



The Oral Health of Ohioans— Are We Getting the Job Done?

Oral Health 2024 Symposium

Nov. 8, 2024

Barbara Carnahan, RDH, BS, MS

Junhui Qian, BA, MS

Objectives

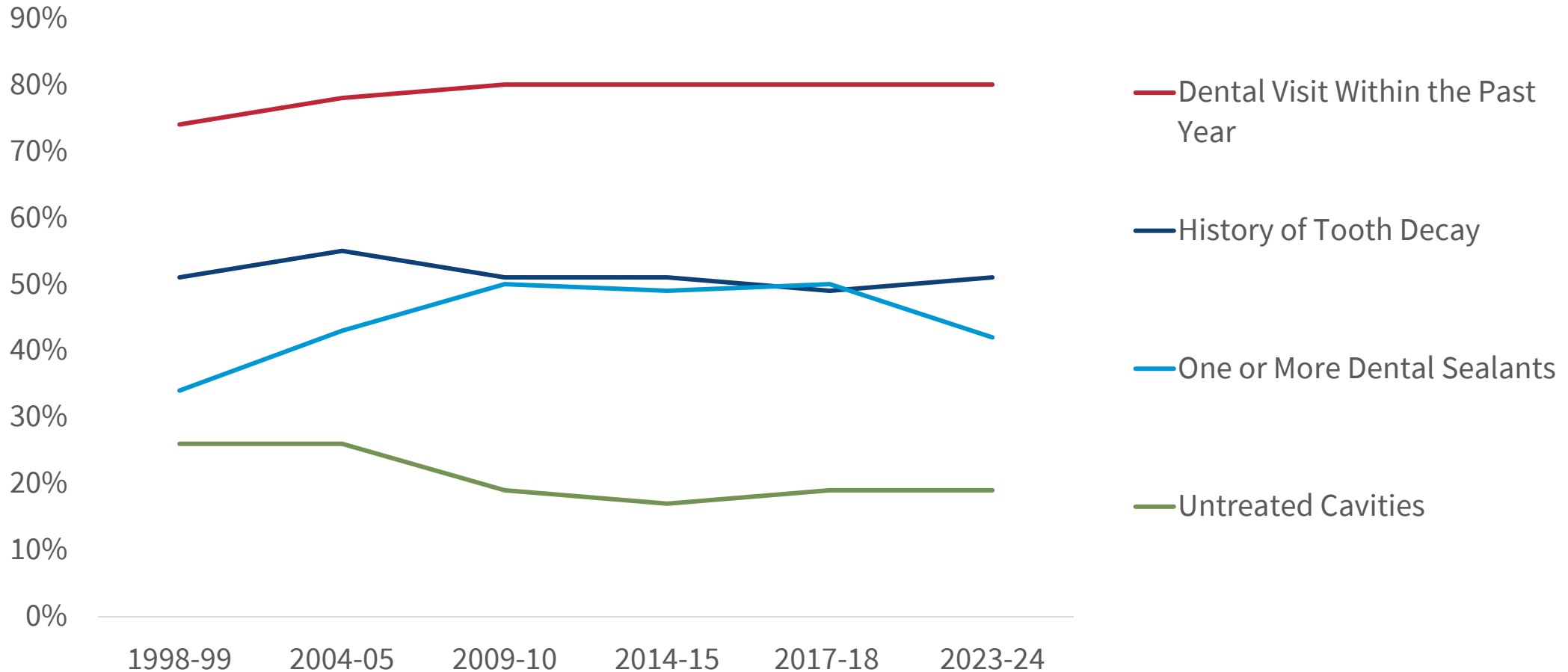
- Describe the current oral health status of Ohio's schoolchildren and adults.
- Compare the current oral health of Ohioans to five years ago.
- Describe factors that impact the oral health status of Ohioans and their access to dental care.

Oral Health Status of Children



- History of tooth decay.
- Untreated cavities.
- Dental sealants.
- Dental visit within the past year.

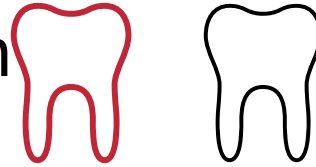
Trends in Oral Health Status Among Ohio 3rd Grade Schoolchildren, 1998-2024



Data Sources: [Oral Health Basic Screening Survey of Third Grade Schoolchildren in Ohio \(BSS\)](#)
2023-2024 **Make Your Smile Count!** Statewide Oral Health Screening Survey of Third Grade Schoolchildren

History of Tooth Decay, 2023-2024

One in two third-grade schoolchildren had a history of tooth decay.

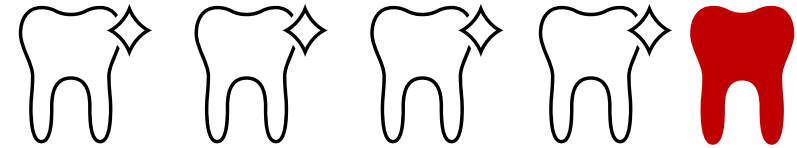


Schoolchildren who are significantly more likely to have a history of tooth decay compared to their counterparts are:

- Enrolled in **Medicaid**.
- **Come from lower-income families.**
- Consume **more servings of sugar-sweetened beverages** per day.
- **Hispanic.**

Untreated Tooth Decay, 2023-2024

One in five third-grade schoolchildren had untreated tooth decay.



Schoolchildren who

- **Did not have a dental visit within the last year.**
- **Lack dental sealants.**
- Are enrolled in **Medicaid** or **self-pay** for dental bills.
- Come from **lower-income families.**
- Are **Hispanic.**

are about **twice** as likely to have untreated tooth decay compared to their counterparts.

Prevalence of Dental Sealants, 2023-2024

Overall, **42%** of third-grade children had dental sealants on one or more permanent molars.



Schoolchildren who

- **Didn't have a dental visit within the last year.**
- **Face challenges in accessing** needed dental care.
- **Are uninsured.**

were significantly less likely to receive dental sealants compared to their counterparts.

Dental Visit Within the Last Year, 2023-2024

One in five third-grade schoolchildren didn't have a dental visit within the last year.

Children without a dental visit within the last year were more likely to be:

- **Black or African American, or of another race, or Hispanic of any race.**
- Those with reportedly **fair/poor oral health.**
- Those who reportedly **had trouble accessing necessary dental care.**
- Those who **self-pay** for dental bills or are on **Medicaid.**

The most common reasons for not visiting the dentist were: **Cost, dental office not open at convenient times, insurance did not cover procedures, could not take time off work, and dental office was too far away.**

Parent/Guardian Rating of Child's Oral Health, 2023-2024

One in four third-grade schoolchildren were rated by their parent/guardian as having fair/poor oral health rather than very good/good oral health.

