

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

Oral Health 2024 Symposium

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**Barbara Carnahan, RDH, BS, MS**

**Junhui Qian, BA, MS**

# Objectives

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- 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.

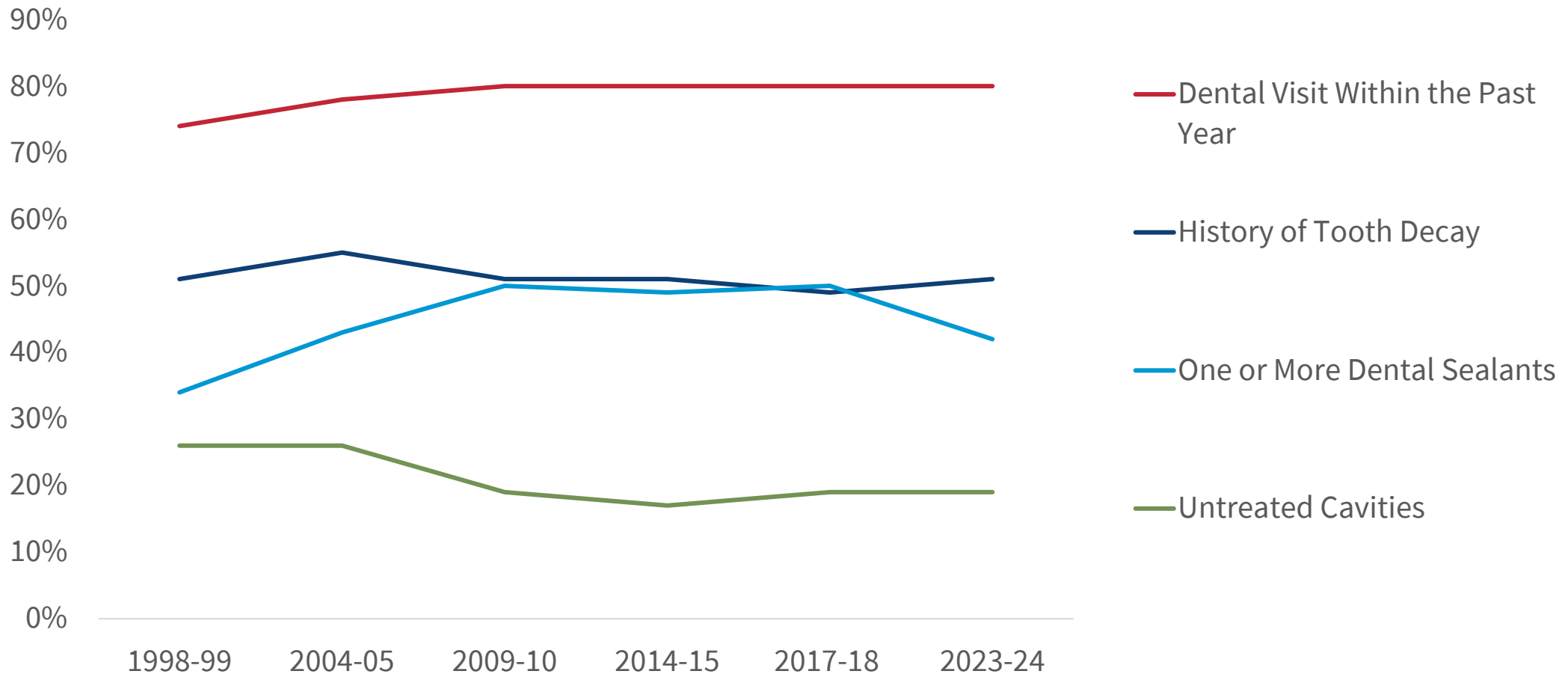
# Oral Health Status of Children

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

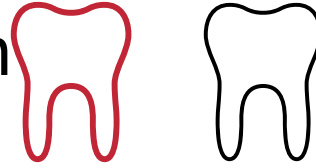
# Trends in Oral Health Status Among Ohio 3rd Grade Schoolchildren, 1998-2024



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.

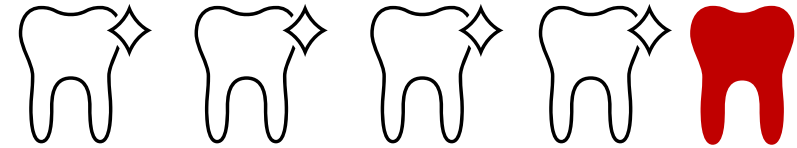


Schoolchildren who are significantly more likely to have a history of tooth decay compared to their counterparts are:

