Hills and Valleys: The Challenge of Improving Oral Health in Rural and Appalachian Ohio

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What difference does oral health make?

A big difference!

Topics we plan to cover

- Oral health status of all Ohioans compared with people who live in rural and Appalachian areas
- Getting dental care—what are the barriers?
- What is the dental safety net in Ohio—how does it work, what does it provide, what are the challenges?
- School-based dental sealant programs—what are they and why are they so important?

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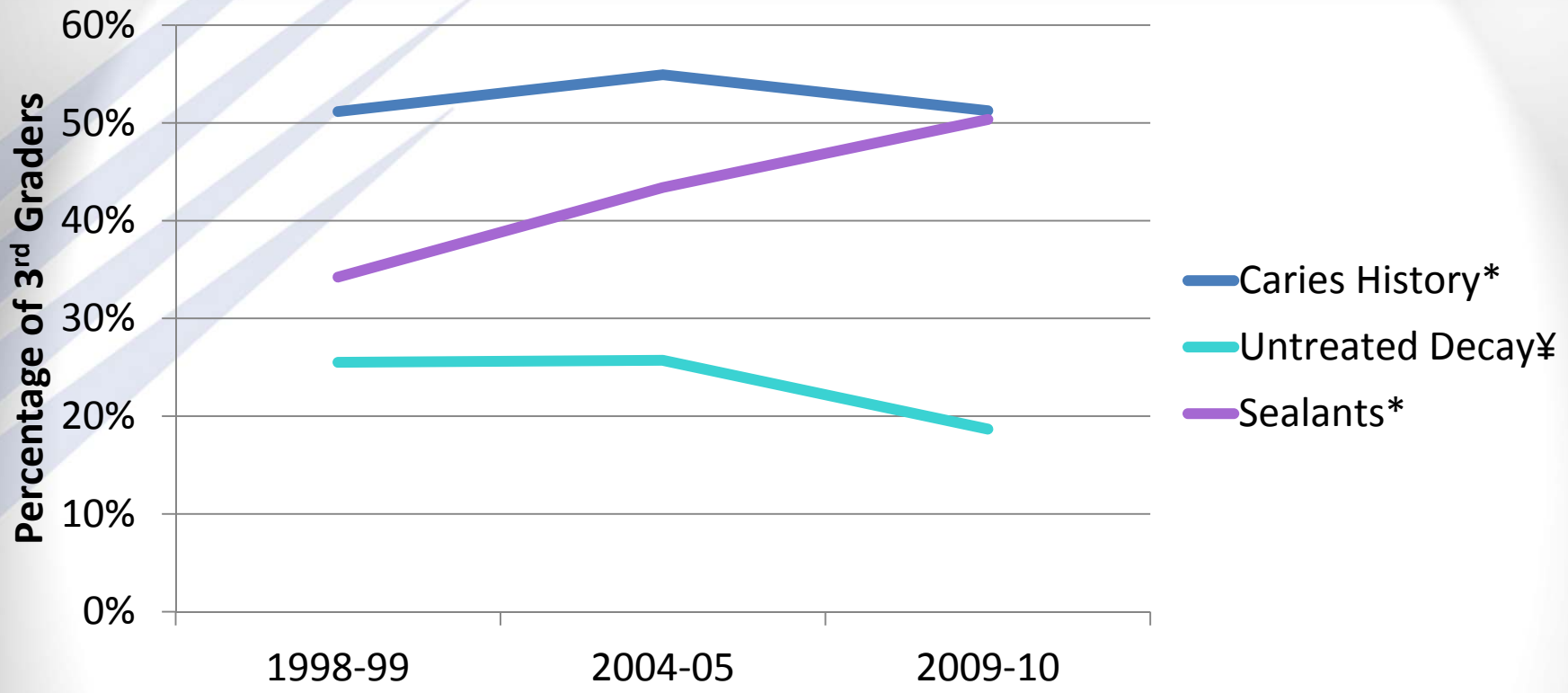
What do we know about the oral health of Ohioans in general?

Among children in Ohio:

- Dental care is the single most common unmet health care need
- 51% have a "caries history" by the 3rd grade (a cavity, a filling or a tooth extracted due to caries)
- 19% have one or more cavities that have not been treated
- 19% need early or urgent dental care
- Children from low-income families (i.e., covered by Medicaid) are 71% more likely to have cavities and 2.5 times more likely to report toothaches than children with private dental insurance

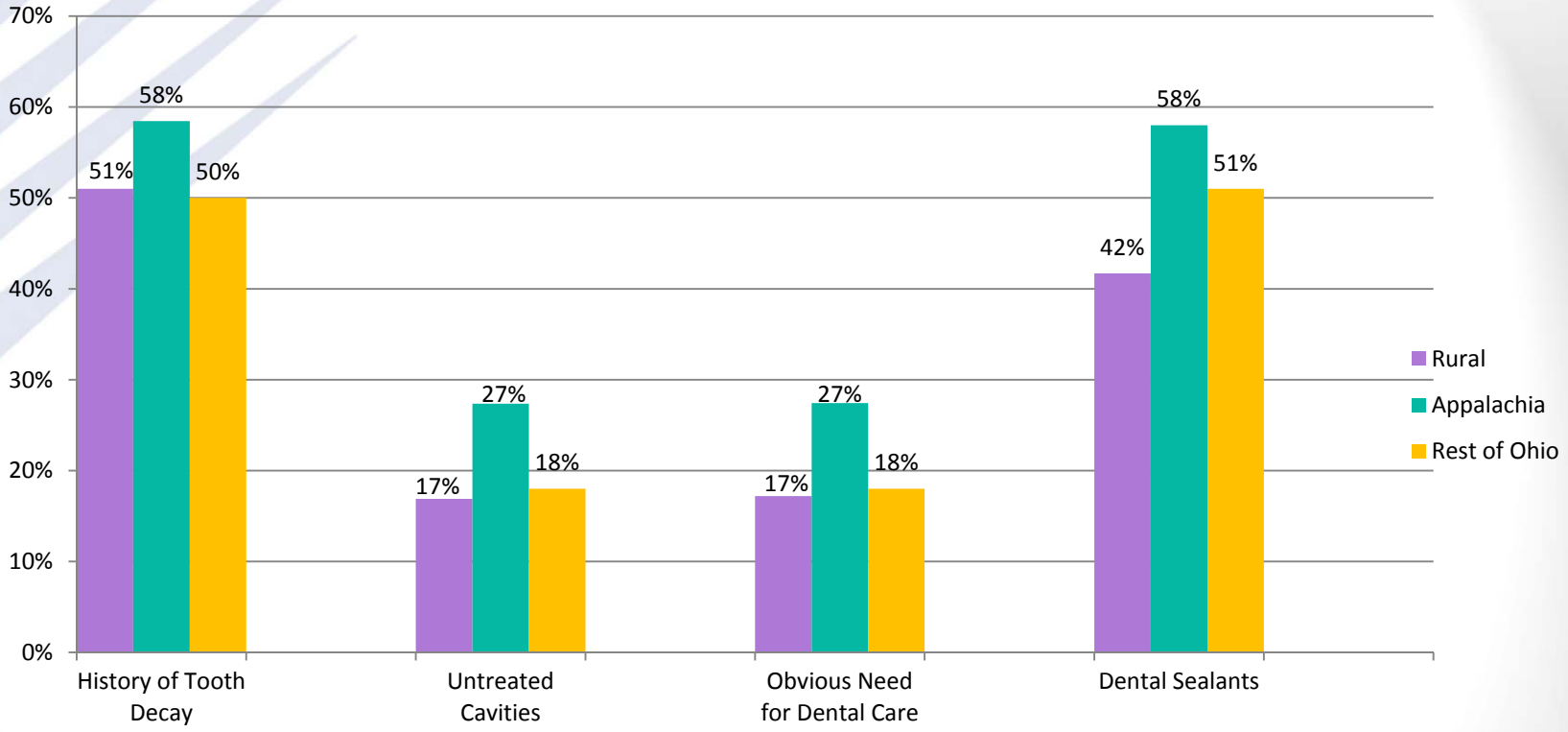
Oral Health Indicators for All Ohio 3rd Graders, 1998-2010



*Differences between years is statistically significant (p≤.05)

¥ 2009-10 is statistically significantly lower than 2004-05 and 1998-99 (p≤.05)

The Oral Health Status of Children in Rural and Appalachian Areas Compared to the Remainder of Ohio



