

BASIC SCREENING SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH IN COLORADO 2022-23



To better understand the needs of Colorado's children, the Oral Health Unit at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) conducted the statewide Basic Screening Survey (BSS) during the 2022-23 school year. The BSS is an in-the-mouth oral health screening of kindergarten and third grade children enrolled in Colorado's public elementary schools.

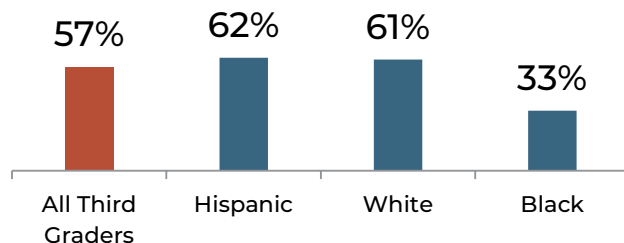


The BSS collects data on treated and untreated cavities, the need for dental treatment, and the prevalence of sealants. These data serve CDPHE and its partners by illuminating dental health needs and outcomes amongst Colorado's children and demonstrating the need for school oral health programs across the state, especially in the most at-risk communities. Below are key findings from the survey:

Children's Oral Health

- Cavities remain the number one chronic disease in children, with potential developmental, economic, and social ramifications.²
- The inequities in social determinants of health and barriers in access to care impact lives and oral health of Colorado's children.³
- Observed dental caries experience is higher in third grade (60.6%) when compared to kindergarten (46.2%), an indication of the importance of early intervention to stem the progression of caries in young children.¹

Colorado Third Graders with Sealants¹

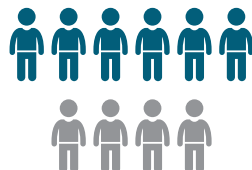


In the 2022-2023 BSS¹, more than half (57%) of Colorado third graders have sealants, with high rates of sealant prevalence among Hispanic (62%) and white (61%) third graders. However, Black third graders have a significantly lower prevalence of sealants (33%), underscoring disparities that still need to be addressed.

Statewide Snapshot¹



NEARLY HALF
of kindergarteners
have had a cavity.



NEARLY 60%
of third graders
have had a cavity.



25%
of kindergarteners
and third graders have
untreated cavities.



MORE THAN 20%
of kindergarteners and
third graders need early or
urgent dental treatment.

SOURCES:

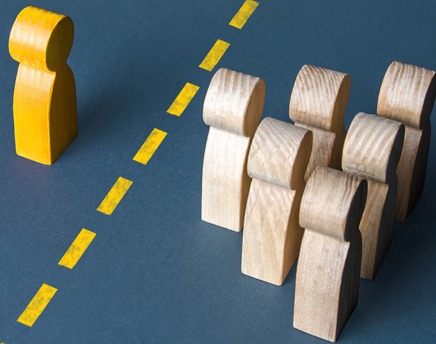
1. Basic Screening Survey
2022 - 2023 data

2. Oral health in
America 2021

3. Colorado Oral Health
by the Numbers

4. Community and partner
engagement discovery report

BASIC SCREENING SURVEY



Barriers Facing Colorado Communities

Studies show that inequities in social determinants of health, such as economic stability and access to education and healthcare, are linked to poorer oral health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities.²

Read more about what the data tell us about the landscape of oral health in communities across the state in [Colorado Oral Health by the Numbers](#).³

Selected Factors Impacting Access to Care⁴



Distance to care and lack of transportation.



Insurance and affordability issues.



Service hours that are not suitable for working families.



Lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate care.

Oral Health Inequities



Kindergarteners who are Black and Hispanic are more than **TWICE AS LIKELY** to have untreated cavities.



Students who are Black are only **HALF AS LIKELY** to have sealants compared to white students.



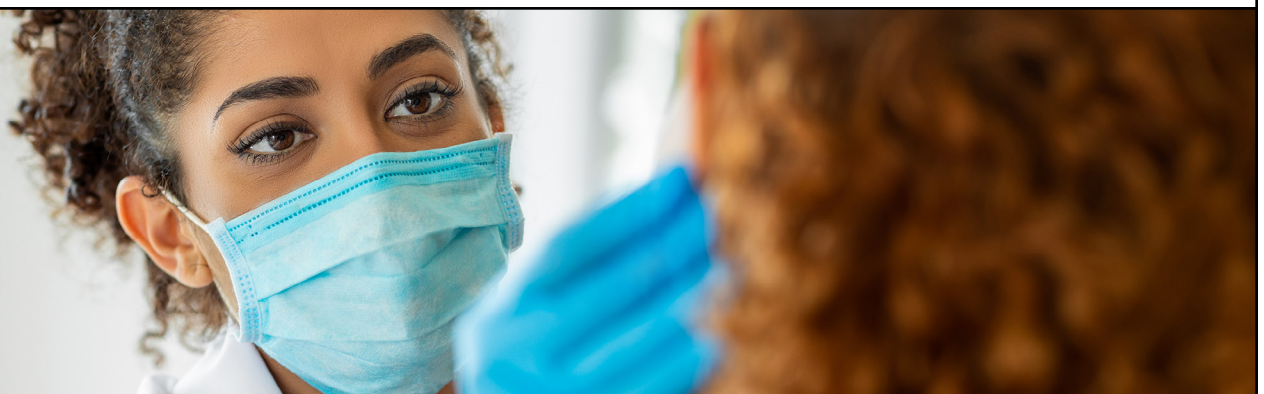
Third graders in urban schools are **7 TIMES** more likely than those in rural schools to need early dental care.



Kindergarteners who are Black and Hispanic are almost **TWICE AS LIKELY** to have experienced a cavity.

37%

Hispanic third graders are **37% MORE LIKELY** to have ever experienced a cavity.



For more detailed information, please refer to the full Basic Screening Survey report and the [*Community and Partner Engagement Discovery Report](#).