Schoolchildren who

- **Didn't have a dental visit within the last year.**
- **Had trouble accessing necessary dental care.**

were **three times** as likely to be rated as having fair/poor oral health compared to their counterparts.

Oral Health Status of Adults

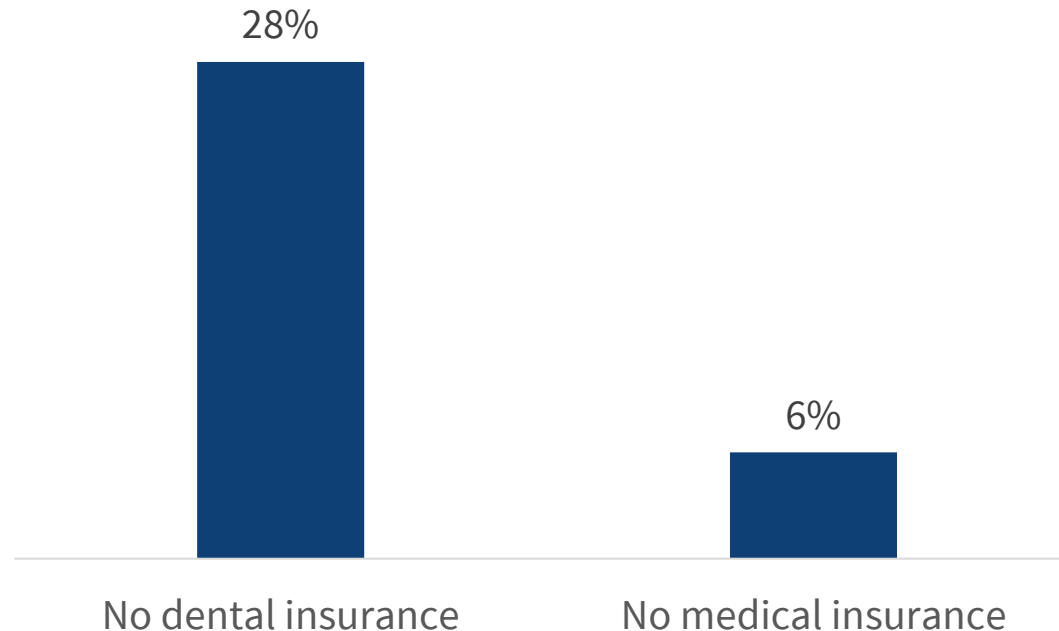


- Dental insurance coverage.
- Self-reported rating of oral health.
- Complete tooth loss.
- Unmet dental needs.
- Dental visit within the past year.
- Oral health of pregnant women.

Dental Insurance Coverage, 2021

The percentage of adults reportedly **without dental insurance** was **4.6x** higher than the percentage without medical insurance.

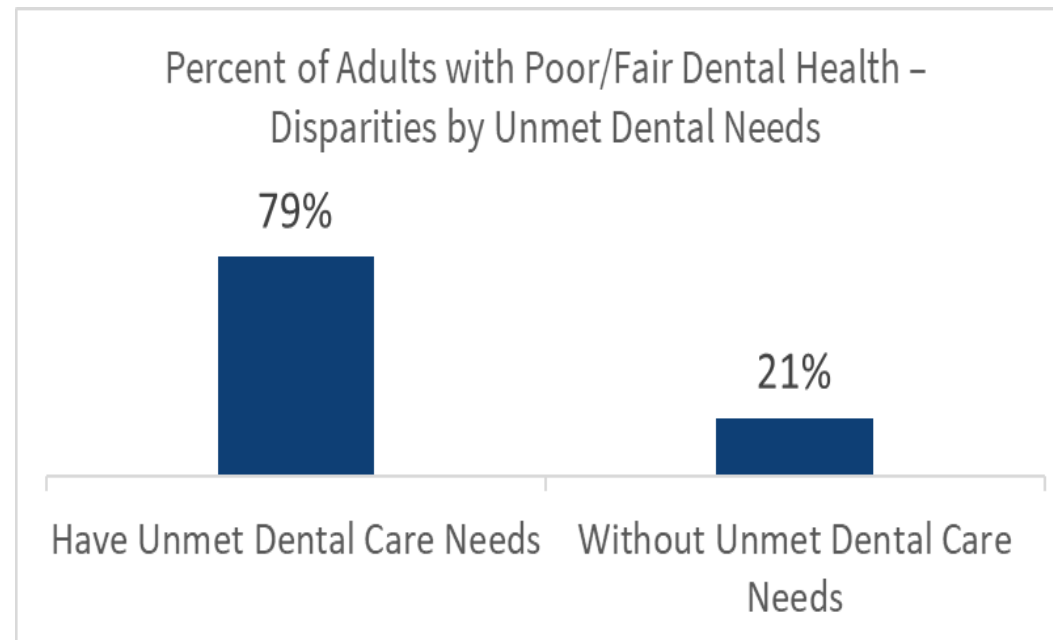
Percent of Respondents Who Reported Not
Having Dental insurance vs. Medical insurance



Data Source: [Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey \(OMAS\)](#)

Self-Reported Rating of Oral Health, 2021

One in three adults rated their dental health as poor/fair rather than excellent/very good/good. Those who needed dental care were far more likely to rate their dental health as poor/fair.



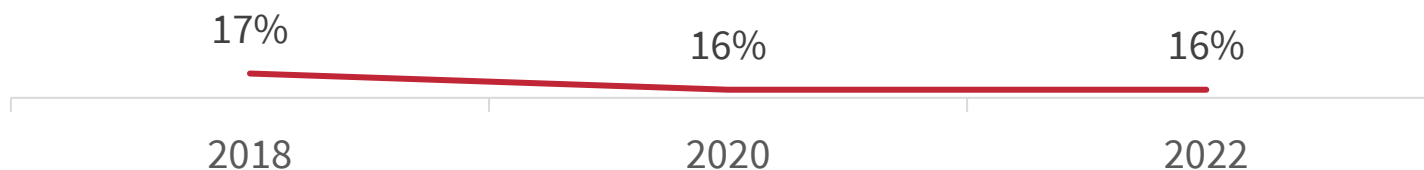
Data Source: [Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey \(OMAS\)](#)

Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022

— Overall Findings

One in seven adults aged 65 years or older had all their teeth extracted due to tooth decay or gum disease.