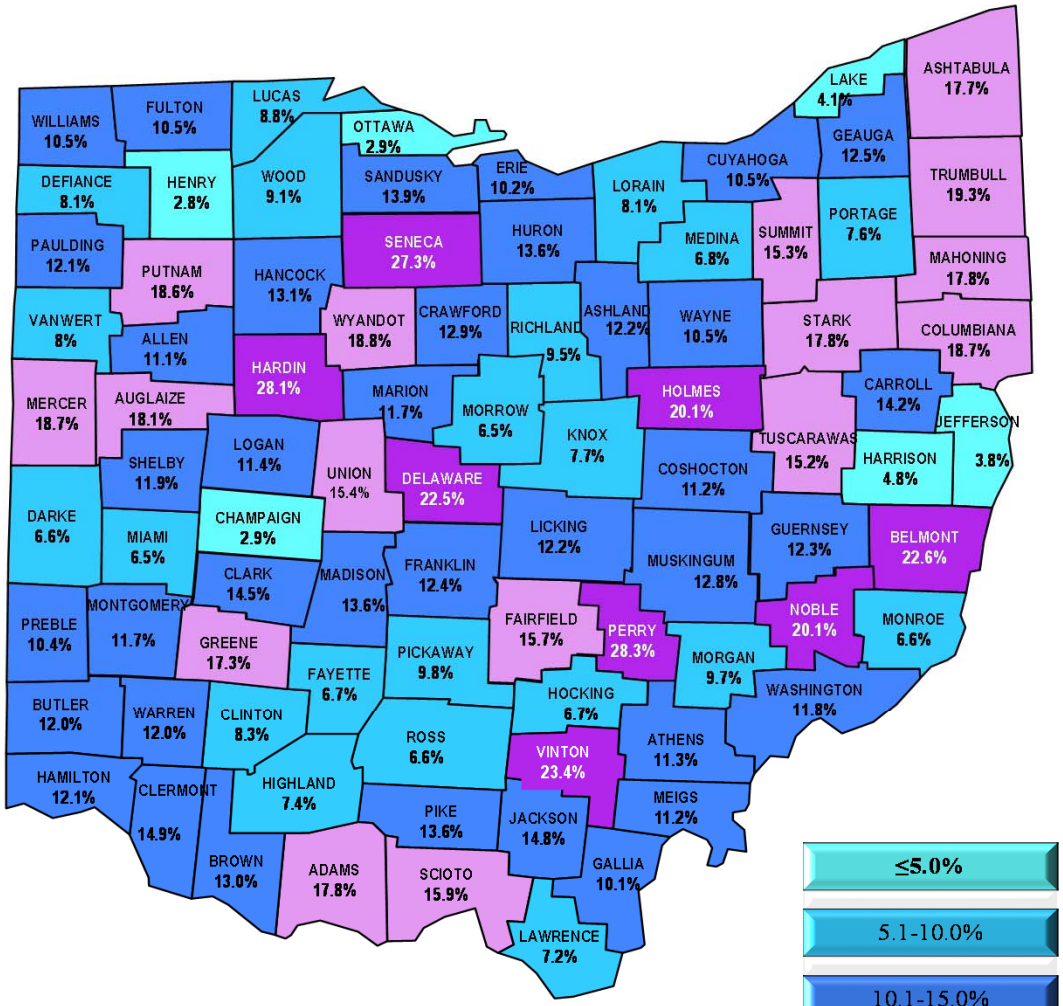
Is the Oral Health of Children in Rural and Appalachian Areas Getting Better?

Measure	1998-99 Survey	2004-05 Survey	2009-10 Survey
Percentage of children with a history of tooth decay			
Appalachian counties	**57%**	**63%**	**58%**
Rural counties	**50%**	**57%**	**51%**
Remainder of Ohio	50%	54%	50%
Percentage of children with untreated cavities			
Appalachian counties	**33%**	**35%**	**27%**
Rural counties	**23%**	**23%**	**17%**
Remainder of Ohio	24%	24%	18%
Percentage of children with an obvious need for dental care			
Appalachian counties	**33%**	**35%**	**27%**
Rural counties	**23%**	**24%**	**17%**
Remainder of Ohio	24%	25%	18%
Percentage of children with one or more dental sealants			
Appalachian counties	**44%**	**48%**	**58%**
Rural counties	**22%**	**37%**	**42%**
Remainder of Ohio	32%	43%	51%

Disparities in Access to Dental Care for Children in Rural and Appalachian Counties

- Children in rural and Appalachian counties are less likely to have visited a dentist during the past year
- 16 percent of children in Appalachia and 18 percent of children in rural counties do not have private dental insurance; this is higher than in other areas of the state
- 42 percent of children in Appalachia and 31 percent in rural counties are covered by Medicaid
- Higher percentage of children in both regions who have never visited the dentist, as seen on the next map

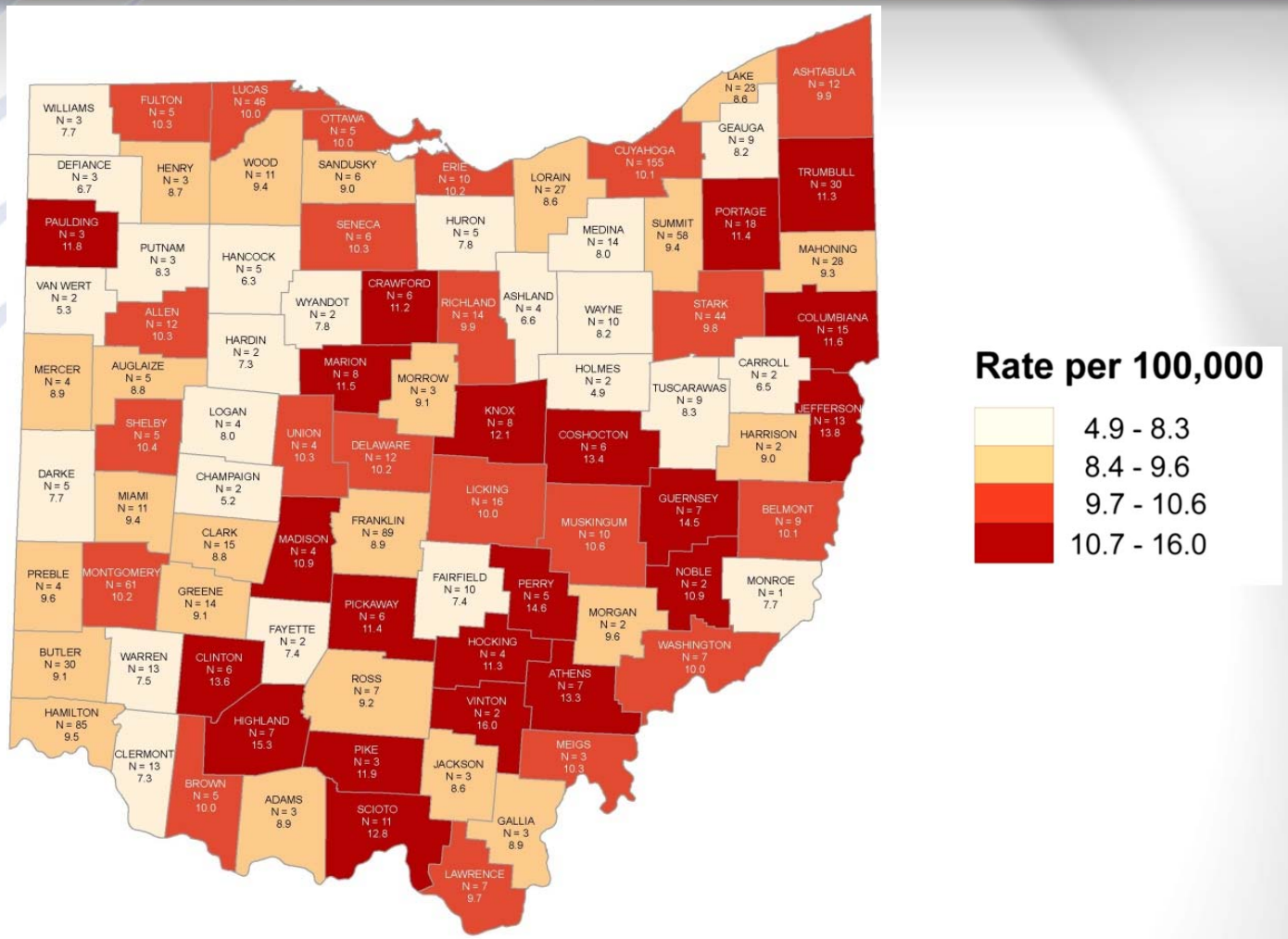
Percent of Ohio Children (under age 18) who Have Never Visited a Dentist, 2008



The Oral Health of Adults in Rural and Appalachian Counties

	Percentage with all permanent teeth removed due to tooth decay or gum disease		Percentage with a dental visit in the past year		Percentage that had not visited the dentist for 5 or more years	
Region	Adults 19-64 years	Seniors 65 and older	Adults 19-64 years	Seniors 65 and older	Adults 19-64 years	Seniors 65 and older
Appalachian	**7%**	**26%**	**61%**	**53%**	**15%**	**29%**
Rural/Non-Appalachian	**5%**	**19%**	**69%**	**62%**	**12%**	**20%**
Metropolitan	3%	20%	73%	69%	9%	16%
Suburban	2%	17%	76%	69%	7%	14%
State of Ohio	**4%**	**20%**	**71%**	**66%**	**10%**	**18%**

What About Oral Cancer?



Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer in Ohio, 2002-2006. Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System, 2012. http://www.odh.ohio.gov/~/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/opi/cancer%20incidence%20surveillance%20system%20ociss/oralcavitypharynxcancerinohio2002-2006.ashx.

