# WHY SHOULD I AVOID SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES?

### What are sugar-sweetened beverages?







**FRUIT DRINKS** 



**ENERGY DRINKS** 

#### DENTAL **CARIES**

or tooth decay is a process by which bacteria in your mouth ferment carbohydrates (sugars) and produce acids that attack the tooth surface (enamel) leading to cavities.

## Why should I avoid sugar-sweetened beverages?

The sugar from SSBs is processed by the bacteria in your mouth to produce acids that destroy the tooth surface (enamel) and even deeper (dentin).



Sugars allow bacteria to live and grow on the surface of your teeth causing tooth decay leading to cavities.



The more sugar you consume, the more likely you are to get caries.



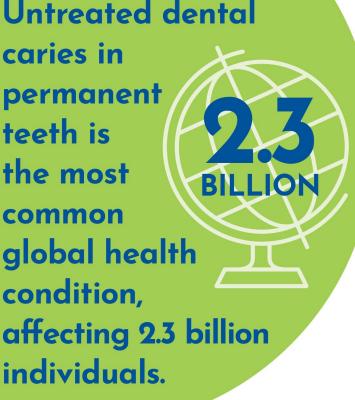


Drinking 1–3 sugar-sweetened beverages per day could lead to a 30% increase in dental caries.



#### DID YOU KNOW:

**Untreated dental** caries in permanent teeth is the most common global health condition,



### What can we do?

- Limit your sugar-sweetened beverage intake.
- Drink water that is optimally fluoridated.
- Governments can implement evidence-based policies that reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, including:
  - Public health campaigns
  - Access to healthy beverage alternatives
  - Providing safe and inexpensive drinking water