Percent of Adults Aged 65+ Who Had All Their Natural Teeth Extracted



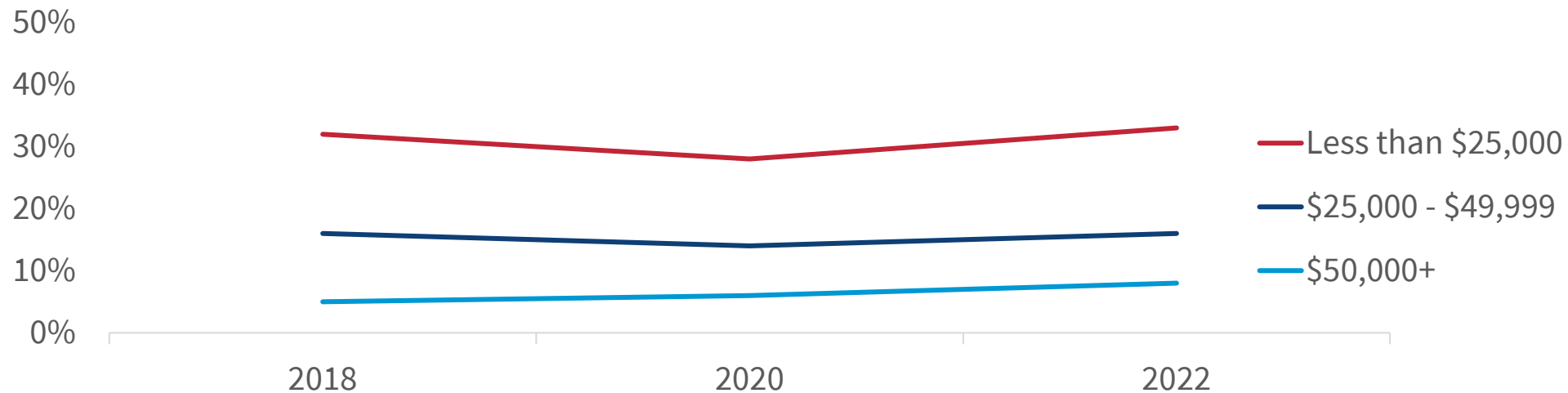
Source: Adobe Stock Images.

Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022

— Disparities by Income

Adults aged 65+ with a household income **less than \$25,000** were:

- **2x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with an income of \$25,000 to \$49,999.
- **4x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with an income of \$50,000 or more.

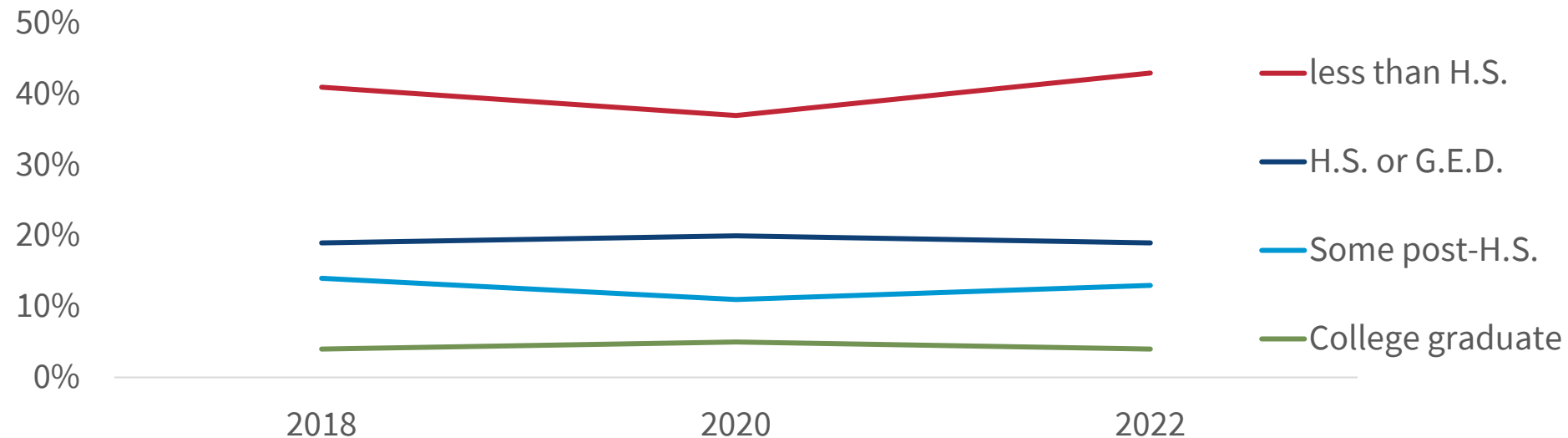


Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022

— Disparities by Education

Adults aged 65+ with **less than High School degree** were:

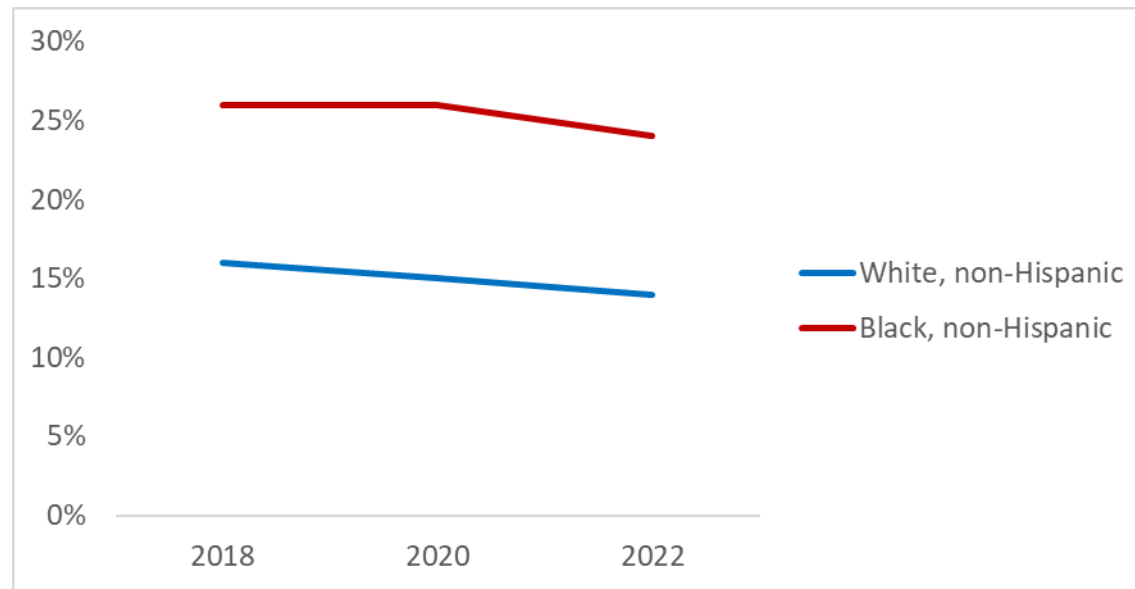
- **2x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with a High School (H.S.) or General Educational Development (G.E.D.) degree.
- **12x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with a college degree.



Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022

— Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

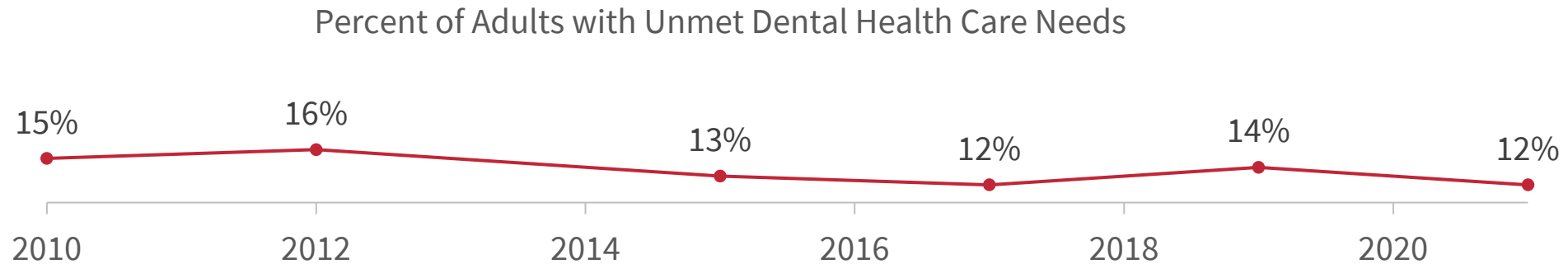
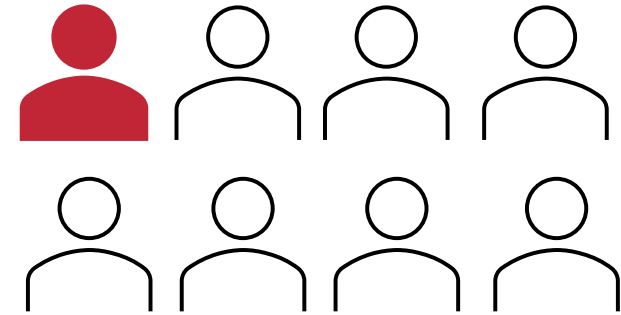
People who self-identified as Black/Non-Hispanic aged 65+ were **1.7x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to Non-Hispanic White individuals.



Data Source: [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#)

Unmet Dental Needs, 2010-2021 —Overall Findings

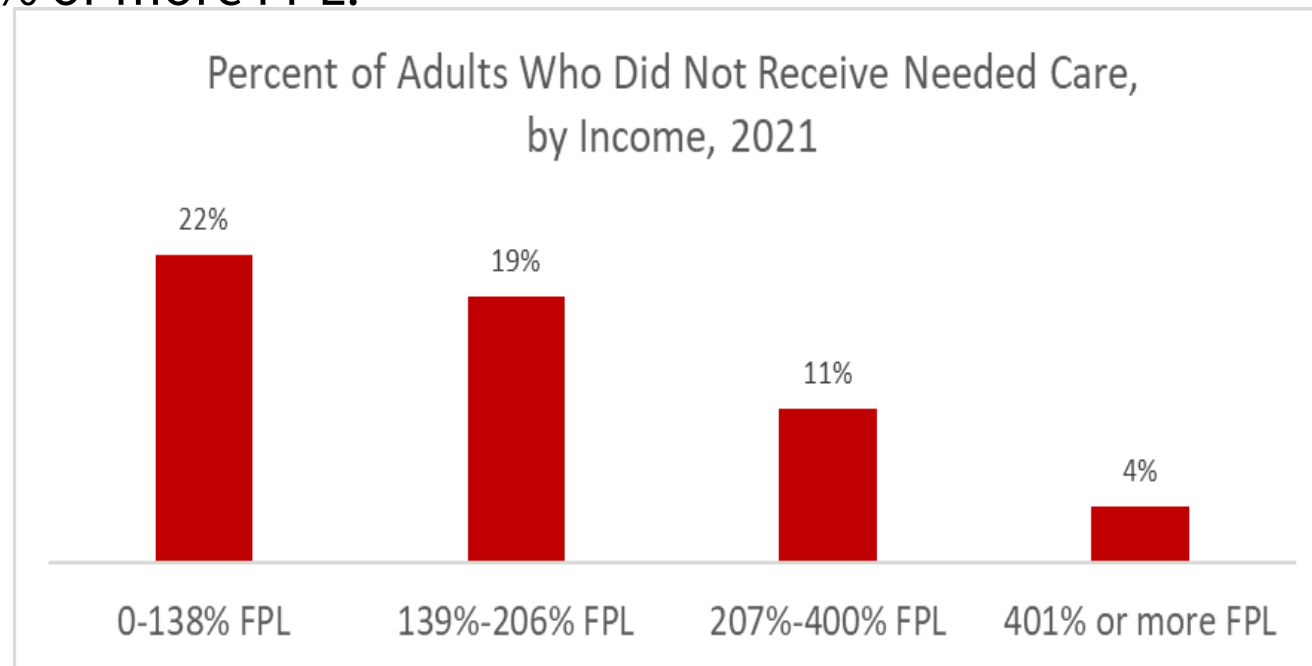
One in eight adults aged 18+ reported they had unmet dental health care needs in 2021.



Unmet Dental Needs , 2021 — Disparities by Income

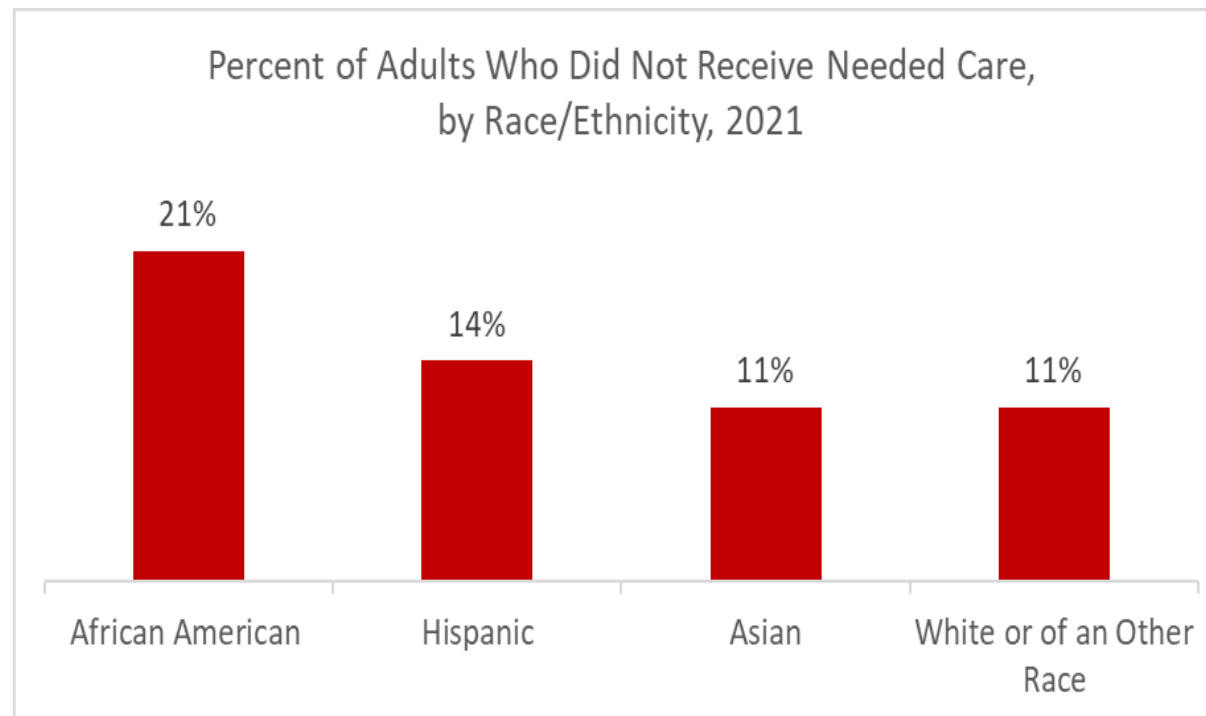
Adults with an income between **0% and 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)** are