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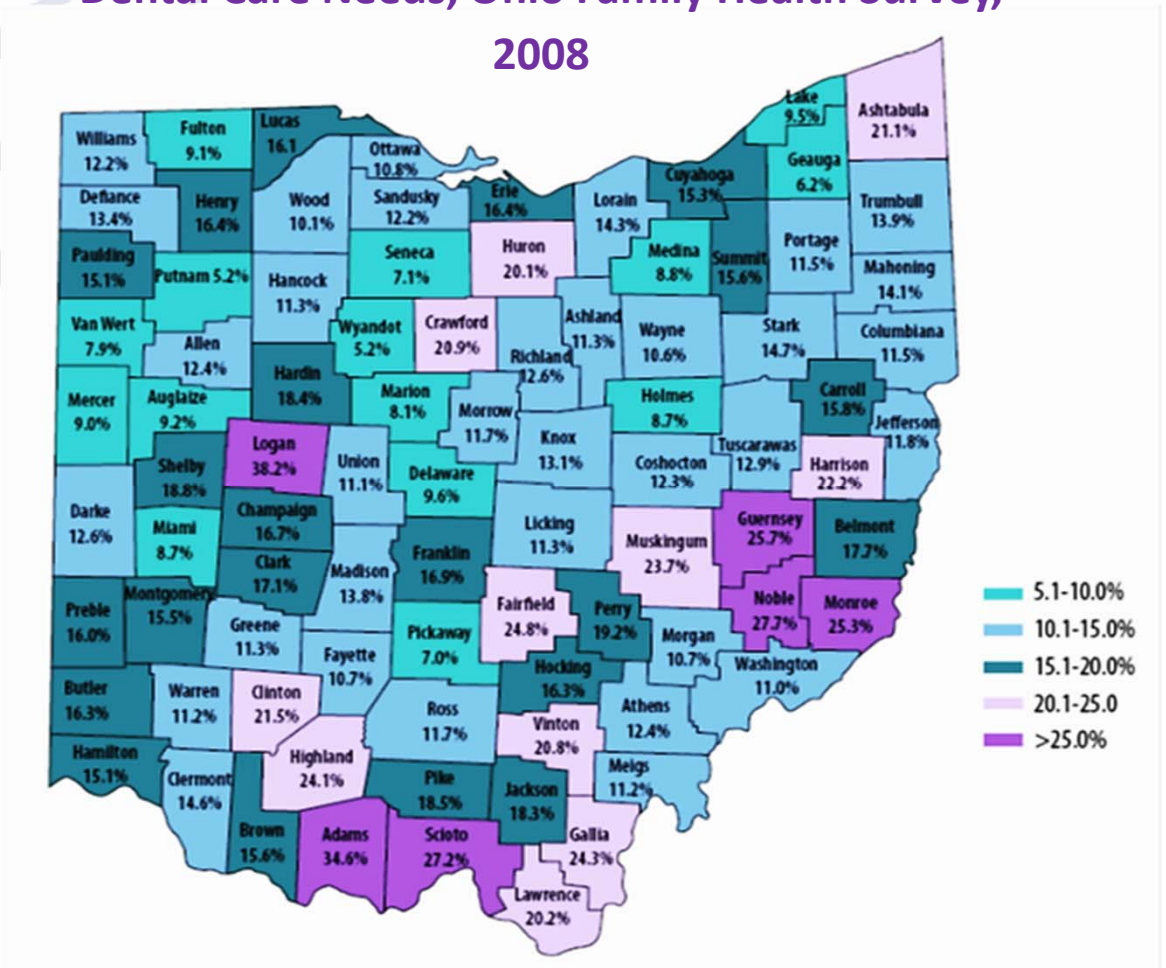
Unmet Dental Care Needs

- In 2010, dental care was the number one unmet healthcare need for all Ohio children and adults living at or below the federal poverty level
  - Affordability and lack of dental insurance is the most common reason given by parents as to why their child was not able to get needed dental care

What about adults' access to dental care?

Percent of Ohio Adults (age 18-64) with Unmet Dental Care Needs, Ohio Family Health Survey, 2008

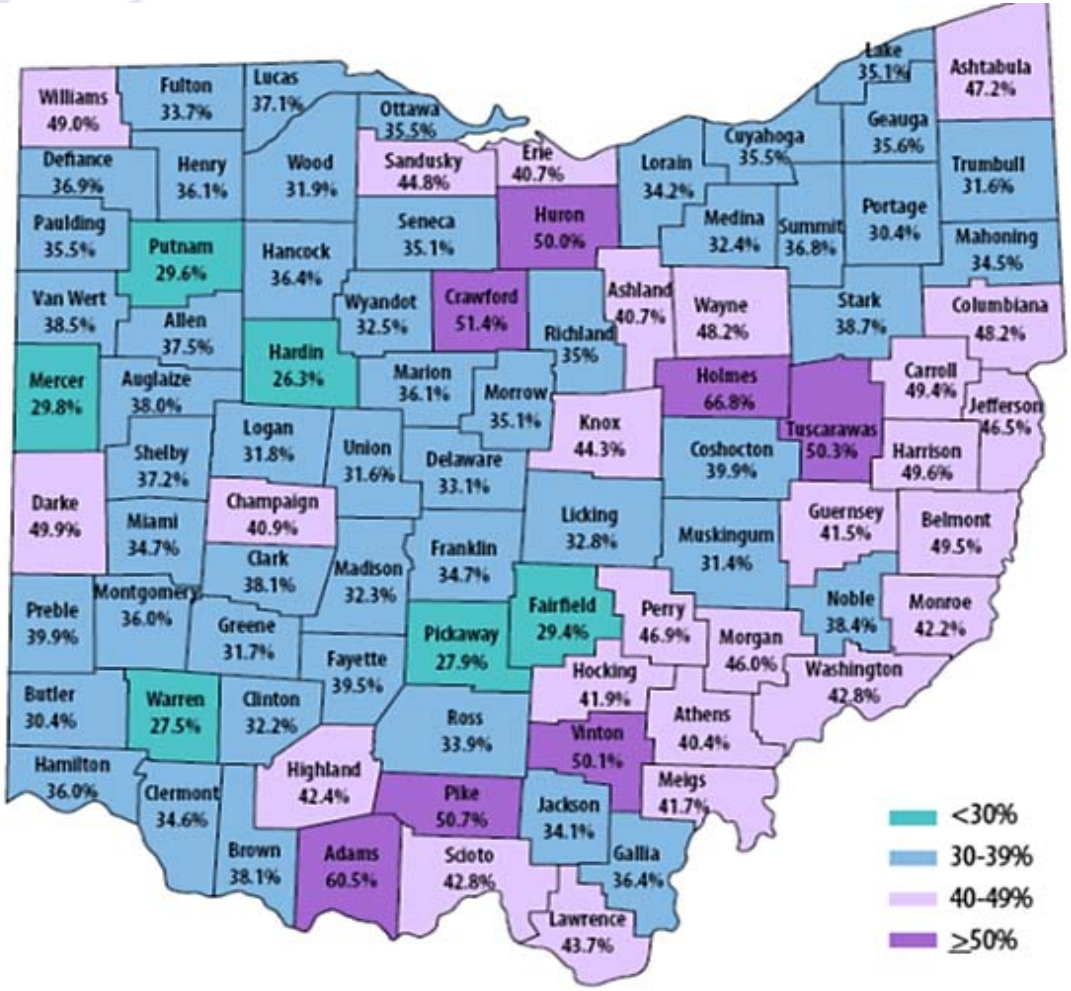


Dental Insurance Coverage

- 16% of Ohio children do not have dental coverage, 2010
  - Decrease from 33% in 1998
  - Increase in children covered by Medicaid from 20% in 1998 to 35% in 2010
- Over 3.9 million (45%) of Ohio adults do not have dental coverage, 2010

