

Texas Oral Health Basic Screening Survey

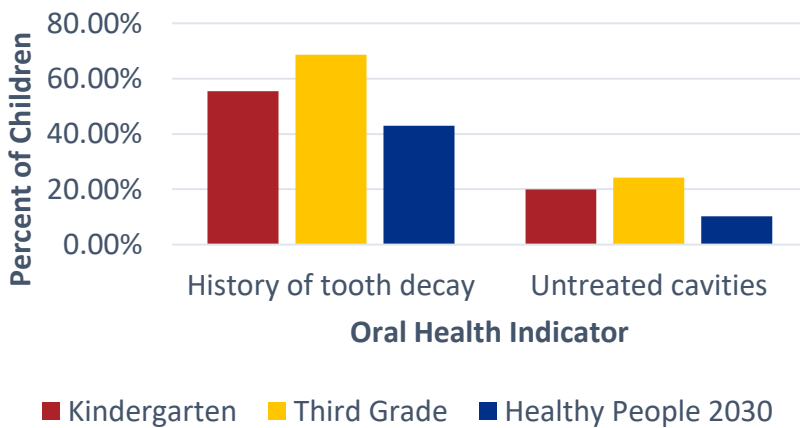
2022-2023

Oral health can impact overall health and quality of life. Poor oral health can lead to pain, infection, and difficulty eating, speaking and learning. The Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) Oral Health Improvement Program (OHIP) conducts a school-based Basic Screening Survey (BSS) every five years to assess and monitor the oral health of Texas students over time. For the 2022-2023 survey of kindergarten and third grade students, 3,345 children were screened from 84 schools.

The survey found over half of Texas kindergarteners had already experienced tooth decay (55.5%). This number increased to 68.6 percent for Texas third graders. Children with lower income (28.2%), who were Black (34.2%), or who lived in rural (25.4%) or border counties (26.6%) were more likely to have untreated tooth decay. See the graph below to compare Texas to the Healthy People 2030 national goals. For more information on oral health, visit www.dshs.texas.gov/dental-health.



2022-2023 Basic Screening Survey Results



55.5% of Texas kindergarteners have experienced tooth decay.

24.2% of Texas third graders had untreated cavities.

65.4% of Texas third graders saw a dentist in the last twelve months.



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