

“Make Your Smile Count”
1998-1999 Statewide Oral Health Survey of Schoolchildren

Allen County

CONDITIONS FOUND DURING DENTAL SCREENING	Estimated Percentage of:	
	6-8 year-olds	3rd graders
Children who had ever had a cavity	41%	46%
Children who had an untreated cavity at the time of the screening	21%	16%
Children who needed to see the dentist immediately (due to pain or infection) or soon (due to obvious cavity)	20%	16%
Children who had a preventive dental sealant on at least one permanent molar	9%	21%
Percentage of children who attended schools with sealant programs, had a dental sealant on at least one permanent molar, and whose parents say they received the sealant(s) at school	0%	0%

PARENTAL RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS		
Child's last dental visit was:		
• Within the last year	69%	71%
• 1 to 3 years ago	19%	21%
• More than 3 years ago	1%	3%
• Child has never been to the dentist	10%	5%
In the past year, there was a time when child needed dental care, but couldn't get it.	20%	16%
Of those whose child couldn't get the needed care, parents who said they tried to get dental care for the child	67%	82%
Of those whose child couldn't get needed care and parents tried to get care, the main reason they couldn't was:		
• Financial reasons (couldn't afford, no insurance)	77%	92%
• Couldn't find a dentist who accepted Medicaid	0%	3%
• Other (hard to get appointment, didn't know where to go, dislike dentist, wait is too long, not a serious problem, etc.)	23%	5%
Family's dental care is paid by:		
• Self-pay	32%	35%
• Medicaid	20%	18%
• Other Insurance	48%	47%
Child is eligible for the Free or Reduced Cost Meal Program at school	49%	47%