Percentage of Adults in Ohio without Dental Insurance, by County

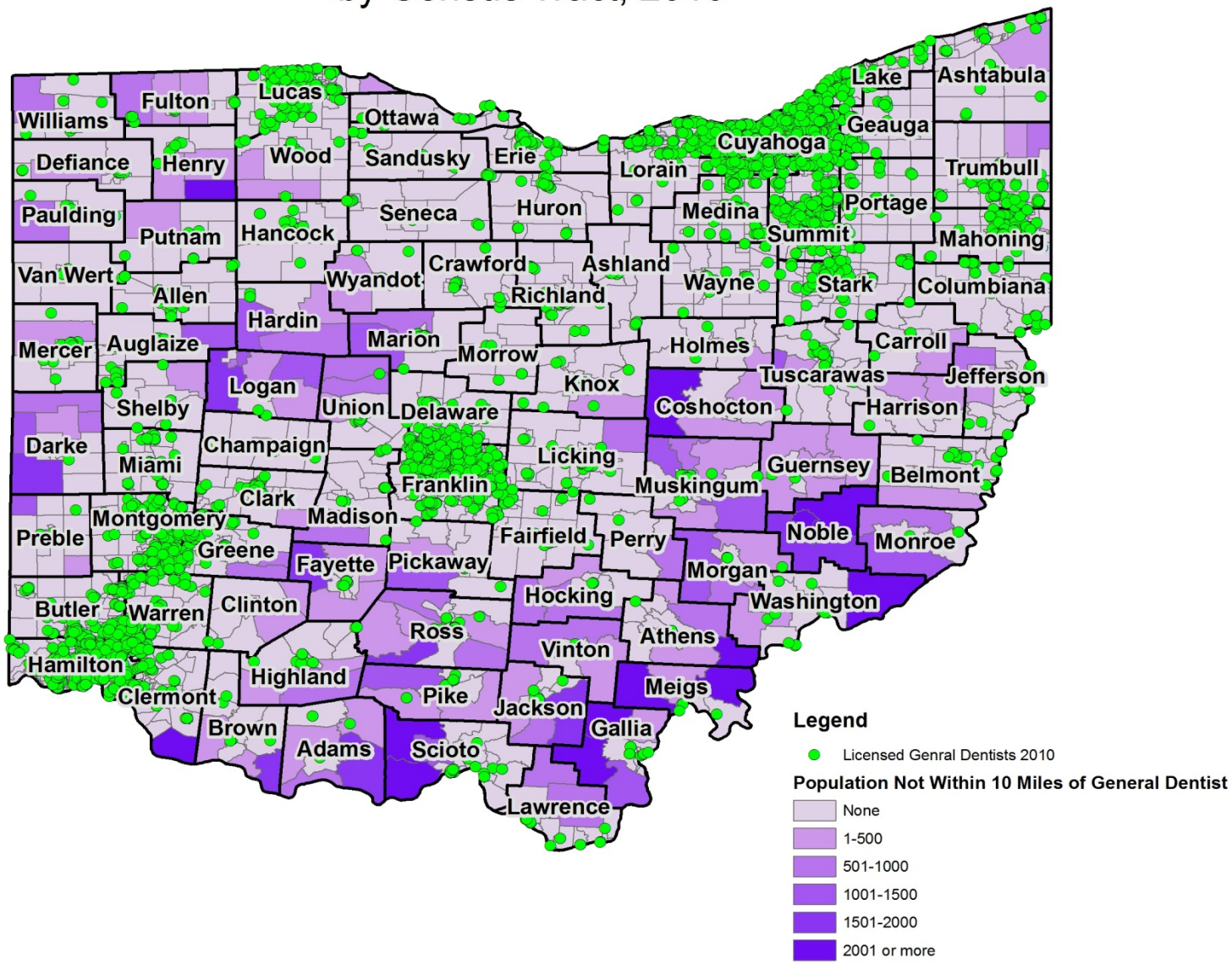
Ohio Family Health Survey, 2008



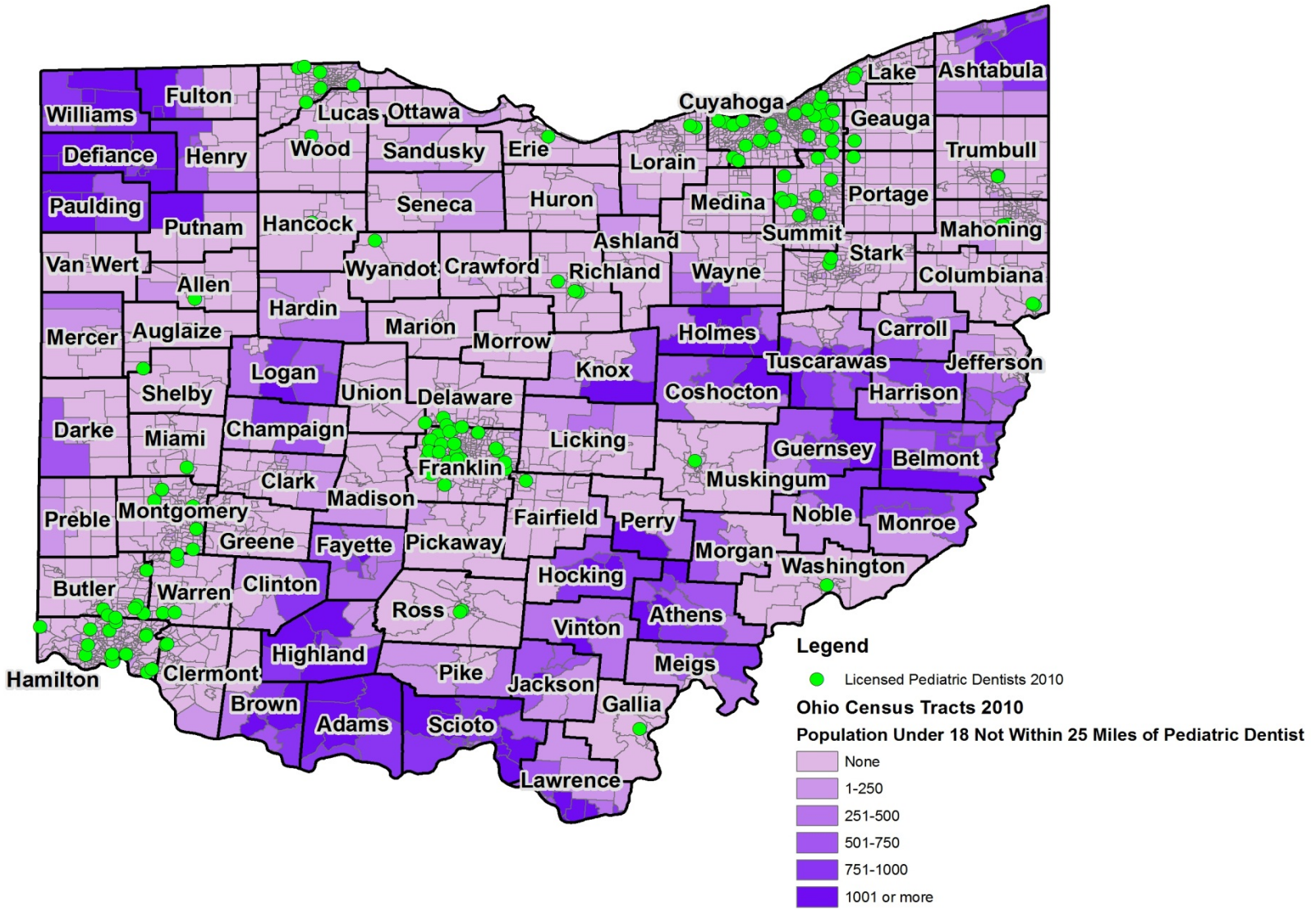
(Mal)Distribution of dentists

- Statewide there is 1 dentist for about every 1,900 people
- Disparities in the distribution of dentists
  - Appalachia: about 1 dentist for every 2,000 people
  - Rural, non-Appalachia: about 1 dentist for every 2,900 people

Population Not Within 10 Miles of a General Dentist by Census Tract, 2010



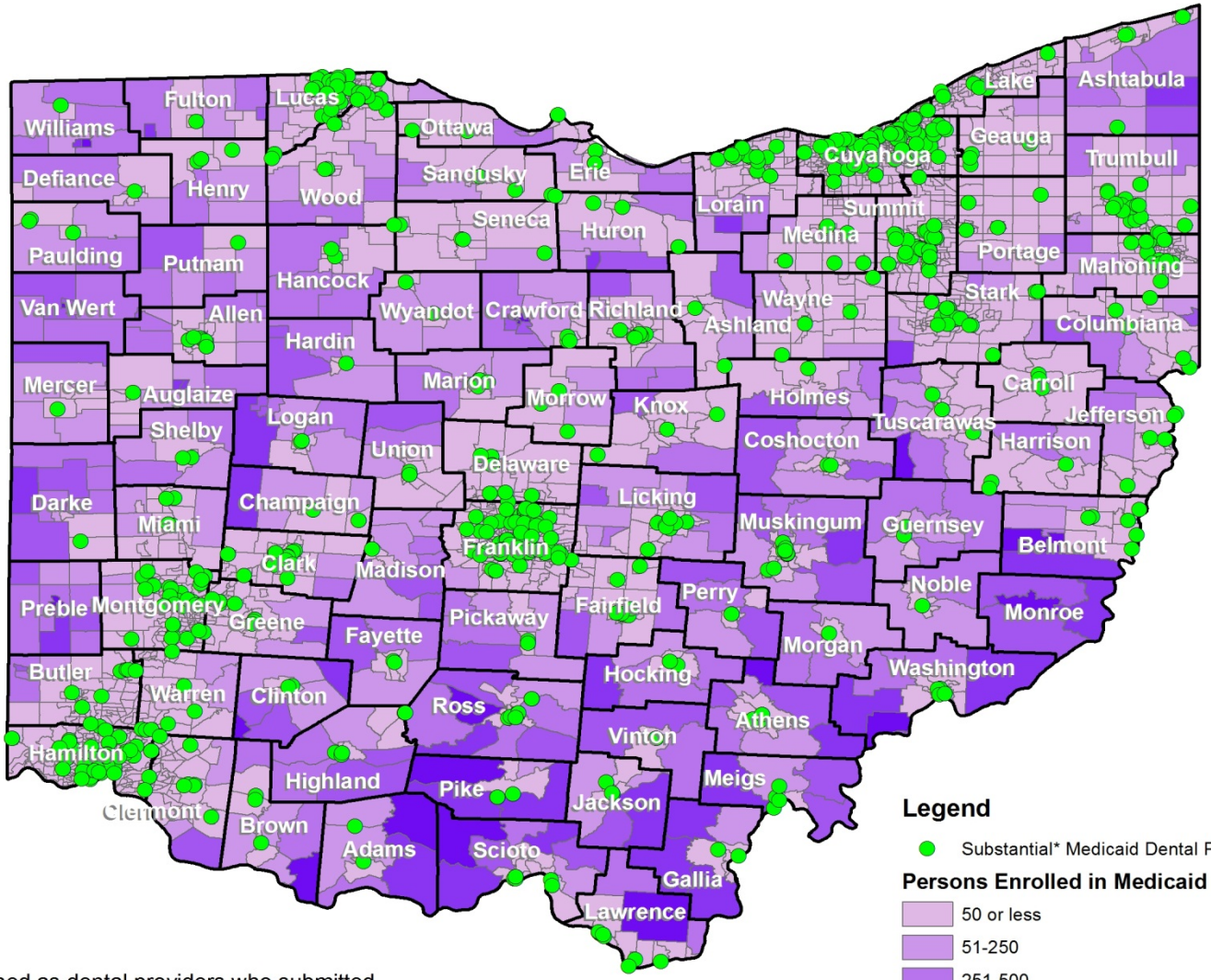
Population Under 18 Years of Age Not Within 25 Miles of a Pediatric Dentist by Census Tract, 2010



