

Dental Access Project

Oral Health Data Cheat Sheet

This resource provides information on oral health data and sources that advocates commonly find helpful in describing access to care barriers, oral health problems, and disparities. These data are also useful for making the case for policy solutions that address these issues. You may also wish to reach out to your state’s office of oral health as they may be able to direct you to state-specific publications or data.

Trackers & Point-in-Time Data

	Data	Source	Description
Access & Outcomes	Adult Yearly Dental Visit	CDC	The % of adults who have had a dental visit in the past year. Broken down by age, education, income, and race.
	Emergency Room Usage for Dental Conditions	ADA	This resource provides national data from the ADA, but there is no central source for state data on this topic. However, many states track and/or publish data. You may also be able to make a request for Medicaid data from your state (we can guide you on exactly what to ask for if desired).
	National Oral Health Data	NIDCR	This resource breaks down specific oral health issues by topic and age group.
Oral Health Providers	Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaiser Family Foundation • HRSA 	DHPSA OWH	The tracker data offers the easiest access to the key datapoints, displaying the number of DHPSAs and the population of people who live in those areas, by state.
	Scope of Practice	SSP	The tracker provides data on health providers by state, including dental hygienist scope, dental therapist authorization, and the

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			existence of tele-dentistry statute and/or regulations.
	Oral Health Workforce Research Center	OHWRC	This infographic shows the differences in legal scope of practice for dental hygienists.
Medicaid	Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits	CareQuest	Track the Medicaid adult dental benefits by state.
	Children with Medicaid Coverage Utilization	CMS	This data reports the number of children who utilized certain services annually. To learn how to use the data, see this resource .
	Dentist Participation in Medicaid	ADAHPI	This report tracks the percentage of dentists who accept Medicaid coverage by state. Note that this data tracks the number of dentists enrolled in Medicaid, not the number actually treating Medicaid patients or accepting new Medicaid patients (many states have found significant gaps between those numbers)
Special Populations	Children’s Access to Dental Care Data and Children’s Oral Health Outcomes Data	NSCH	Collection of data on children’s health, including oral health from all 50 states. The interactive data tool includes several dental access measures.
	Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System	PRAMS	Provides data on number of pregnancy health indicators, including access to oral health care during pregnancy.
	Senior Tooth Loss	CDC	The CDC tracks the percent of older adults who have lost multiple teeth or all their teeth due to dental disease by education, gender, income, and race.

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Key Reports

In addition to the sources listed above where advocates can access and peruse data, several key reports offer additional data points/analyses that can be useful in oral health advocacy campaigns.

Data	Source	Description
ADA Health Policy Institute	ADA	Fact sheets that combine publicly available and one-time survey data on a range of oral health measures by state.
ADA Health Policy Institute Research Brief (2016)	ADAHPI	This brief looks at use of dental services among children and adults and includes several key data points about dental visits, different populations who are uninsured or publicly insured.
Center for Health Care Strategies Data Brief (2017)	CHCS	This brief examines use of dental services among low-income adults with Medicaid coverage.
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)	CDC	This resource offers basic data points on access to care and oral health for children, adults, and older adults, as well as data on oral health disparities.
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	CMS	This resource provides state-level data for the CMS Child Core Set of quality measures used to gauge the performance of Medicaid and CHIP programs.
State Oral Health Programs	ASTDD	You may find additional resources within your state's Oral Health Program. You can find the list of state programs at this link.