- **2x** as likely to have unmet dental care needs compared to those with a household income of 207%-400% FPL.
- **5.5x** as likely to have unmet dental care needs compared to those with a household income of 401% or more FPL.



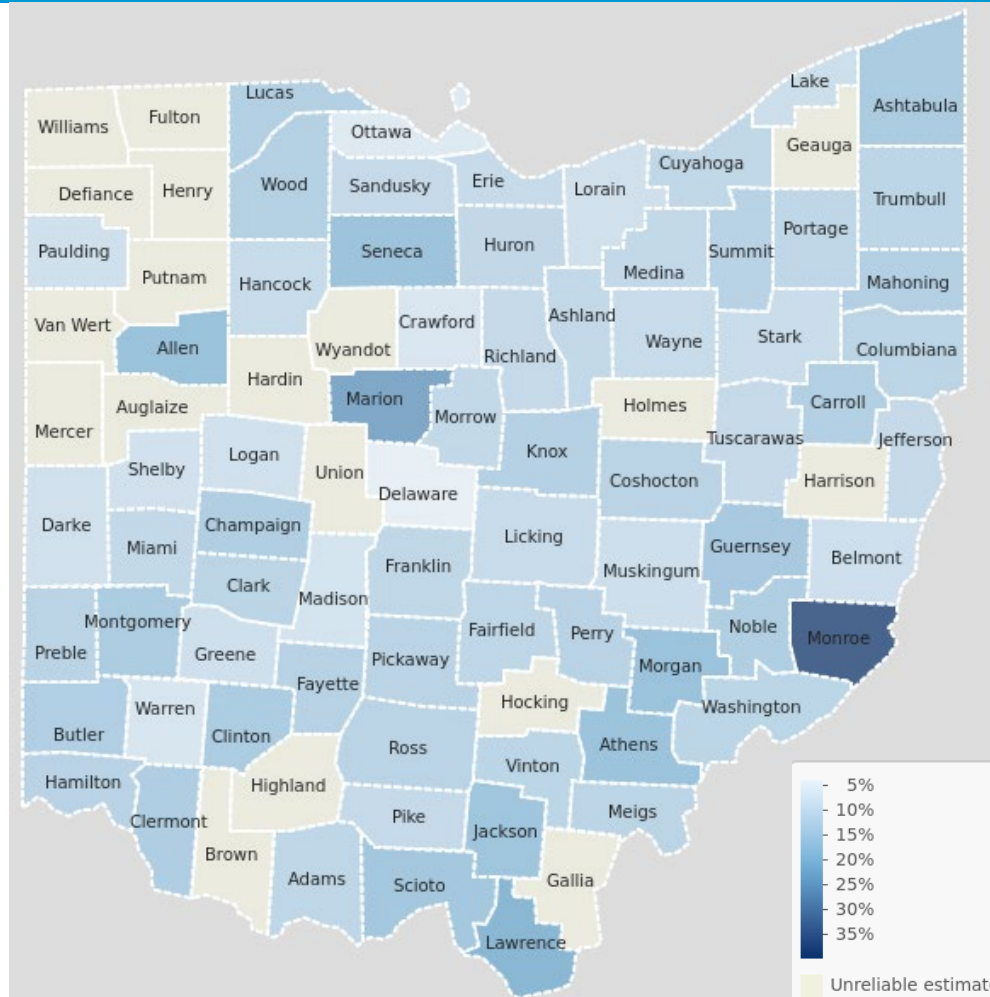
Unmet Dental Needs, 2021 — Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

African American adults are **2x** as likely to have unmet dental care needs compared to Asians, Whites, and persons of other races.



Data Source: [Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey \(OMAS\)](#)