- 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

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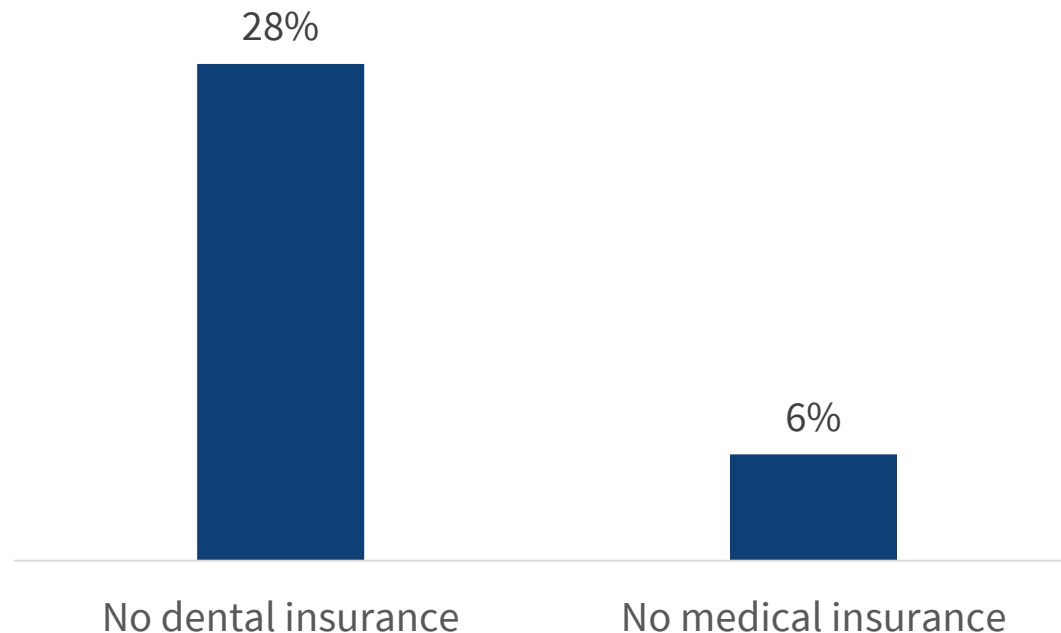


- Dental insurance coverage.
- Self-reported rating of oral health.
- Complete tooth loss.
- Unmet dental needs.
- Dental visit within the past year.
- Oral health of pregnant women.

# Dental Insurance Coverage, 2021

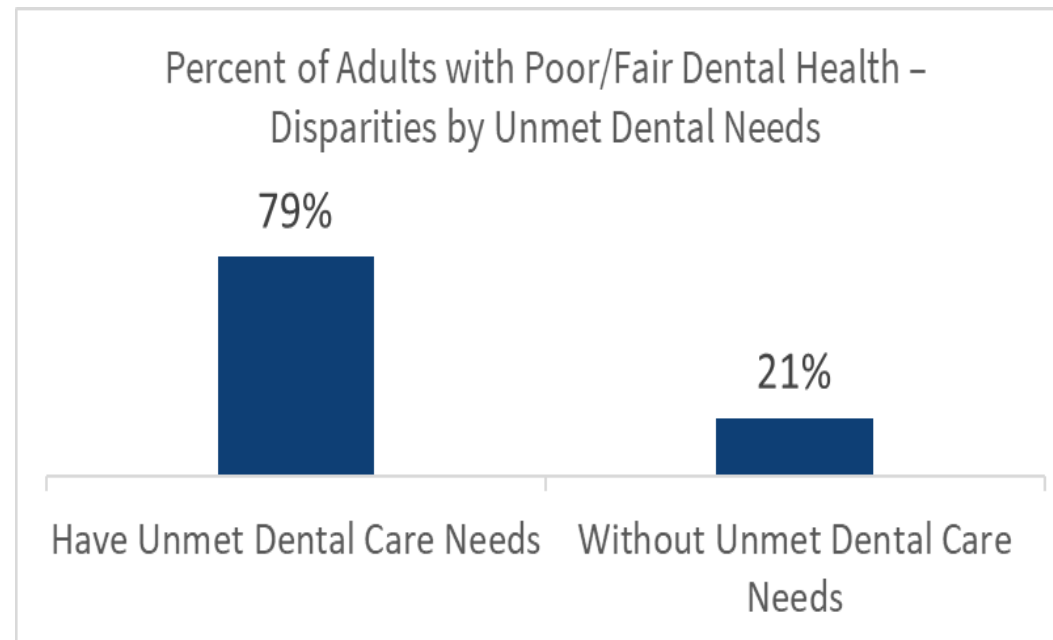
The percentage of adults reportedly **without dental insurance** was **4.6x** higher than the percentage without medical insurance.

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



# 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.



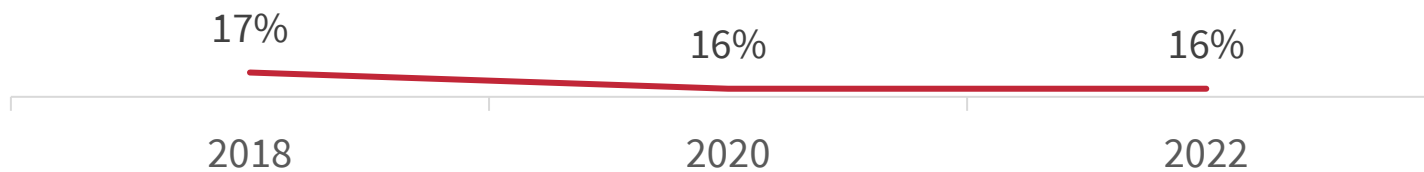
Data Source: [Ohio Medicaid Assessment Survey \(OMAS\)](#)

