Access to Oral Health Care

Most Ohio children have visited the dentist at least once in the last year

80%

of Ohio third-graders had seen a dentist within the past year, as reported by their parents.

Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health

Oral health indicators for Ohio third-graders improving

Between 1998 and 2015, the percentage of children with dental sealants has steadily increased.

Between 1998 and 2015, the percentage of children with untreated cavities has continued to see a steady decrease.

Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health

Ohio is meeting national targets

Percentage of children with one or more dental sealants:

49% 28%

National Target

Percentage of children who had visited the dentist within the past year:

80% 49%

National Target

Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health
Unmet dental care needs decreasing in Ohio

The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 in Ohio with unmet dental care needs has been decreasing over the past several years.

Ohio’s ratio of population to dentists better than national average

In 2014, the population to dentist ratio was:

**Ohio**: 1,710 to 1

**The United States**: 2,590 to 1

Fewer people per dentist means that it’s easier to schedule a dental appointment! Ohio has been improving its ratio of dentists to patients over the last several years. Plus, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry has announced that it is expanding its dental classes by about 10% beginning in 2018. When fully implemented, there will be 40 more dental students at the college of dentistry, adding to the number of dentists in Ohio.

Adults receiving dental care

In Ohio, 65.3% of adults reported visiting a dentist in the last 12 months. This is slightly better than the national average of 64.4%.