Unmet Dental Needs, 2021 — Geographic Disparities



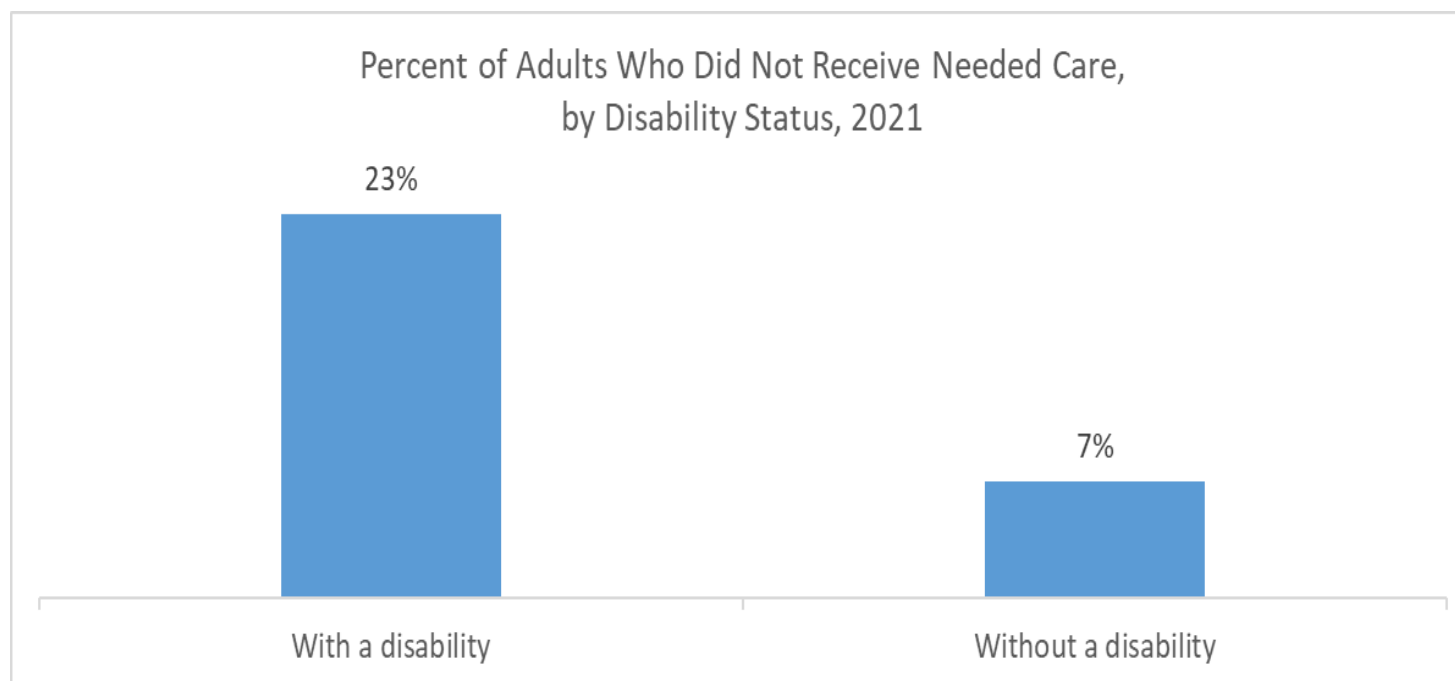
Counties with the Highest Percentage of Persons Reporting Unmet Dental Needs:

1. Monroe (55%)
2. Marion (36%)
3. Lawrence (31%)

In Ohio, 12% of adults aged 18+ reported they had unmet dental needs.

Unmet Dental Needs, 2021 — Disparities by Disabilities Status

Adults with a disability are **3x** as likely to have unmet dental care needs compared to those without a disability.



Data Source: [2021 Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey \(OMAS\)](#)

Dental Visit Within the Past Year, 2022

In 2022, **65%** of adults reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic within the past year. This proportion has remained stable since 2018.

Adults without a dental visit within the last year are more likely to be:

- Those with an annual **income of less than \$15,000**.
- Those with **less than a High School degree**.
- **Black** or **multiracial**.

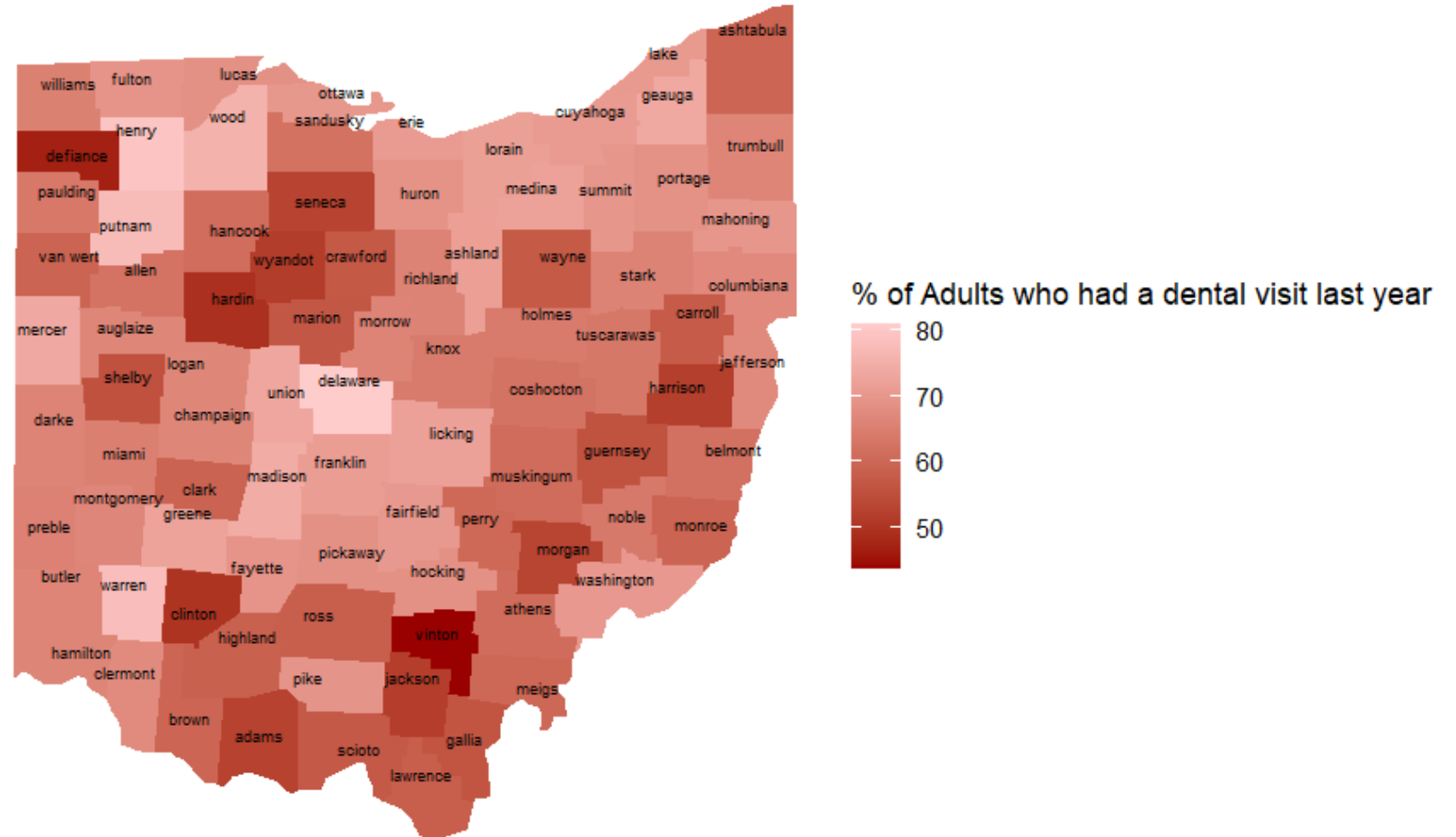
(Note: The prevalence of dental visits among **American Indian or Alaskan Native** populations has significantly declined over the last six years, dropping from 76% in 2018 to 45% in 2022.)