# 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



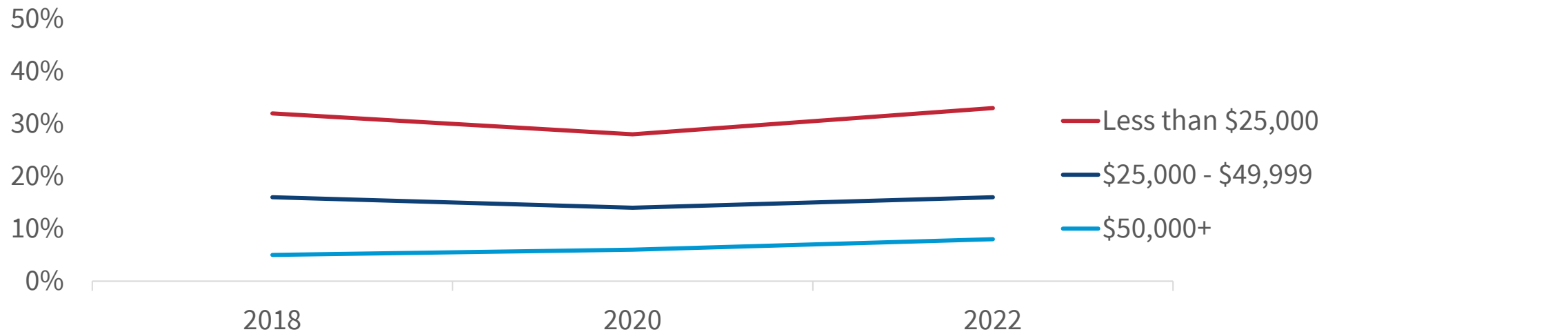
Source: Adobe Stock Images.

# Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022

## — Disparities by Income

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

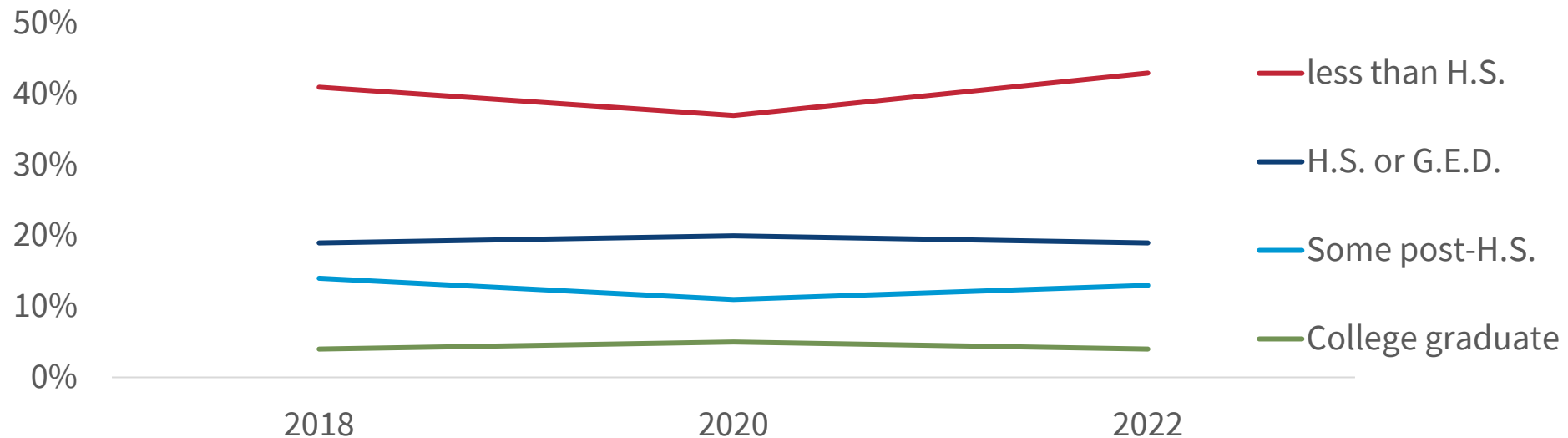
- **2x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with an income of \$25,000 to \$49,999.
- **4x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with an income of \$50,000 or more.



# Complete Tooth Loss in Older Adults, 2018-2022 — Disparities by Education

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

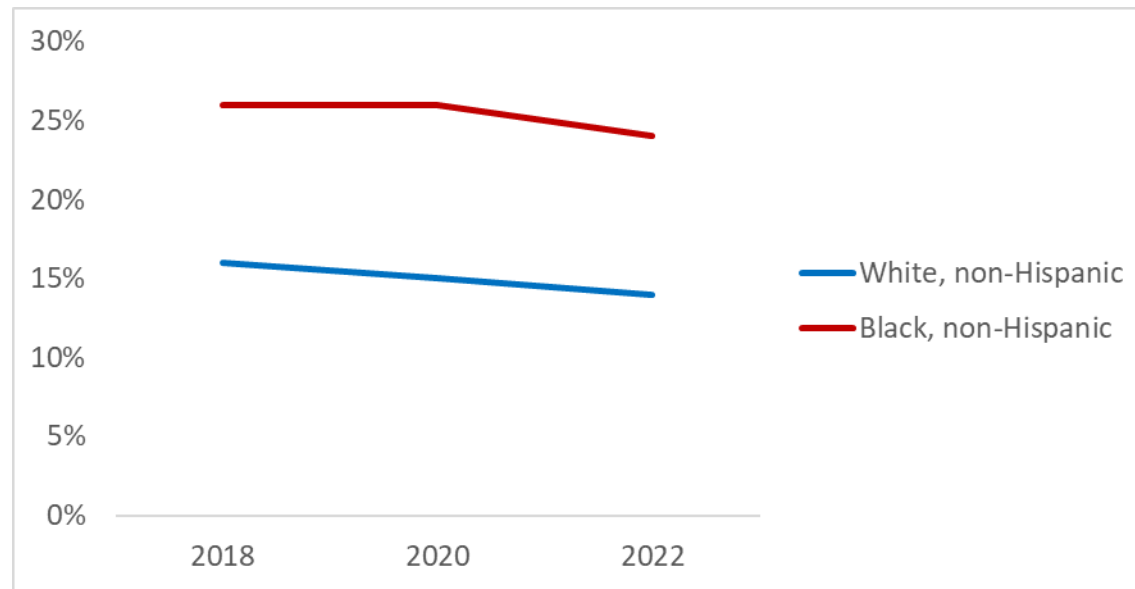
- **2x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with a High School (H.S.) or General Educational Development (G.E.D.) degree.
- **12x** as likely to lose all their teeth compared to those with a college degree.