Dentists serving low-income population

- Statewide there is 1 Medicaid dental provider for about every 1,300 Medicaid enrollees
- Disparities in the distribution of Medicaid providers exists
- Only about 27% of all licensed dental providers see any Medicaid patients
  - Only 13% of all licensed dental providers see a substantial number of Medicaid patients (≥250 unduplicated patients)

Persons Enrolled in Medicaid and Substantial* Medicaid Dental Providers in Ohio, SFY 2010



Legend

- Substantial* Medicaid Dental Providers

Persons Enrolled in Medicaid Not Within 10 Miles

- 50 or less
- 51-250
- 251-500
- 501-750
- 751-1000
- 1001 or more

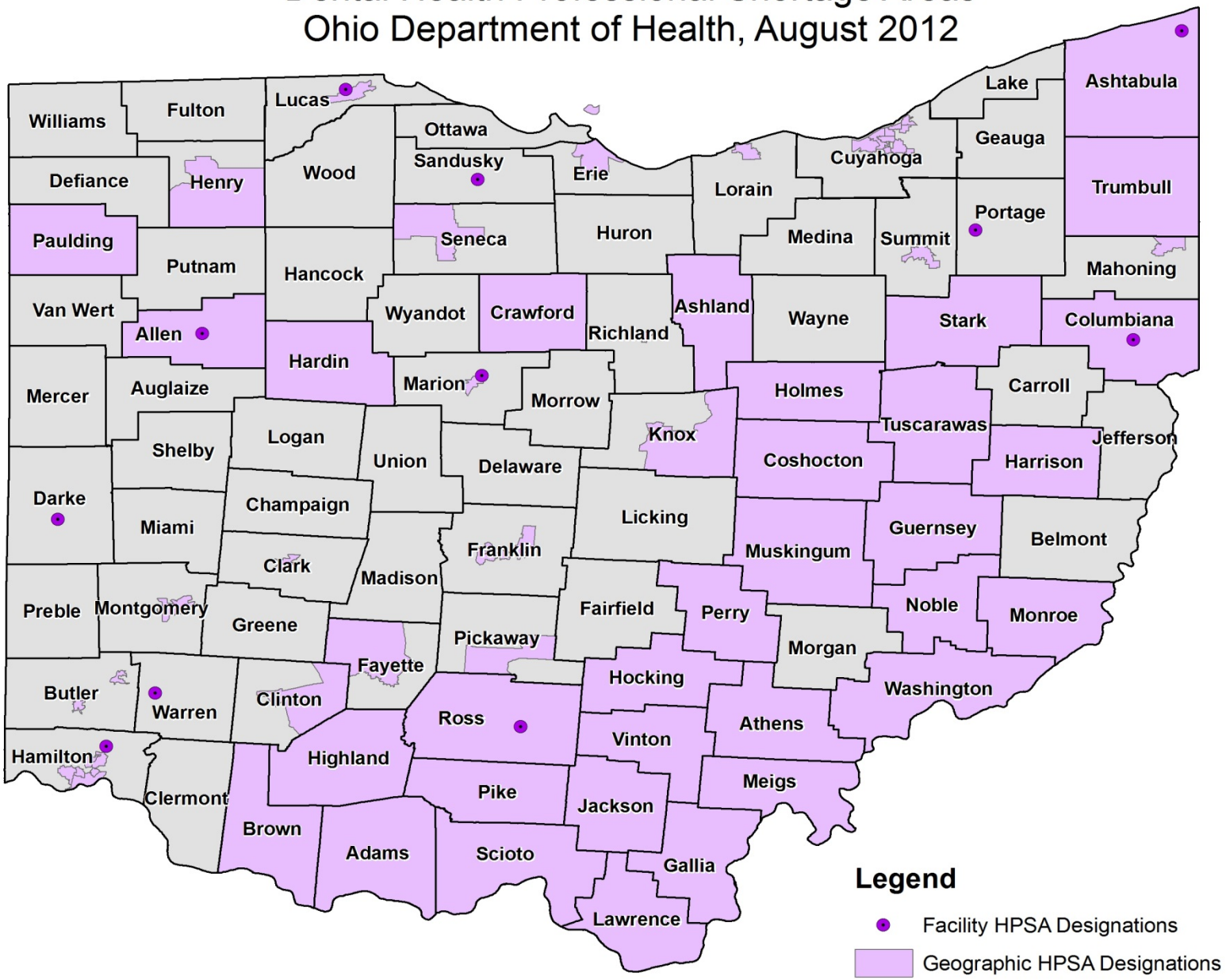
*Substantial providers defined as dental providers who submitted a claim for at least 250 unduplicated Medicaid patients in state fiscal year 2010.

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs)

- There are 73 DHPSA designations in Ohio
  - Designated to the low-income population
  - Both facility and geographical area designations
- Areas must apply for designation
  - So, an area without a designation does NOT mean there is not a shortage of dental providers

Visit http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/ to learn more about HPSA designations

Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas
Ohio Department of Health, August 2012



Topics we plan to cover

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Dental Care Resources in Ohio

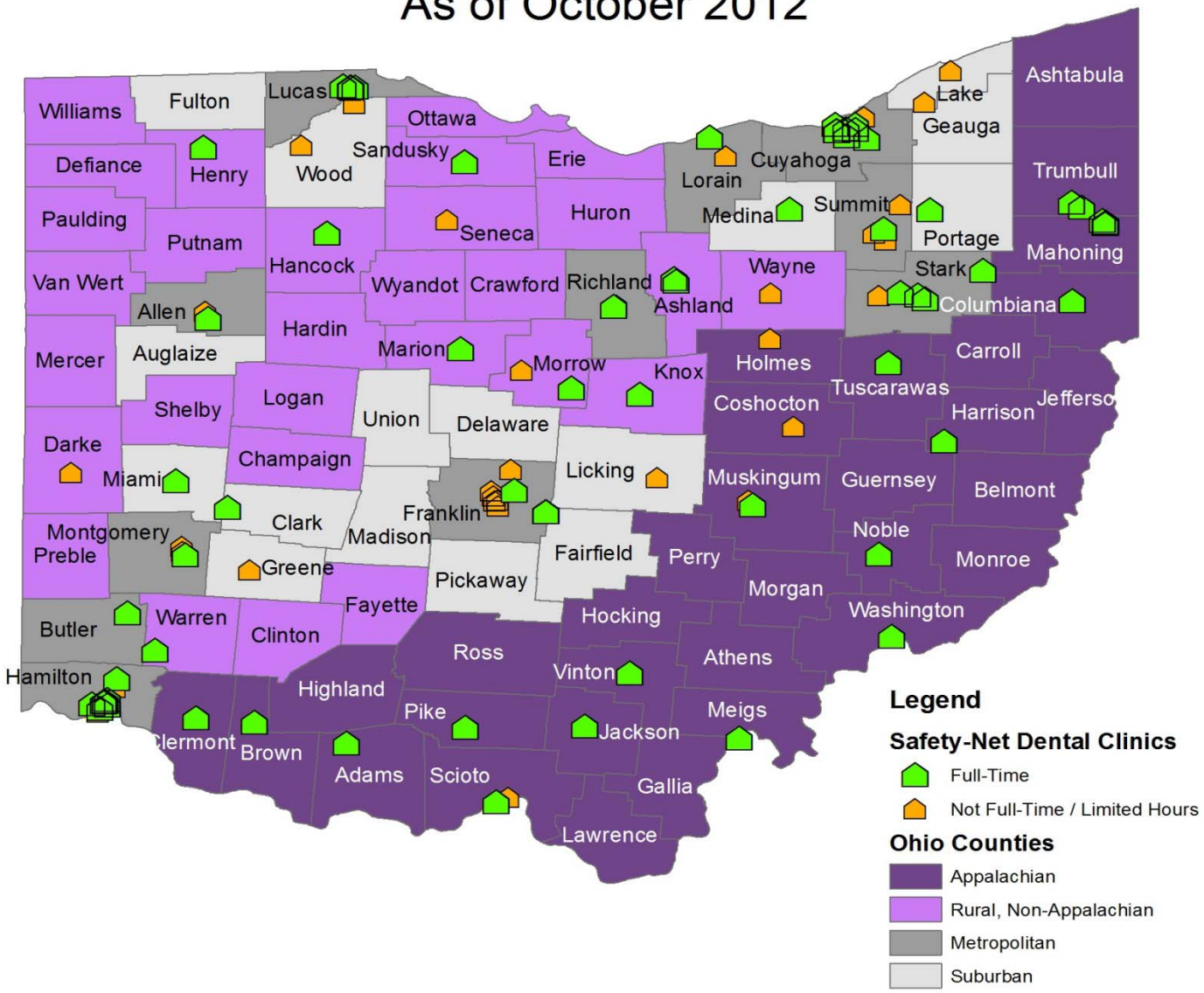
Ohio has a network of dental care providers, including

- Private practice dentists
- For-profit mobile dental programs
- Safety net dental clinics

Safety Net Dental Clinics

- Provide oral health care to individuals and their families regardless of ability to pay
- Not a substitute for private dental offices caring for vulnerable populations
- Usually located in communities where people with low incomes live

