

Preventive Health Care

Nationwide, adolescents have the lowest utilization rate of health care services of any age group and they are the least likely to seek care through traditional office-based settings.⁴² Barriers to care include: lack of experience in negotiating complex medical systems; reluctance to seek care for issues such as mental health; confidentiality and parental consent; lack of medical insurance; and lack of proximity to medical facilities. To reduce the barriers to access to health care it is critical for services to be available in a wide range of settings including community-based and school-based/linked services.

- Uninsured adolescents are twice as likely as insured adolescents to have not seen a physician for more than two years.⁴³
- Recent findings in the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health indicate that each year one in five adolescents does not get health care even though they feel that they should. Among the adolescents who have foregone care, 63 percent reported “thinking the problem would go away,” 15 percent were unable to pay for it, 14 percent feared what the physician would say or do, 12 percent reported a parent or guardian would not accompany them, 11 percent had concerns about confidentiality and 9 percent had difficulty making an appointment.⁴⁴
- Adolescents 10 - 19 years of age have fewer health care visits than children less than 10 years of age. In 1997, 82 percent of adolescents had one or more contacts with a physician or other health care professional compared with 91percent of children younger than 10 years of age.⁴⁵

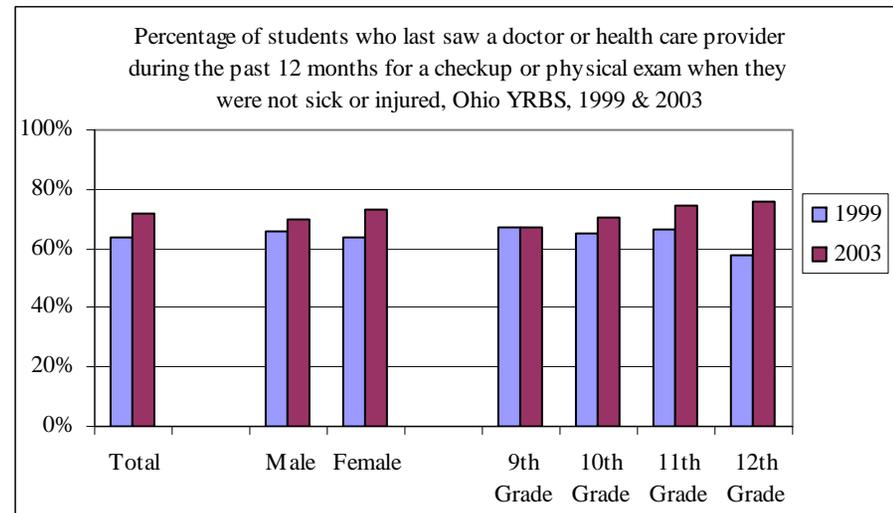
HP2010 Objectives:

There are no objectives related to this issue.

• Preventive Health Care: Office Visit

Q96 When was the last time you saw a doctor or health care provider for a checkup or physical exam when you were not sick or injured?

- **Most students get a medical checkup each year.**
 - In 2003, 72 percent of students report seeing a doctor or health care provider during the past 12 months for a check-up or physical exam when they were not sick or injured.
 - There are no significant differences in seeing a doctor or health care provider when they were not sick or injured between males and females or by grade level.
- **Significantly more students report getting a routine medical check-up each year in 2003 (72 percent) than in 1999 (64 percent).**
 - This difference is significant for females and 12th graders.



- **Preventive Health Care: Dental Care**

Q97 When was the last time you saw a dentist for a checkup, exam, teeth cleaning or other dental work?

- **Most students get a dental checkup each year.**
 - In 2003, 72 percent of students report seeing a dentist for a checkup, exam, teeth cleaning or other dental work during the last 12 months.
 - There are no significant differences in visiting a dentist between males and females or by grade level.
- **There are no significant differences in getting a dental checkup each year between 1999 and 2003.**