# 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.

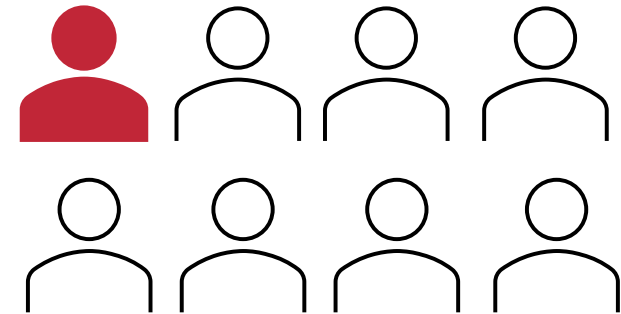


Data Source: [Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System \(BRFSS\)](#)

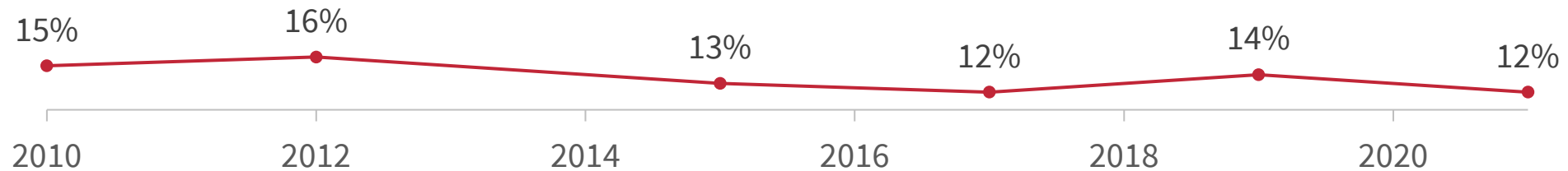


# Unmet Dental Needs, 2010-2021 —Overall Findings

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



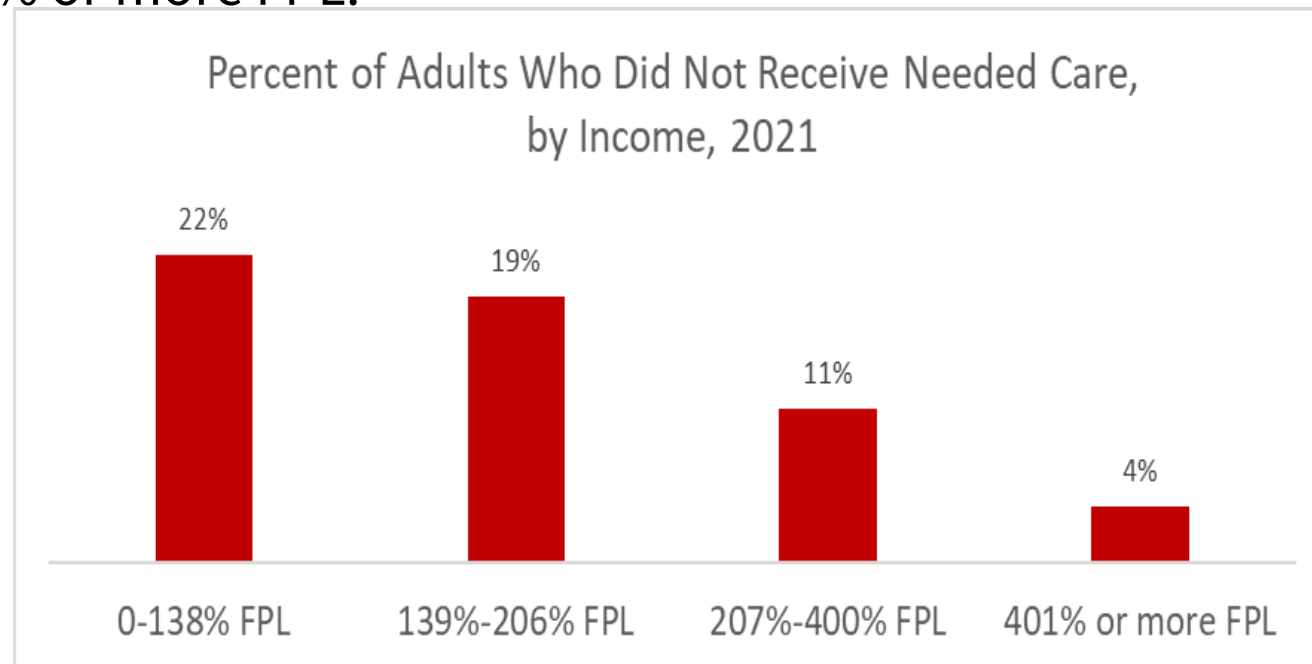
Percent of Adults with Unmet Dental Health Care Needs



