



CHILD WELL-BEING SURVEY 2017

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Dental health among children in Greater Cincinnati region

The 2017 *Child Well Being Survey (CWBS)* asked parents and guardians in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to rate their child's dental health and asked how many times their child had seen a dentist for preventive care in the past 12 months.

7 IN 10 PARENTS RATE THEIR CHILD'S TEETH AS EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD

Seven in 10 parents in the region reported that their child's teeth were excellent or very good (71%). Parents in suburban Ohio counties (77%) were most likely to rate their child's teeth as excellent or very good.

CONNECTION BETWEEN DENTAL HEALTH AND GENERAL HEALTH

Dental health varied by a parent's rating of the child's general health. Better physical health was linked to better dental health. Nearly 8 in 10 parents who rated their child's general health as excellent or very good also rated their child's dental health as excellent or very good (78%). Among parents who rated

Percentage of parents and guardians who rate their child's teeth as excellent or very good



*Ohio counties: Butler, Clermont and Warren; Northern Kentucky counties: Boone, Campbell and Kenton; rural counties: Dearborn, Franklin, Ohio, Ripley and Switzerland in Indiana, Bracken, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Owen and Pendleton in Kentucky, and Adams, Brown, Clinton and Highland in Ohio.

SOURCE: 2017 Child Well-Being Survey; Interact for Health and Cincinnati Children's

their child's general health as good, 4 in 10 rated their child's dental health as excellent or very good (43%). Fewer than 2 in 10 parents who rated their child's general health as fair or poor rated their child's dental health as excellent or very good (19%).

LOWER-INCOME CAREGIVERS LESS LIKELY TO RATE CHILD'S DENTAL HEALTH HIGHLY

Responses varied by income. Only 5 in 10 parents in households earning 100% or less of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)¹ rated their child's

¹ In 2016, 100% FPG was \$24,250 for a family of four and 200% FPG was \$48,500 for a family of four.

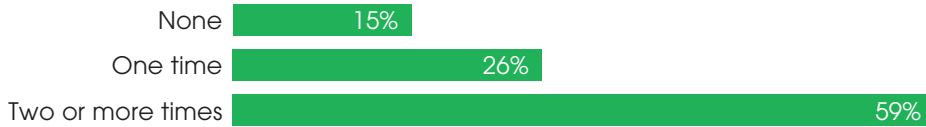
dental health as excellent or very good (49%). That compares with 7 in 10 parents in households earning between 100% and 200% FPG (69%) and more than 7 in 10 parents in households earning more than 200% FPG (75%).

6 IN 10 CHILDREN RECEIVED PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE AT LEAST TWO TIMES IN PAST 12 MONTHS

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentists recommends that children see the dentist for preventive care

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During the past 12 months, how many times did your child see a dentist for preventive dental care, such as check-ups or dental cleanings?



SOURCE: 2017 Child Well-Being Survey; Interact for Health and Cincinnati Children's

at least every six months. In our region, 6 in 10 parents or guardians reported that their child had met this recommendation (59%). More than 8 in 10 parents and guardians (85%) reported that their child had received preventive dental care at least one time in the past 12 months. This is slightly higher than the nation, where 8 in 10 parents (79%) reported one preventive dental visit in the past year.²

In our region, more than 1 in 10 parents or guardians reported that their child had not received any preventive dental care in the past 12 months (15%).

PREVENTIVE DENTAL CARE VARIED BY INCOME

Children in lower-income households were more likely to go without dental care. Two in 10

children in households earning 100% FPG or less (22%) or between 100% and 200% FPG (18%) had not received any preventive dental care in the past 12 months. This compares with 1 in 10 children in households earning more than 200% FPG (10%).

WHY WE ASK THESE QUESTIONS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases among children in the United States, and rates as one of the top unmet health needs in children.³ The condition of a child's teeth influences a child's general health and well-being. These questions help us better understand the dental health of our region's children and can inform discussions about improving dental care in our region.

² Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health. (2016). *National Survey of Children's Health—Child and Family Health Measures – Health Care Access and Quality – Preventive dental care, 1-17 years*. Retrieved from <http://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey>.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *Children's Oral Health*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/children_adults/child.htm.