

Data brief

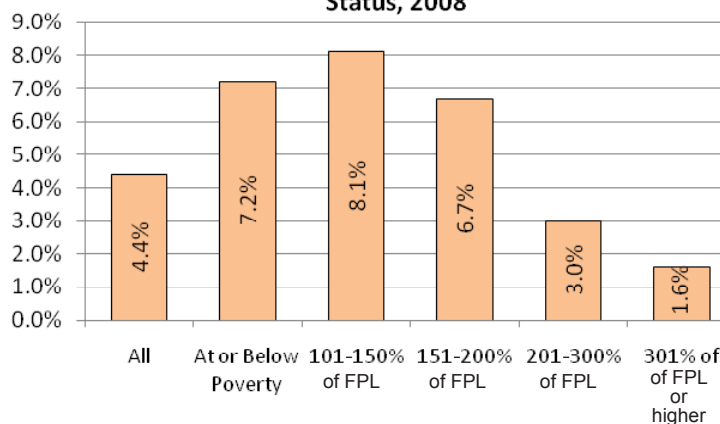
Oral Health Findings from the Ohio Family Health Survey, 2008

In 2008, 4.0% of Ohio's children were uninsured for medical care (111,000). During this same period, 18.3% of Ohio's children were without dental insurance (479,000).

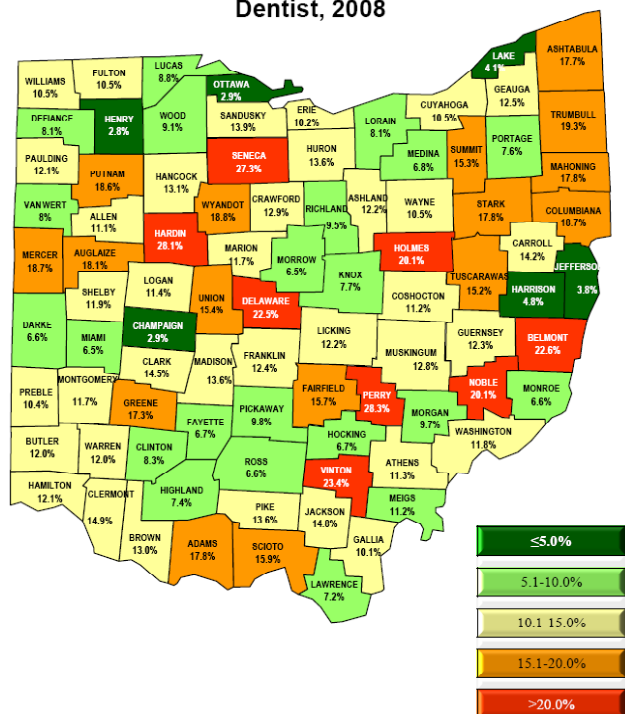
Dental care needs, children

Regardless of family income status, dental care was the number one unmet health care need for children, with 119,000 children having unmet dental needs — 31,000 of these children were ≤ 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), 88,000 were ≥ 201% of FPL. Inclusively, dental care was a large unmet health care need for children of all races and ethnicities, with the Hispanic rate of dental need being 1.8 times higher than the rate for whites (7.3% versus 4.1%).

Unmet Oral Health Care Needs of Ohio Children (under 18 years of age) According to Poverty Status, 2008



Percent of Ohio Children (under age 18) who Have Never Visited a Dentist, 2008



Dental coverage, children

A lack of dental coverage was a problem for “impoverished” and “non-impoverished” children, with 15.2% of children living in families earning 200% or less of FPL, or an annual income of \$44,100 or less, uninsured for dental care, and 20.7% of children in families earning 201% or more of FPL having no dental coverage. Impoverished children had a better coverage rate due to Ohio's Medicaid Program — a state-sponsored insurance program for the impoverished that covers dental care.