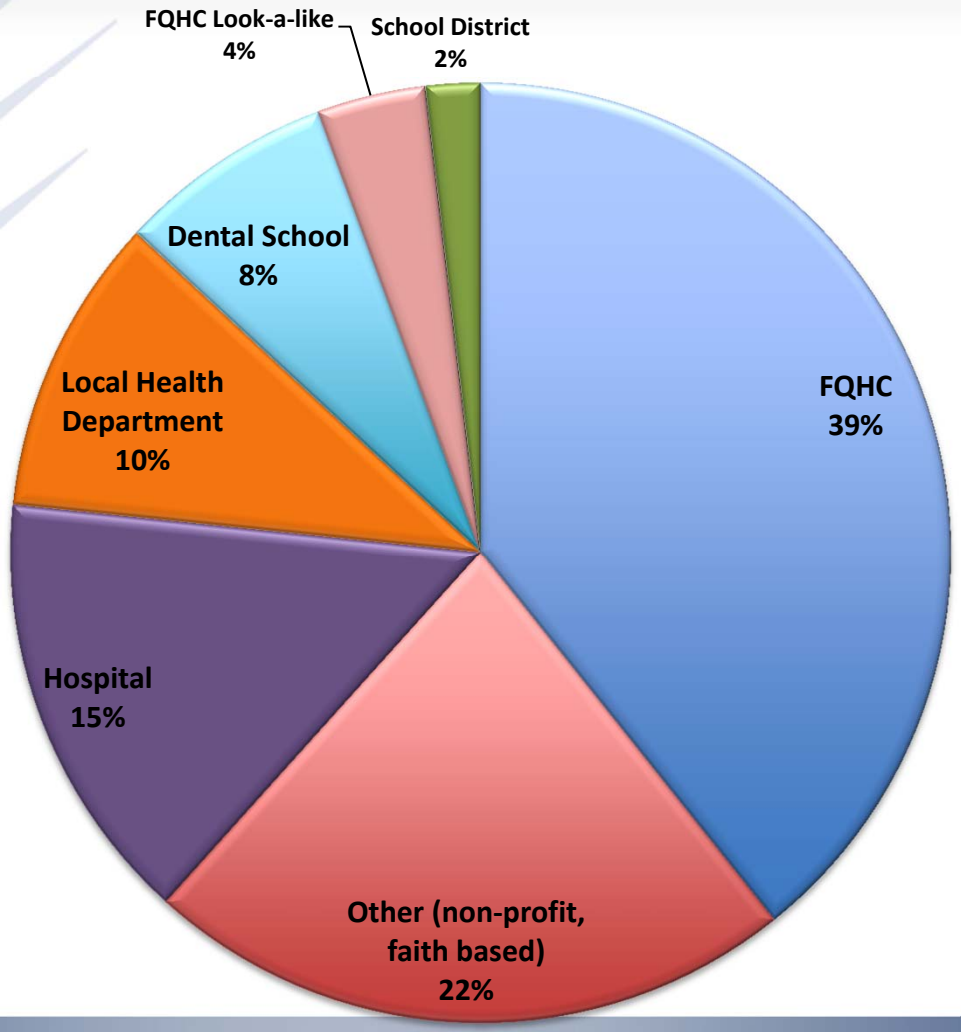
Safety-Net Dental Clinics in Ohio, As of October 2012



Who Operates Safety Net Clinics?

- Public agencies, including public health systems and hospitals
- Local health districts
- Private, non-profit corporations

Clinics with Comprehensive Services by Program Type

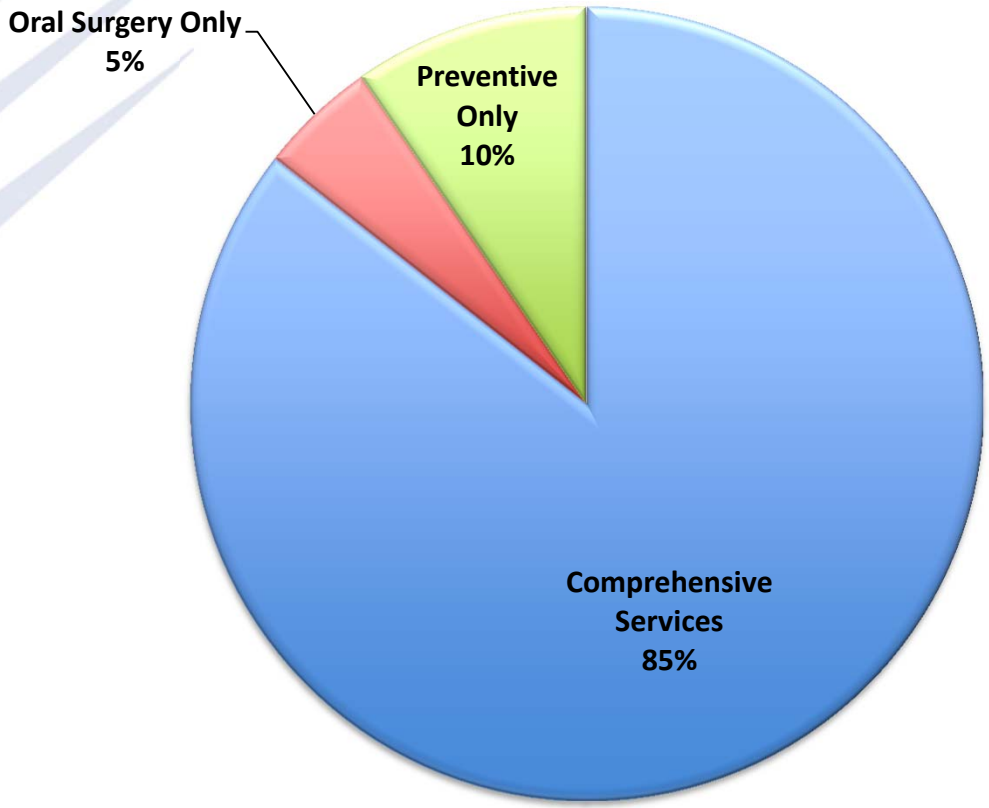


Who Do Safety Net Clinics Serve?

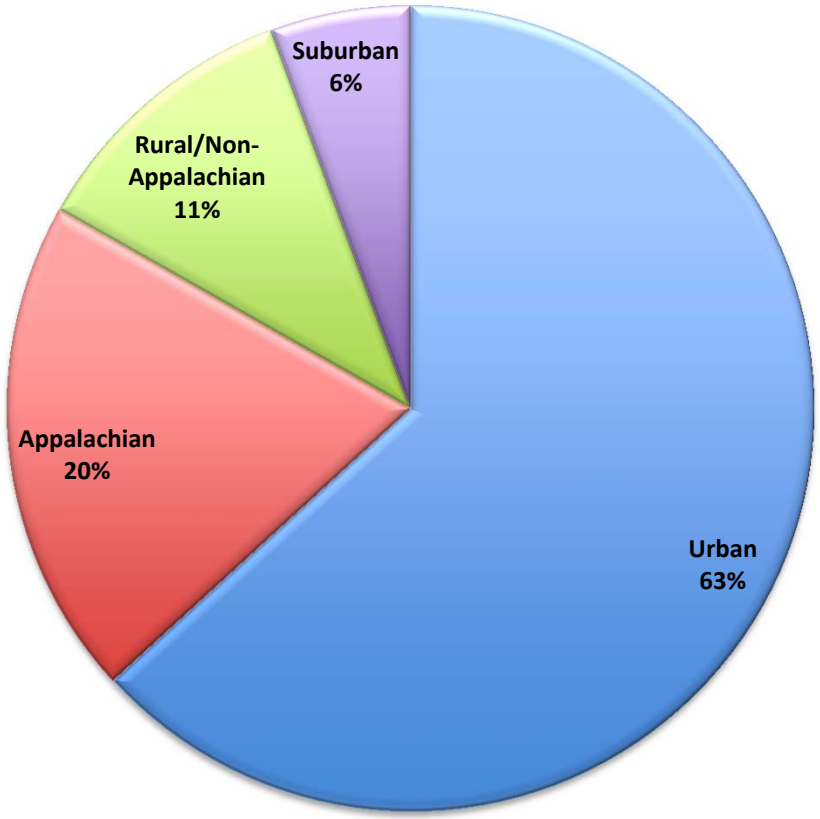
The mission of safety net clinics is to provide care to vulnerable populations, including individuals who are

- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Uninsured or underinsured
- Those who lack cultural, mental or linguistic skills