# Unmet Dental Needs , 2021 — Disparities by Income

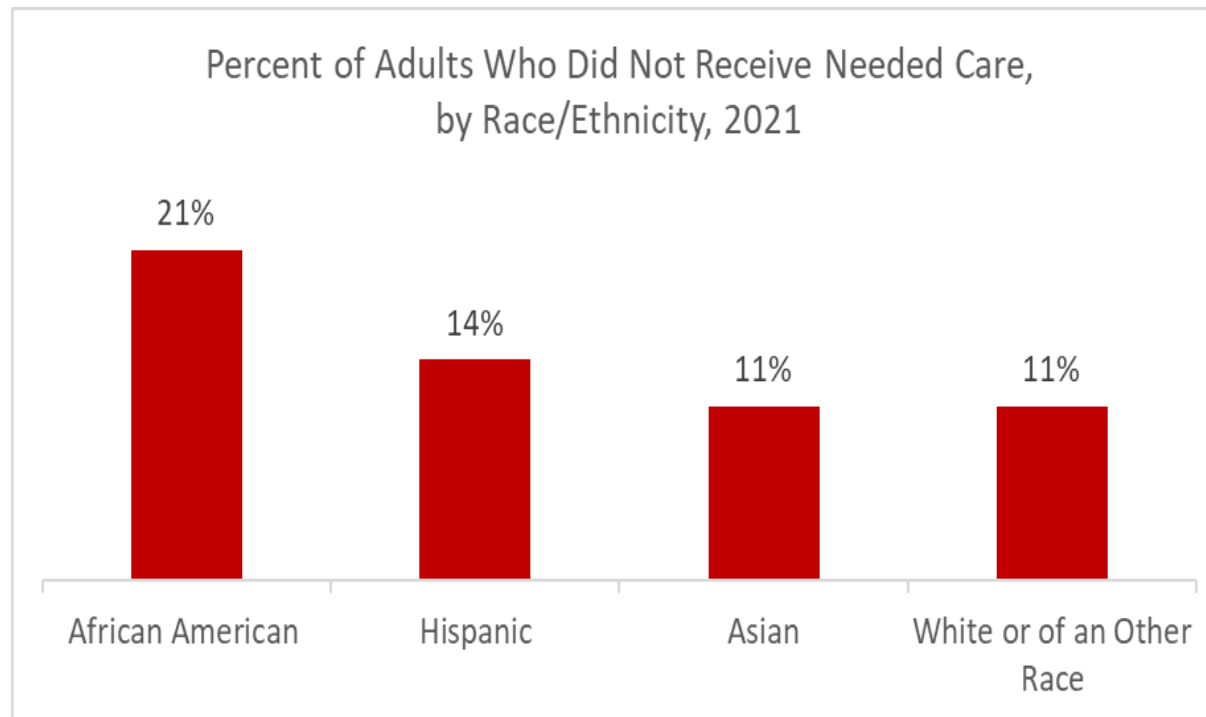
Adults with an income between **0% and 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)** are

- **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.



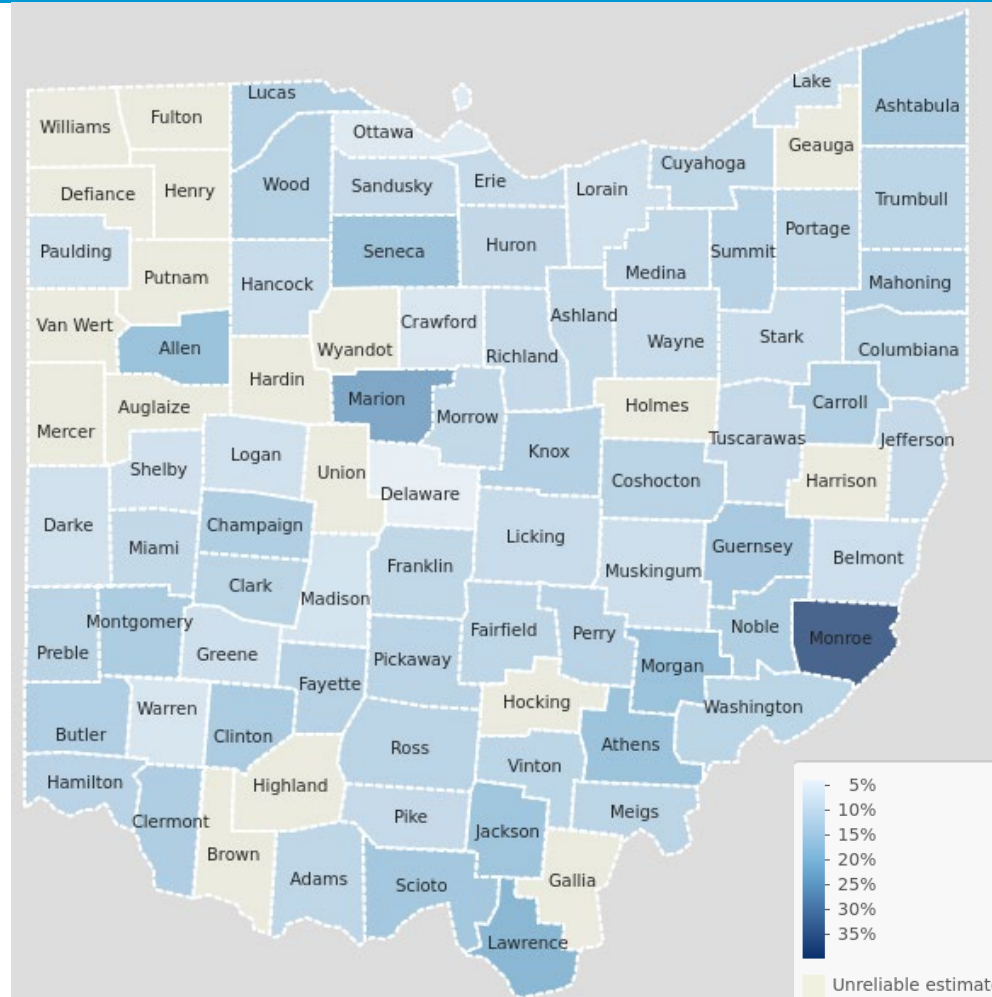
# Unmet Dental Needs, 2021 — Disparities by Race/Ethnicity