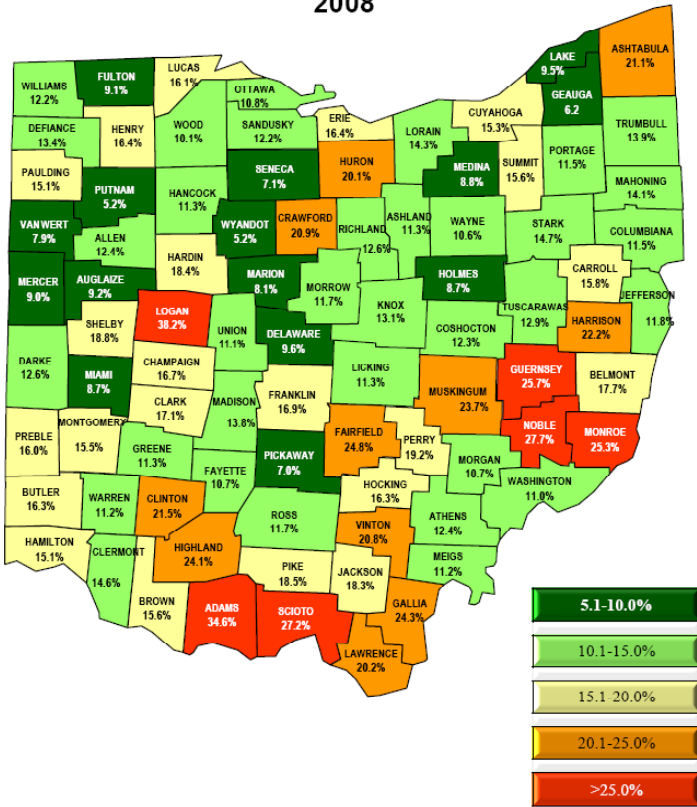
Even though low-income children had higher rates of dental coverage, they were less likely to have a dental visit in the past 12 months. Sixty-eight percent of low-income children (200% FPL or less) had a dental visit within the past 12 months, compared to 81.5% of higher-income children.

Dental care need, adults

In terms of dental needs not fulfilled within the past 12 months, 15.5% of working-aged adults and 4.9% of seniors reported that they did not receive needed dental care. For both age groups, costs and a lack of insurance to cover procedures were the main reasons for not getting dental care.



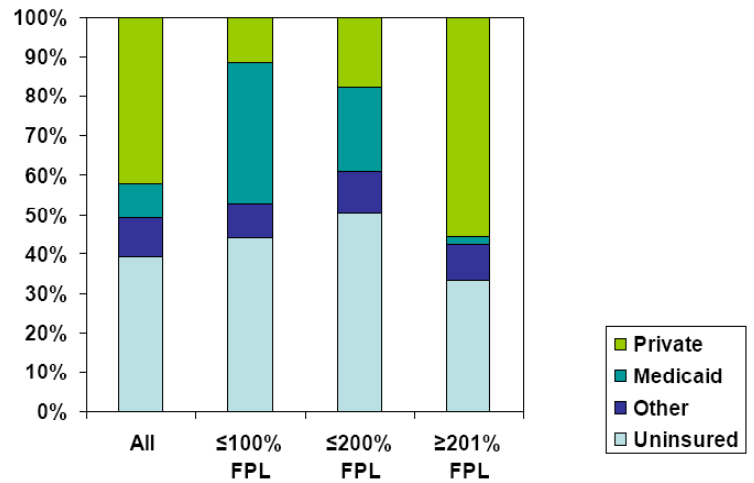
Percent of Ohio Adults (age 18-64) with Unmet Dental Care Need, 2008



Ohio Family Health Survey

The 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey consists of data gathered from a stratified random digital telephone survey of approximately 51,000 households, and is one of the largest and most comprehensive state-level health and insurance surveys conducted in the country. The project was managed by The Ohio State University's Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center and the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Please visit <http://grc.osu.edu/ofhs/> for more information on the Ohio Family Health Survey.

Dental Insurance Coverage for Ohio Adults According to Poverty Status, 2007 Annual Income (18 Years and Older)



Dental coverage, adults

In 2008, 1,232,000, or 14.1% of Ohio adults 18 years of age and older, reported being uninsured for medical care. For working-aged adults (18-64 years of age), 17.0% reported being uninsured for medical care.

Comparatively, in 2008, 3,433,000 or 39.4% of Ohio adults 18 years of age and older reported having no dental coverage, with 35.5% of working-aged adults having no dental coverage. **This equates to 2,201,000 Ohio adults who had general health care coverage, but no dental coverage.**

Family income and job status are associated with a lack of dental coverage. Fifty percent of those with an annual family income at 200% FPL or lower reported having no dental coverage. This compares to 33.3% of those with incomes at 201% FPL or above reporting no dental coverage.

The unemployed had higher rates of no dental insurance with 45.0% lacking dental coverage. For those working, 30.4% lacked dental coverage.

For working-aged adults, as one might expect, those with poor-to-fair health status reported higher rates of no dental coverage (44.6% or 527,000 adults), compared to adults reporting good-to-excellent health status (33.7% or 2,018,000 adults).

For seniors, a lack of health care coverage is a pressing issue, with 57.4% of seniors (888,000) having no dental coverage in 2008. There is little variation in senior dental rates to senior self-rated health status.

Authors

Amber Detty, MA
Ohio Department of Health,
Bureau of Community Health Services

Mark Siegal, DDS, MPH
Ohio Department of Health,
Bureau of Community Health Services

Tim Sahr, MPH, MDiv, ThM, MA
Health Policy Institute of Ohio