Dental Visit Within the Past Year, 2021 –Geographic Disparities

Counties with the lowest percentage of adults reporting a dental visit in the past year:

1. Adams (53%)
2. Morgan (53%)
3. Seneca (53%)
4. Harrison (52%)
5. Jackson (52%)
6. Wyandot (52%)
7. Clinton (50%)
8. Hardin (49%)
9. Defiance (47%)
10. Vinton (44%)

All Ohio (65%)



Oral Health of Pregnant Women, 2021

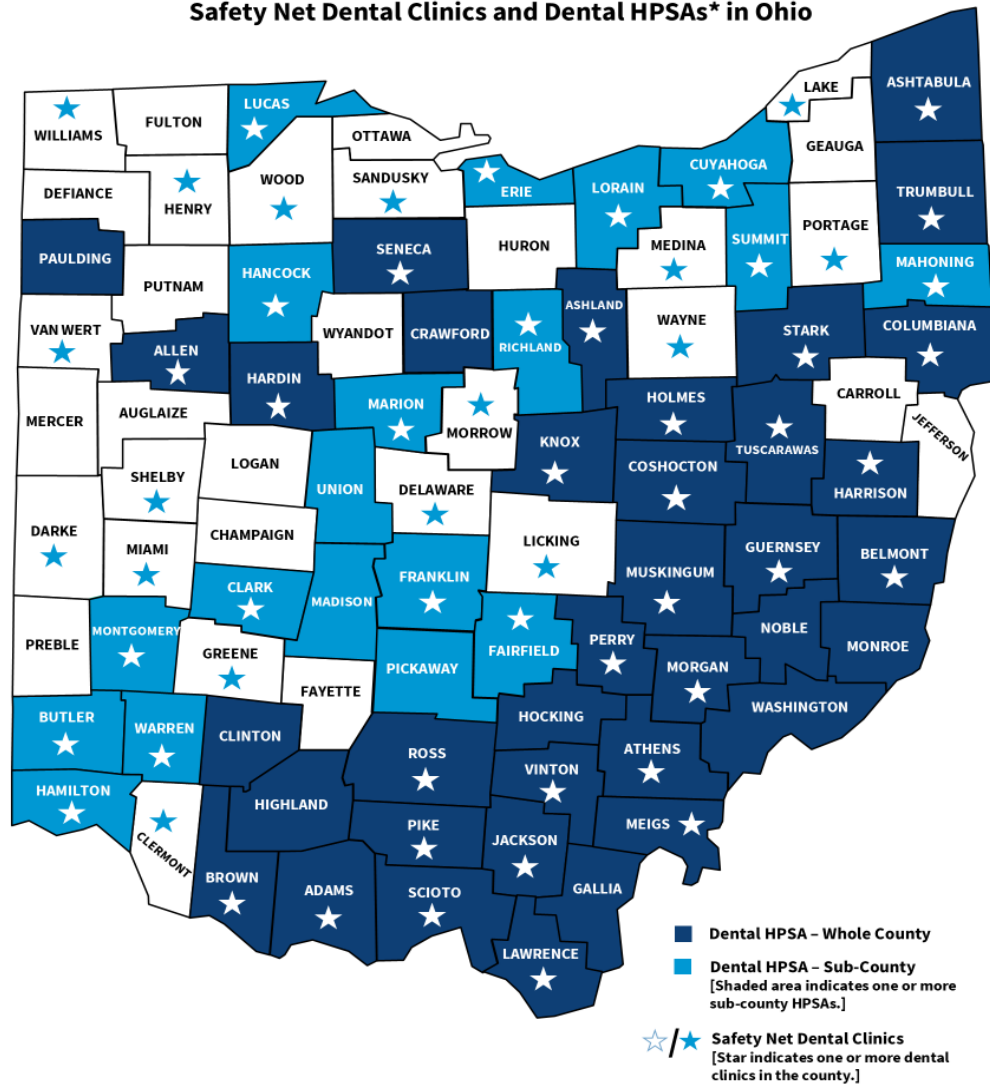
17% of pregnant women reported unmet dental needs within the past year.¹

30% of pregnant women rated their oral health as fair/poor, rather than excellent/very good/good.¹

42% of pregnant women did not have a visit for teeth cleaning.²



Safety Net Dental Clinics and Dental HPSAs* in Ohio



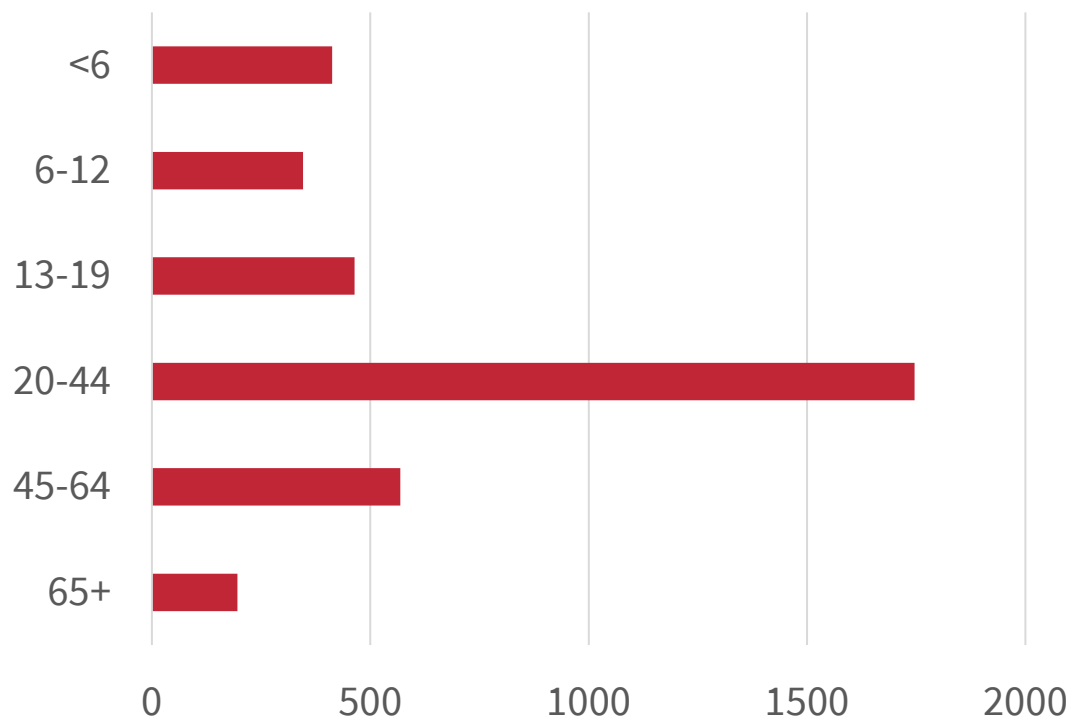
**A dental HPSA (health professional shortage area) is a federally designated geographic area, population or facility with a shortage of primary dental health care providers.*

Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions (NTDCs), 2016-2019

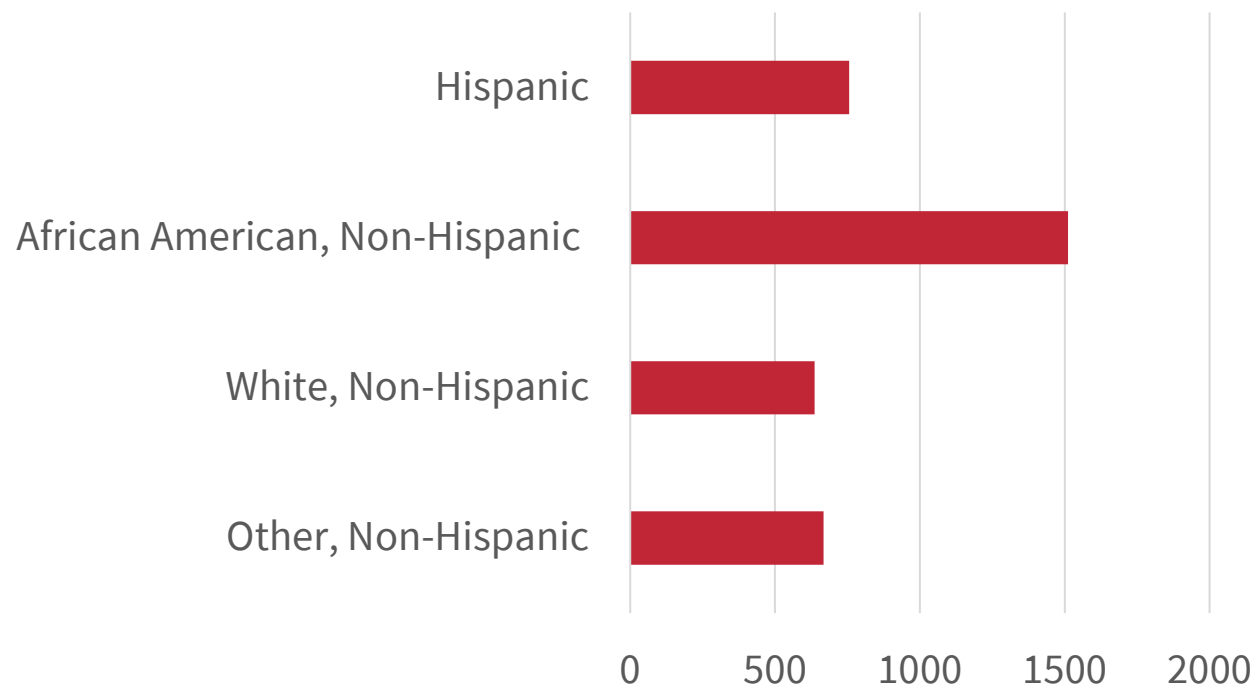
- **391,223 hospital visits** with a primary diagnosis of a NTDC, for an overall rate of 838 hospital visits per 100,000 Ohio residents.
- **85%** of these visits were for oral health problems that can typically be addressed in a dental office/clinic.
- **54%** of all NTDC-related hospital visits were by **Medicaid-insured** patients; followed by persons who were uninsured (18%).
- Estimated costs of these visits is **\$738 million**.

Emergency Department Visits for NTDCs, 2016-2019 (continued)

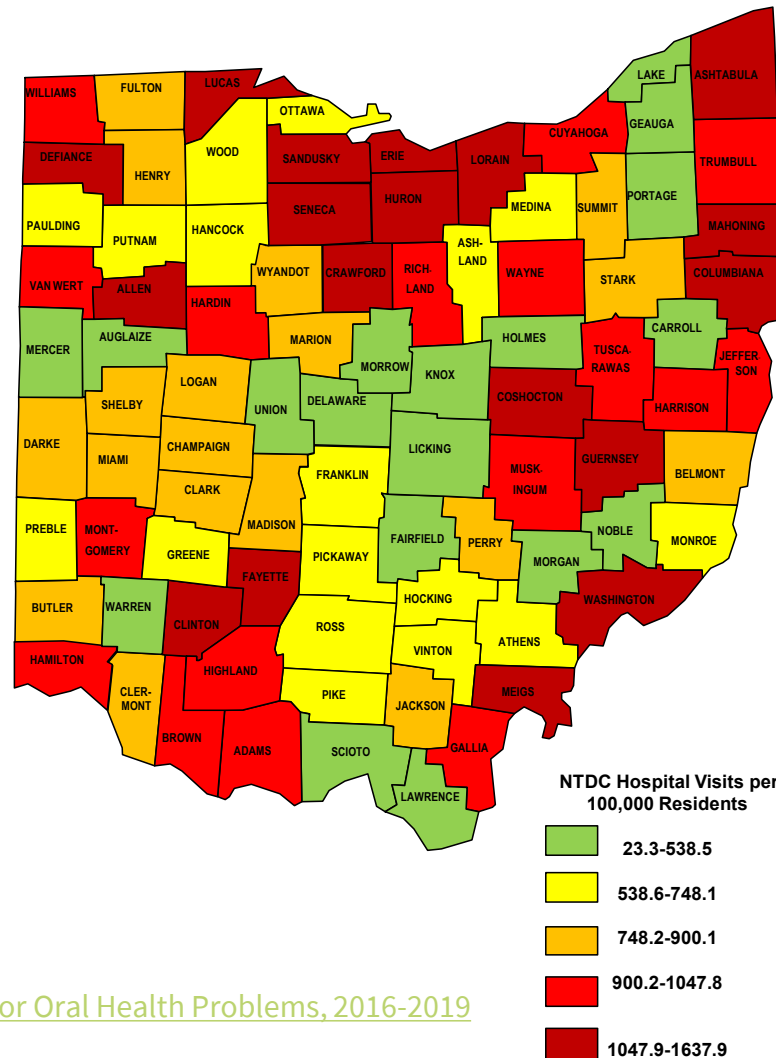
Rate of Hospital Visits for NTDCs (per 100,000 residents), Disparities by Age



Rate of Hospital Visits for NTDCs (per 100,000 residents), Disparities by Race/Ethnicity



Data Source: [Use of Hospital Emergency Departments for Oral Health Problems, 2016-2019](#)



Data Source: [Use of Hospital Emergency Departments for Oral Health Problems, 2016-2019](#)

Are We Getting the Job Done?

- Disparities continue to exist.
- What's behind the observational data?
- Access to care remains limited.
- Strategies that show promise:
 - Integration of oral health into primary care/chronic disease management.
 - Expansion of school-based/linked oral health services.
 - Changes in Medicaid.

QUESTIONS?

Barbara.Carnahan@odh.ohio.gov

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/oral-health-program/welcome>





**Department of
Health**