Oral health is a top health priority for 64 percent of adults in the United States right now, but even more adults (82 percent) are unaware of the role that infectious bacteria can play in tooth decay, or cavities, according to a new public opinion survey sponsored by Oral Health America and Philips Sonicare.

The survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, is part of the first-ever U.S. National Smile Month, which started May 18 and lasts until June 17. National Smile Month aims to raise awareness of the importance of good oral health habits, including brushing, healthy food choices and regular dental visits. The National Smile Month “Brush for Health!” theme focuses on raising public awareness about the connection between oral care and overall health.

Survey: Americans value oral health but knowledge gap remains

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New treatment for cavities?

Study shows CaviStat may help prevent childhood caries

Ortek Therapeutics Inc. and Stony Brook University say that new data published in the March issue of the “Journal of Clinical Dentistry” demonstrates the effects of a new chewable mint in preventing cavities in children. This investigational product, called BasicMints, was designed to be swallowed and chewed into the biting and approximating surfaces of the back teeth. BasicMints contain CaviStat, an innovative, fluoride-free, cavity-fighting complex.

CaviStat mimics the cavity-fighting benefits of saliva by neutralizing harmful plaque acids and simultaneously promoting the remineralization of the tooth structure. It contains the amino acid arginine, which, when metabolized by certain plaque bacteria, elevates dental plaque pH through alkaline generation.

In addition, CaviStat also contains bicarbonate, a buffer in saliva, and calcium carbonate, a poorly soluble calcium salt. The latter provides a source of calcium to prevent tooth solubilization and, under appropriate conditions, favors pH elevation and enhanced tooth mineralization. All of the components of CaviStat are naturally present in the human body.

A study funded by Ortek Therapeutics showed that after one year, children who were given BasicMints with CaviStat had 62 percent fewer cavities in their molars than did children in a placebo group.

CaviStat was developed, clinically tested and patented by researchers in the department of oral biology of the University of New York at Stony Brook and exclusively licensed to Ortek.

Ortek plans to submit an investigational new drug application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration later this year. BasicMints are not currently approved for use in the United States. Cavities are one of the most prevalent diseases in children, with almost half having a cavity by second grade and 80 percent having one by the time they graduate from high school. Roughly 90 percent of cavities occur on the biting surfaces of back teeth. By chewing BasicMints and packing CaviStat into these vulnerable surfaces, protection is focused where most cavities form.

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Source: Ortek Therapeutics Inc.

Survey

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“The survey results make it clear that Americans know the benefits of dental care but lack a greater understanding of the disease processes that can cause tooth decay,” says Robert Klaus, President and CEO of Oral Health America. “This means that there are still significant opportunities to educate the public.

The survey results indicate overall good news. On average, adults say they brush their teeth for the recommended two minutes. Adults who brush their teeth say they are more likely to do so for two minutes on weekdays (59 percent) than on weekends (23 percent), highlighting the importance of a seven-day-a-week routine.

A majority (70 percent) of adults who brush on a daily basis report a five-day-a-week routine. Highlighting the importance of a seven-day-a-week routine, adults who brush their teeth say they are more likely to do so for two minutes on weekdays (59 percent) than on weekends (23 percent).

More people are embracing oral care as a requirement for good overall health, providing added opportunities for dental products. Dental Products & Materials, a study by The Freedonia Group Inc., of Cleveland, predicts that the repair and restorative market will post “solid demand in 2012.

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7–11 p.m. Come dressed from your favorite era of the historic Route 66; whether that be the 1930s or the 1980s, and spend one last night celebrating with everyone you met during the week.

New Mexico

From Page 1

Of course, that isn’t everything. There is still one last party saved for the last night; the “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” president reception, being held Saturday, June 21, from 7-11 p.m. Come dressed from your favorite era of the historic Route 66, whether that be the 1930s or the 1980s, and spend one last night celebrating with everyone you met during the week.

U.S. demand for dental products to keep growing

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