**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



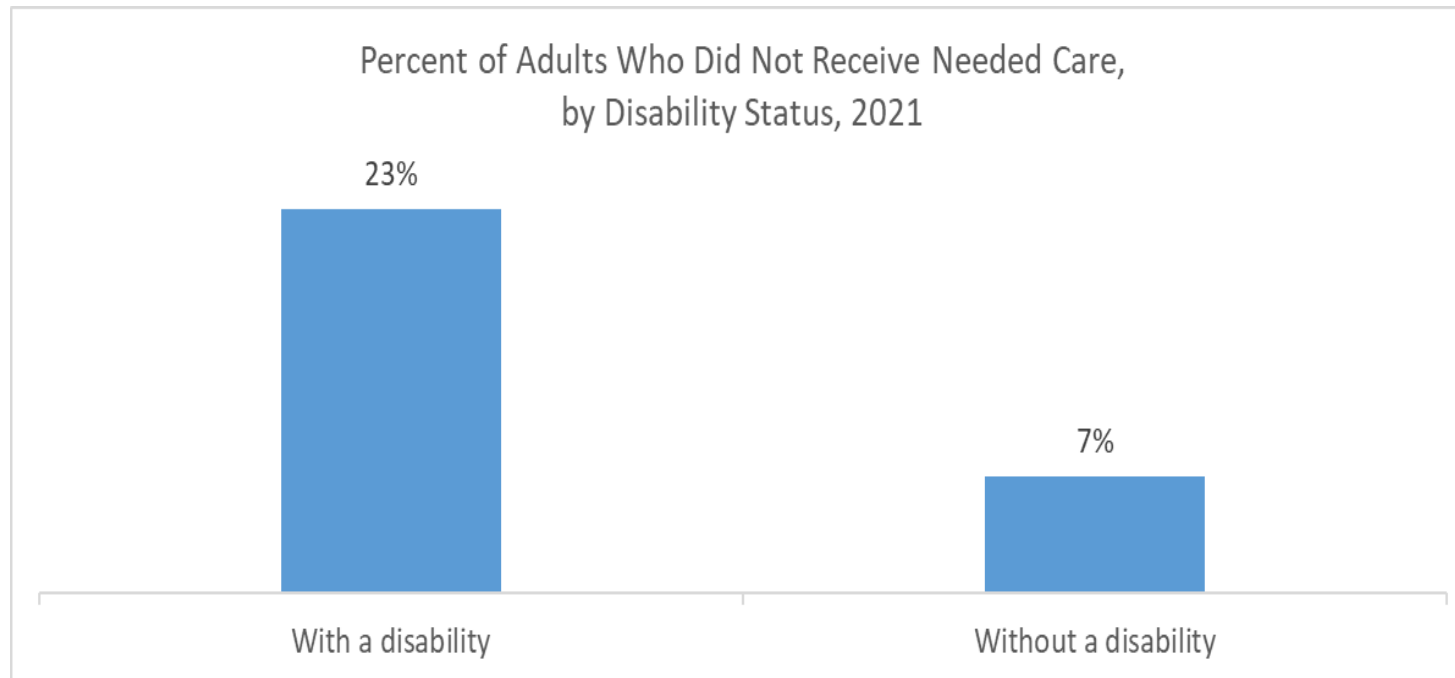
## Counties with the Highest Percentage of Persons Reporting Unmet Dental Needs:

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:

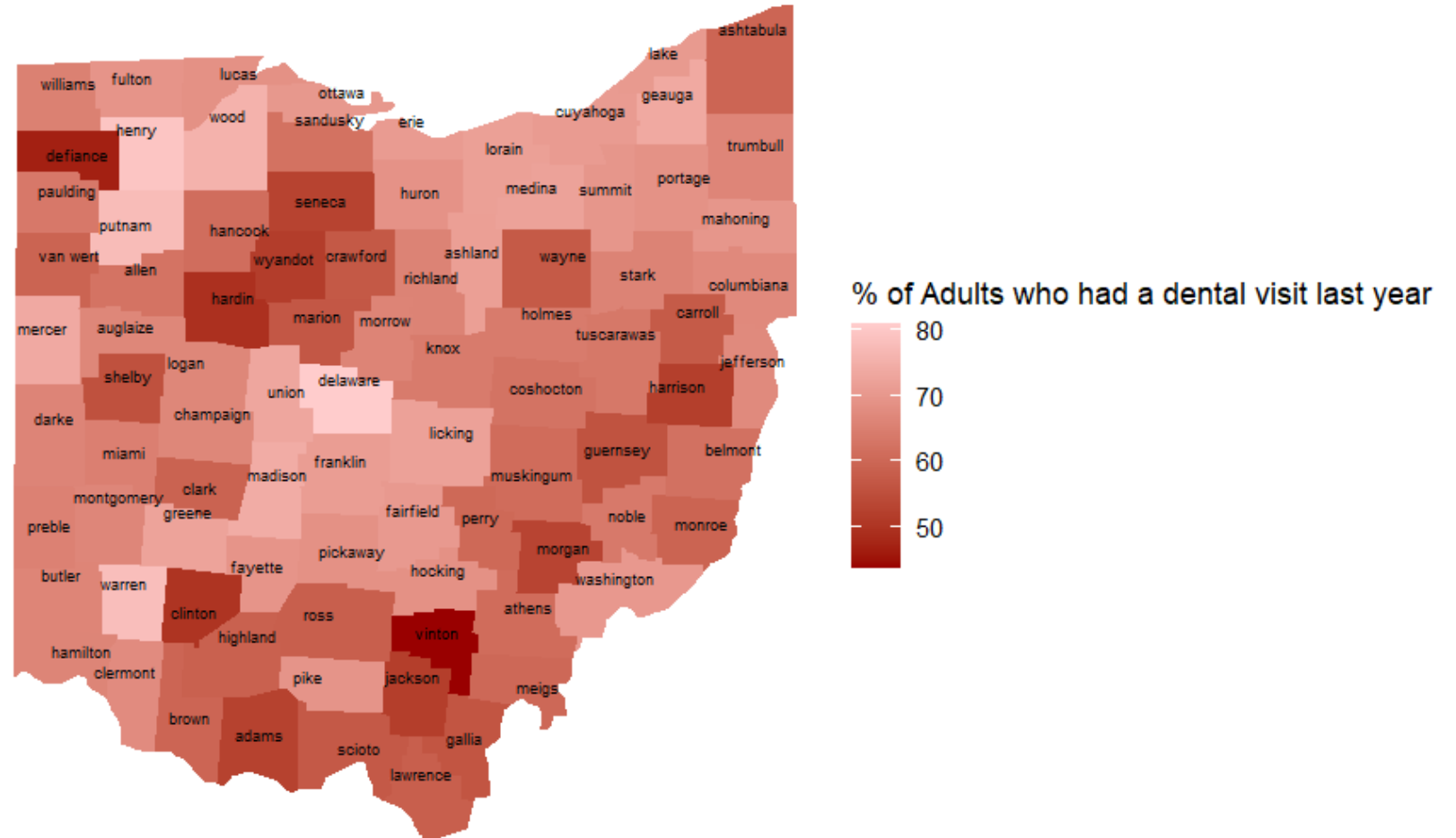
- Those with an annual **income of less than \$15,000**.
- Those with **less than a High School degree**.
- **Black** or **multiracial**.