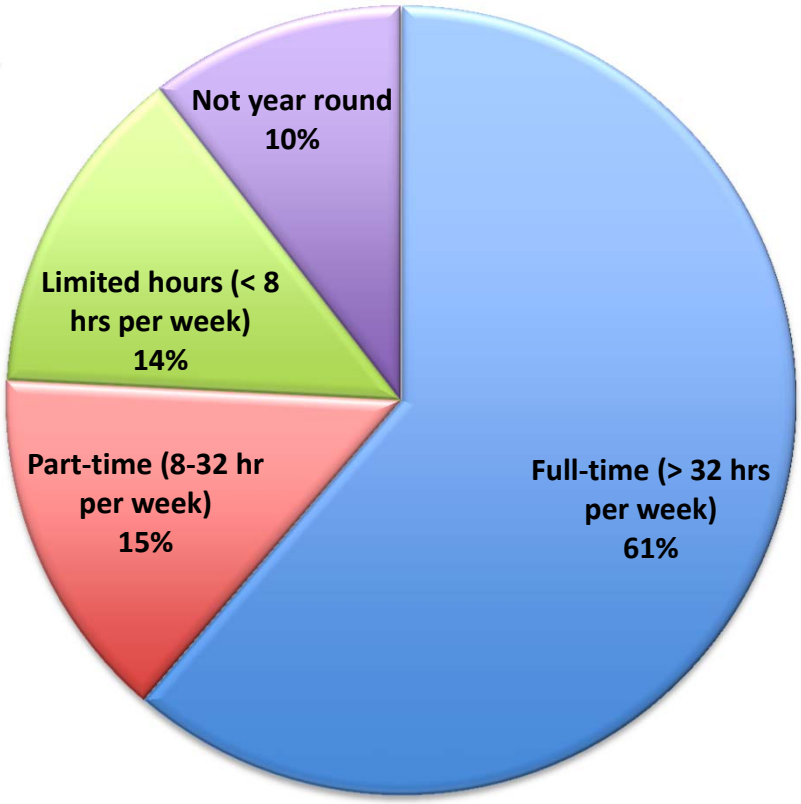
Service Type

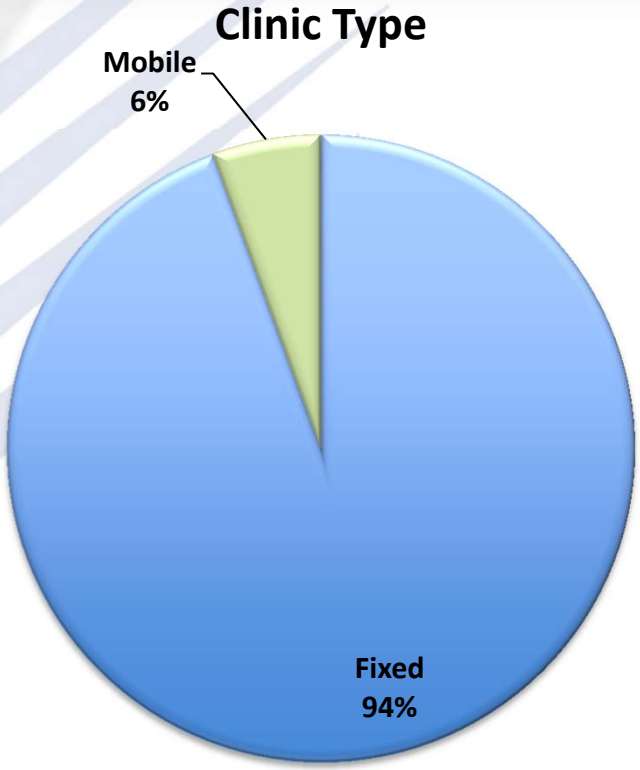


Clinic Location



Availability




Clinic Type
Mobile
6%
Fixed
94%

Ronald
McDonald
Care Mobile

Is the Safety Net Growing?

- In 1999 there were 88 safety net dental clinics
- In 2008 there were 120 clinics
- Today (2012) there are 125 safety net clinics

Challenges for Safety Net Clinics

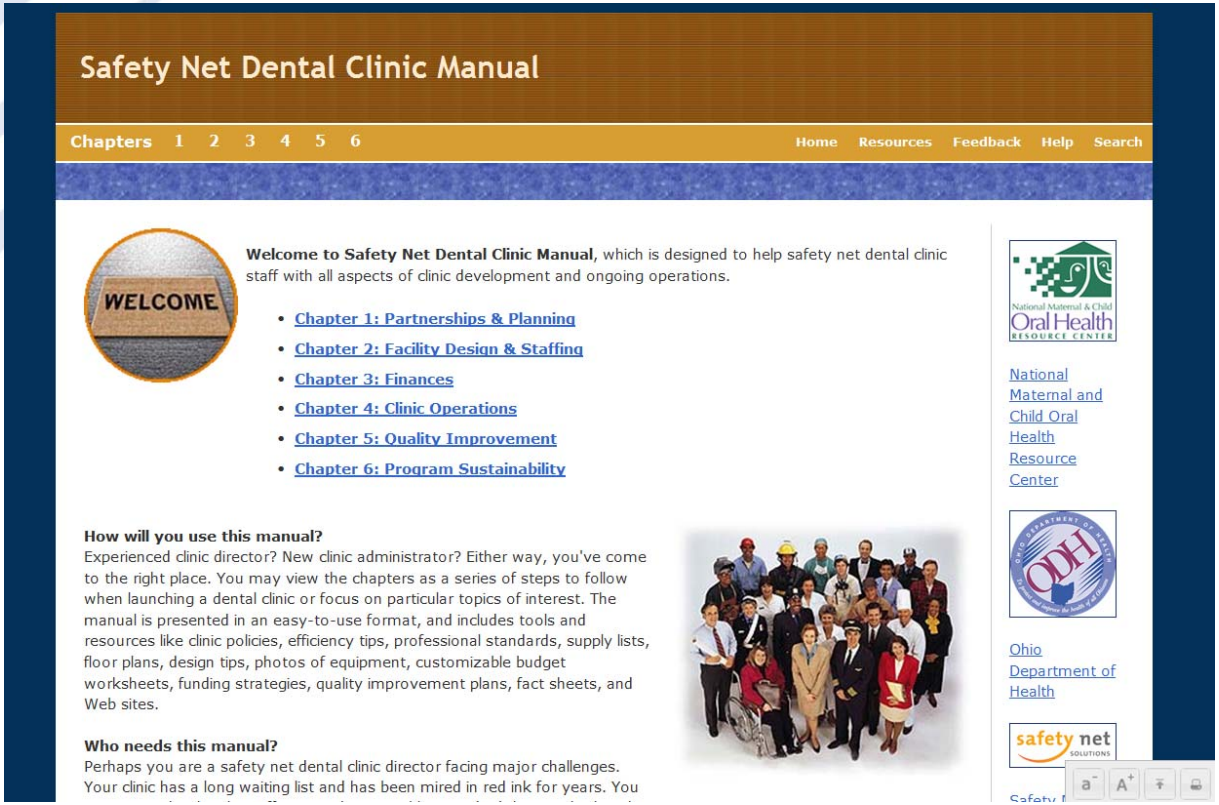
- Maintaining financial viability
  - Low Medicaid reimbursement
  - Significant uncompensated care
- Balancing mission with business
  - Seek grant funds to offset costs of care
  - Collect as much self-pay revenue as possible
- Recruitment and retention of providers

Can the Safety Net Meet the Need?

Resources

Ohio
Safety Net
Dental Clinics
Home
Data
Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas
Distance Learning
Funding
Clinical Guidelines, Policies, and Positions
Job Postings
Loan Repayment
Medicaid
Practice Act and Regulations
Discussion Lists
E-Newsletters
Ohio Safety Net Dental Clinics is a comprehensive online portal to the tools and information necessary to start and maintain the operations and delivery of health care services in safety net dental clinics in Ohio.
Read about Ohio's safety net dental clinics.
Distance Learning
Online training in clinic operations, financial management and clinical care for staff. Continuing education credits are available as well as self-assessment quizzes.
» Six distance learning curricula are available.
In the Spotlight
Family Healthcare of Meigs
County
News and Resources
» New Resources on Oral Health Care During Pregnancy
Oral Health Care During Pregnancy: A National Consensus Statement–Summary of an Expert Workgroup Meeting and Improving the Oral Health of Pregnant Women and Young Children: Opportunities for Policymakers.
School District 2%
School %
Other 23%
Safety Net Dental Clinics
Interactive pie charts show the distribution of safety net dental clinics in Ohio.
Ohio Dental Clinics
ODCinfo
ODCinfo Learn about the Smiles for Ohio Fluoride Varnish program and take the free training, for CE credit: 1.usa.gov/Qze6oj
5 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite
ODCinfo The Impact of Oral Health on the Academic Performance of Disadvantaged Children bit.ly/Uuep4E; full text bit.ly/UueuFt
12 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite
ODCinfo New resources on oral health

Resources


Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual
Chapters 1 2 3 4 5 6
Home Resources Feedback Help Search
WELCOME
Welcome to Safety Net Dental Clinic Manual, which is designed to help safety net dental clinic staff with all aspects of clinic development and ongoing operations.
Chapter 1: Partnerships & Planning
Chapter 2: Facility Design & Staffing
Chapter 3: Finances
Chapter 4: Clinic Operations
Chapter 5: Quality Improvement
Chapter 6: Program Sustainability
How will you use this manual?
Experienced clinic director? New clinic administrator? Either way, you've come to the right place. You may view the chapters as a series of steps to follow when launching a dental clinic or focus on particular topics of interest. The manual is presented in an easy-to-use format, and includes tools and resources like clinic policies, efficiency tips, professional standards, supply lists, floor plans, design tips, photos of equipment, customizable budget worksheets, funding strategies, quality improvement plans, fact sheets, and Web sites.
Who needs this manual?
Perhaps you are a safety net dental clinic director facing major challenges. Your clinic has a long waiting list and has been mired in red ink for years. You
National Maternal & Child Oral Health Resource Center
National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center
Ohio Department of Health
safety net SOLUTIONS

