculated as \$3733 per episode of care, with around 16,000 episodes per year ^{2,3}
- Productivity Commission 2017, Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Reforms to Human Services (Chapter 12). Report No. 85, Canberra, and references therein. Available at <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/human-services/reforms/report/human-services-reforms.pdf>
- State Government of Victoria. Victorian Health Information Surveillance System (VHISS), Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions 2018 (available at: <https://hns.dhs.vic.gov.au/3netapps/vhisspublicsite/ReportParameter.aspx?ReportID=23&TopicID=1&SubtopicID=15>)