(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.<sup>1</sup>

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

**42%** of pregnant women did not have a visit for teeth cleaning.<sup>2</sup>





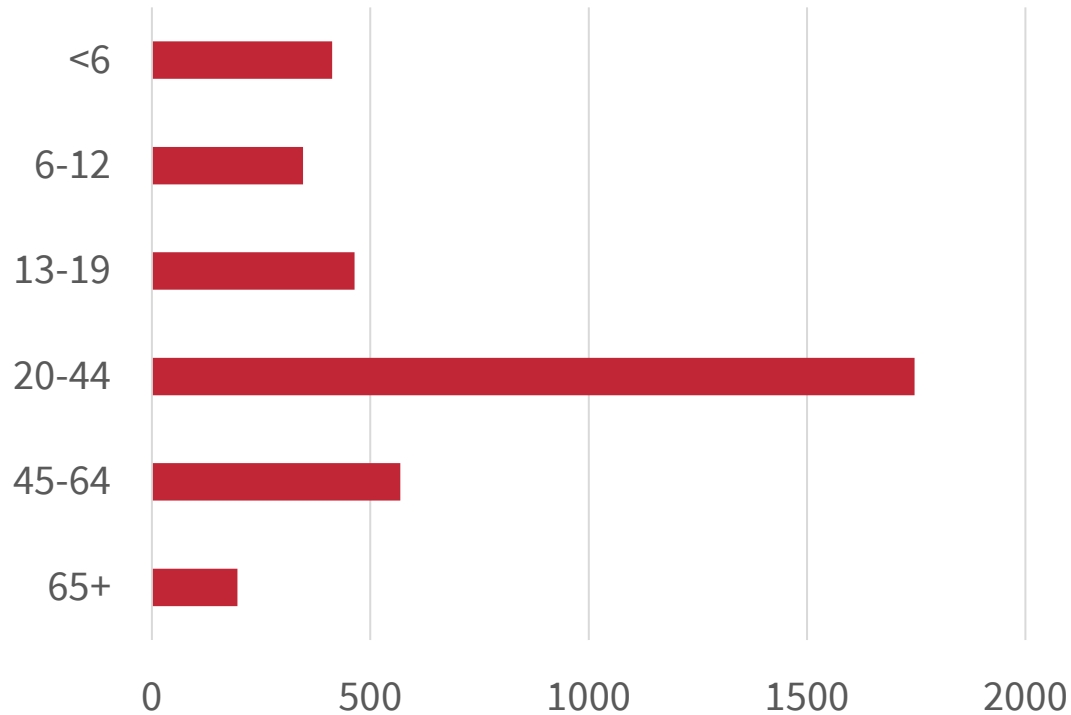


# Emergency Department Visits for Non-Traumatic Dental Conditions (NTDCs), 2016-2019

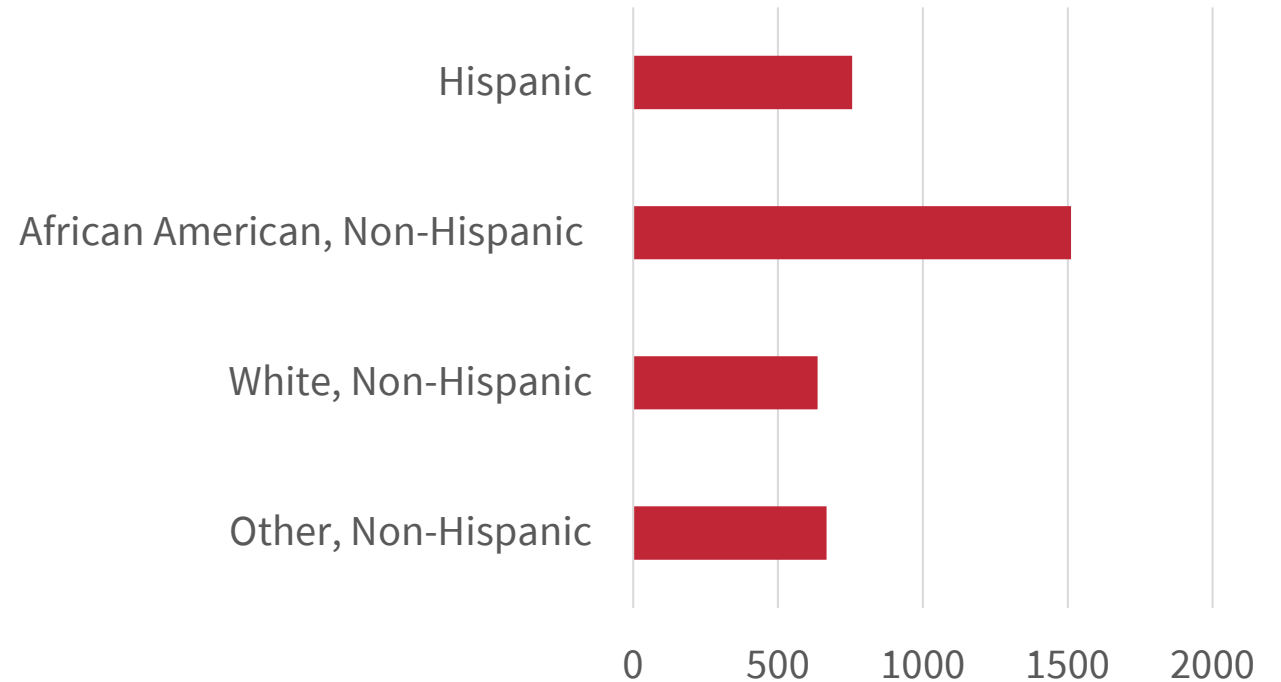
- **391,223 hospital visits** with a primary diagnosis of a NTDC, for an overall rate of 838 hospital visits per 100,000 Ohio residents.
- **85%** of these visits were for oral health problems that can typically be addressed in a dental office/clinic.
- **54%** of all NTDC-related hospital visits were 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

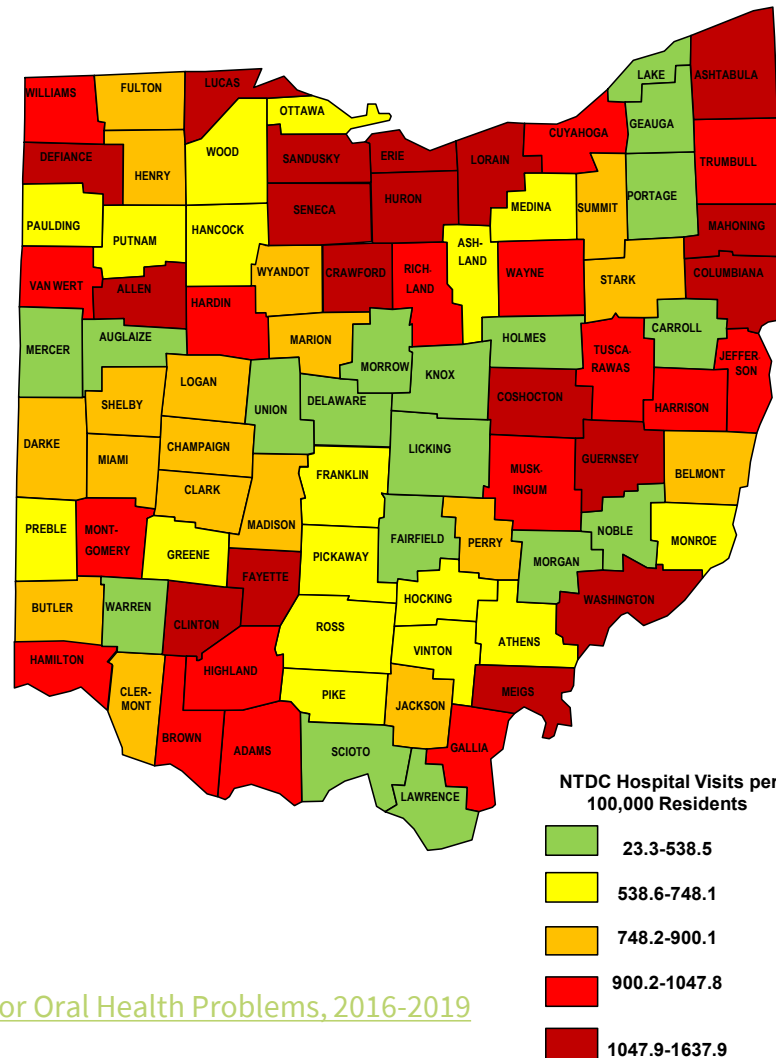


Rate of Hospital Visits for NTDCs (per 100,000 residents), Disparities by Race/Ethnicity



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

# Rates of Emergency Department Visits by County, 2016-19



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

# Are We Getting the Job Done?

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- 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?

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[Barbara.Carnahan@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Barbara.Carnahan@odh.ohio.gov)

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



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