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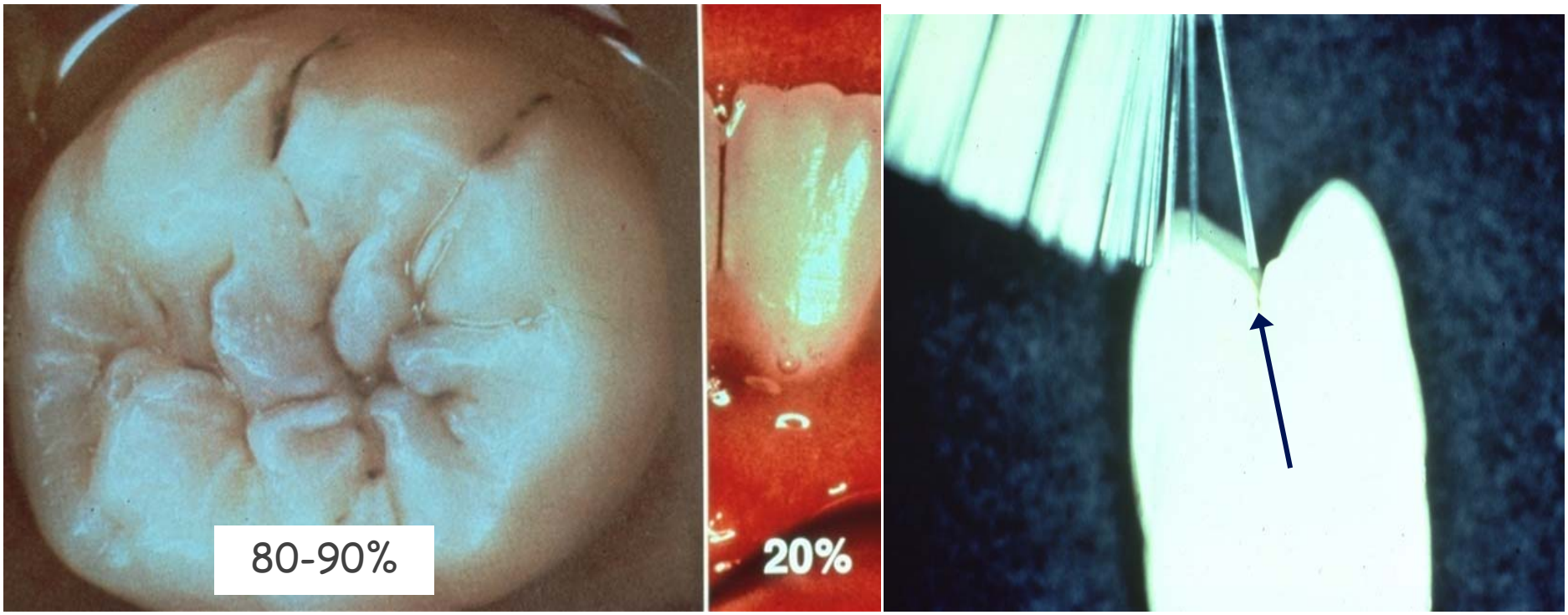
School-based Dental Sealant Programs

What are Dental Sealants?

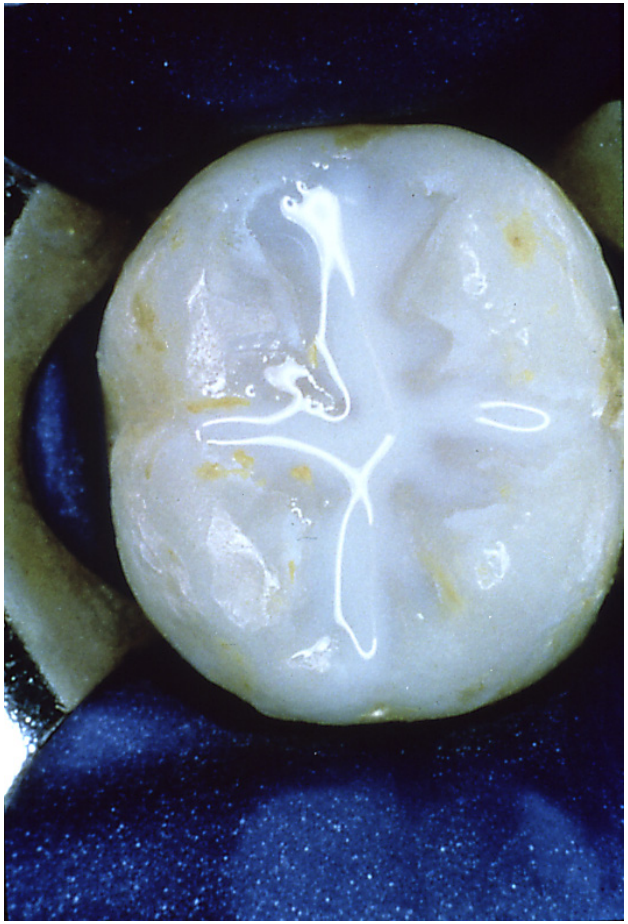
- Sealants are thin, plastic coatings that cover the chewing surfaces of first and second molars.
- Sealants protect teeth from cavities by keeping food and germs out of the grooves of teeth.
- Sealants are a method of prevention; sealants saves money, time and teeth.
- They are covered by most insurance companies.

Dental Sealants: Prevention that Works



Unsealed

Sealed



Typical Sealant Program

- High risk schools are eligible
  - (≥40% of children enrolled in free & reduced price meal program)
- Target grades 2 & 6
- Follow-up in grades 3 & 7

Typical Sealant Program

- Portable dental equipment
- Dentist indicates which teeth are to be sealed after screening each child
- RDH-DA teams apply sealants
- Each team sees ~15-20 children/day
- Children in need of additional dental care (~1/3) have notes sent home and school nurse is notified

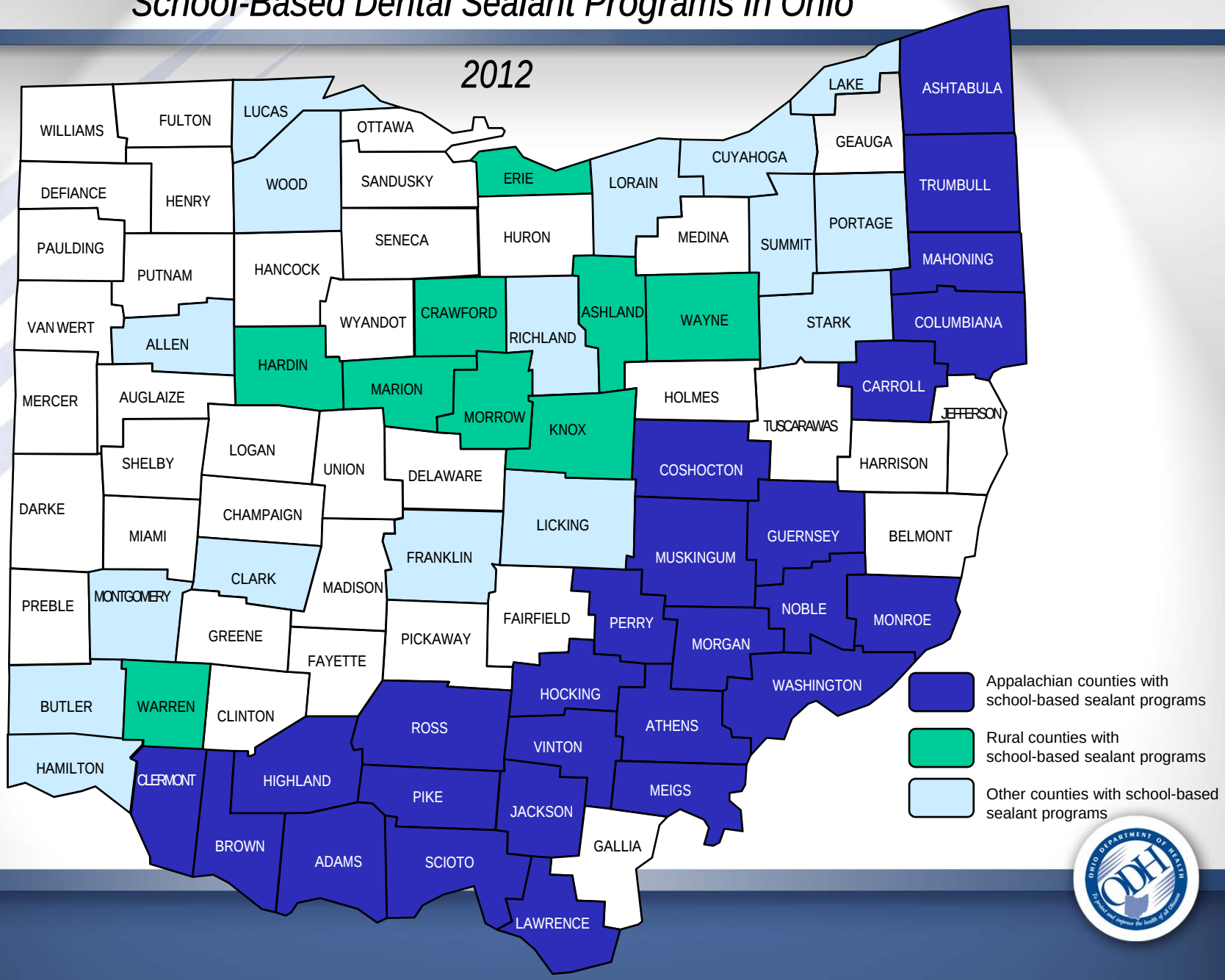
Participation

- All children in target grades at high risk schools are eligible, however
- Parental consent form encourages families with access to have child receive sealants in private dental office
- 39.2% return consent (2011)
  - 92% of those with consent were screened
  - 87% needing sealants, received them

Quality Assurance

- Short term retention checks
- Long term retention checks
- Quarterly program reports
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)

School-Based Dental Sealant Programs in Ohio



Challenges for Sealant Programs

- finding a dentist to screen children for sealants
- consent form return
- for-profit mobile programs

Ohio, a Leader in Dental Sealant Programs

- We have met the national oral health objective for dental sealants (Healthy People 2010):
  - the proportion of children who have received dental sealants on their molar teeth is 50% in Ohio
- School-Based Dental Sealant Program Manual
  http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/oral1.aspx
- Dental Sealant Distance Learning
  - http://www.ohiodentalclinics.com/curricula/sealant/index.html

References

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Questions?

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http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ohs/oral/oral1.aspx