



At-a-Glance

Oral Health Data

The Oral Health Program (OHP) collects, analyzes and reports a variety of state and local oral health data.

Oral Health Surveys of Ohio's Children

OHP periodically conducts open-mouth oral health screening surveys of Ohio's children. These surveys are conducted as part of the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) oral health surveillance program to monitor the prevalence of tooth decay. Typically, data are collected on the presence of untreated cavities, fillings and crowns, dental sealants, and the need for dental care. Parents provide information on various aspects of access to dental care.

The last statewide screening survey of Ohio's 3rd grade schoolchildren (the target population) was conducted during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. There were 65 schools that participated across the state. Results are available on the OHP website.

Prior to this survey, a county-level survey was conducted in the 2013-15 school years involving 444 schools. Data briefs pertaining to this survey are shown below. Of interest is examining the disparity in oral health among children who live in the

Appalachian region. Children in this region continue to experience higher levels of dental disease, and have limited access to dental care.

During the 2016-17 school year, OHP conducted a screening survey of preschool-aged children in Ohio. Eighty-two sites were visited — 18 public preschool programs and 64 early childhood education centers. Data were collected on more than 3,500 children ages 3-5. Results show that:

- Even though tooth decay can be prevented, about 23 percent of Ohio's preschool children 3-5 had already experienced one or more cavities in their primary (baby) teeth.
- About 14 percent of children had cavities that had not yet been treated.
- Ohio's preschool-aged children had a higher prevalence of untreated cavities than children across the United States (14 percent vs. 10 percent).

Oral Health Status and Access to Dental Care

OHP publishes reports and data briefs on oral health and access to dental care in Ohio, highlighting findings from recent screening surveys.

