

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

State of Ohio

CONDITIONS FOUND DURING DENTAL SCREENING	Estimated Percentage of:	
	6-8 year-olds	3rd graders
Children who had ever had a cavity	47%	51%
Children who had an untreated cavity at the time of the screening	24%	26%
Children who needed to see the dentist immediately (due to pain or infection) or soon (due to obvious cavity)	24%	25%
Children who had a preventive dental sealant on at least one permanent molar	30%	34%
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	22%	23%

PARENTAL RESPONSES TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS		
Child’s last dental visit was:		
• Within the last year	73%	74%
• 1 to 3 years ago	18%	19%
• More than 3 years ago	2%	3%
• Child has never been to the dentist	7%	5%
In the past year, there was a time when child needed dental care, but couldn’t get it.	18%	19%
Of those whose child couldn’t get the needed care, parents who said they tried to get dental care for the child	70%	70%
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)	68%	72%
• Couldn’t find a dentist who accepted Medicaid	4%	4%
• Other (hard to get appointment, didn’t know where to go, dislike dentist, wait is too long, not a serious problem, etc.)	28%	24%
Family’s dental care is paid by:		
• Self-pay	32%	34%
• Medicaid	22%	21%
• Other Insurance	47%	45%
Child is eligible for the Free or Reduced Cost Meal Program at school	42%	43%