

# The State of Oral Health in Arkansas

Arkansas Oral Health Summit 2025

Oct. 24, 2025



# Continuing Education Credits

In support of improving patient care, this activity has been planned and implemented by Arkansas Oral Health Coalition and Moses/Weitzman Health System, Inc. and its Weitzman Institute and is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

This series is intended for Dentists, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Registered Dietitians, and Social Workers.

Please complete the survey and claim your post-session certificate on the Weitzman Education Platform after today's session. **Please note:** Pharmacists must claim credits within two week's following today's session or we will not be able to award ACPE credits.

# Disclosures

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- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the speakers and may not reflect official policy of Moses/Weitzman Health System.
- We are obligated to disclose any products which are off-label, unlabeled, experimental, and/or under investigation (not FDA approved) and any limitations on the information that are presented, such as data that are preliminary or that represent ongoing research, interim analyses, and/or unsupported opinion.

# Objectives



- Summarize oral health indicators in Arkansas
- Identify key factors and populations that tell the “data story”
- Contextualize Arkansas’s oral health standing in national rankings

# Sources of Oral Health Data



## Children

- Youth Risk Factor Surveillance System (YRBSS)
- Basic Screening Survey (Head Start, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)
- Medicaid\*
- Insurance claims data
- Cancer Registries
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)



## Adults

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Basic Screening Survey (older adults)
- Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- Medicaid & Medicare\*
- Insurance claims data
- Cancer Registries

# Categories of Oral Health Data



## “Open Mouth” Data

- Basic Screening Surveys (BSS)

## Self-Reported Survey Data

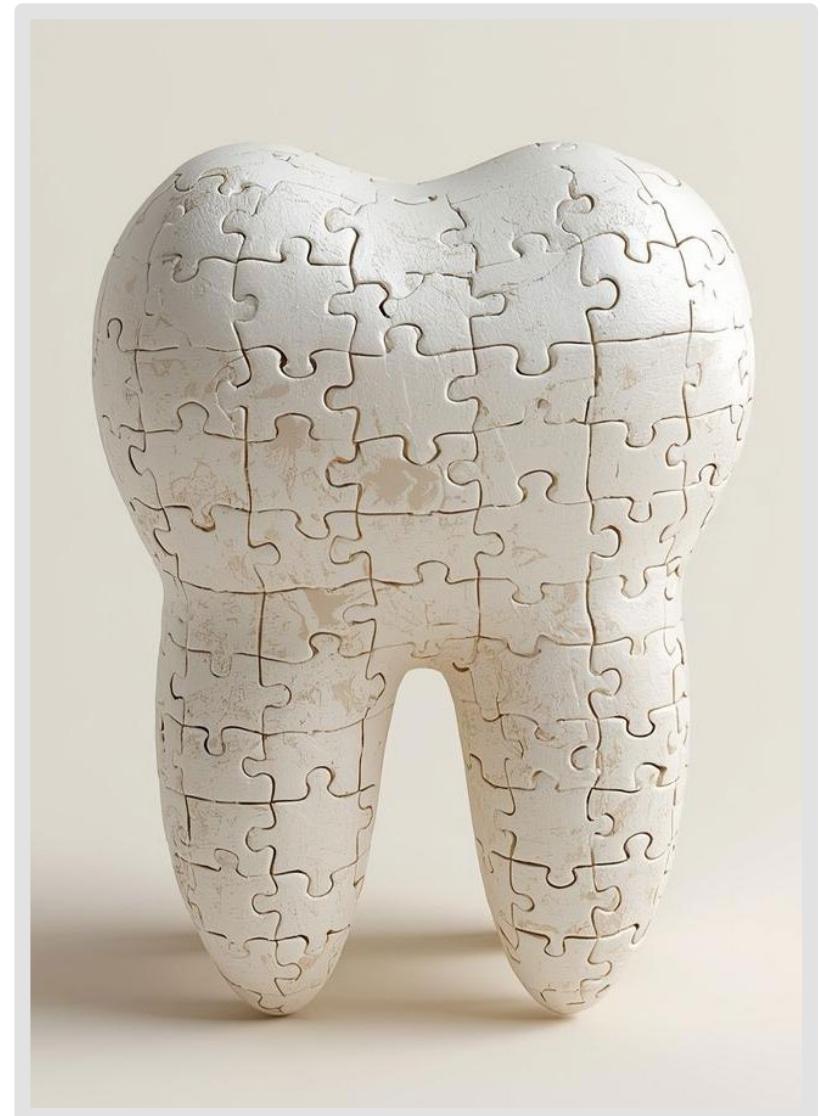
- BRFSS
- YRBSS
- PRAMS

## Insurance Claims Data

- All Payers Claims Database (APCD)
- Medicaid
- Medicare Part D (antibiotic prescribing)

# Blind Spots in Oral Health Data

- Individuals who self-pay/services provided for free
- Populations not generally captured in BSS or surveys (unhoused, individuals with limited technology access, individuals in congregate care, individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities)



# Arkansas Child Oral Health Indicators



## ORAL EVALUATION, DENTAL SERVICES: AGES &lt;1 THROUGH 20 (OEV-CH)

## Mandatory measure

Percentage of Enrolled Children Under Age 21 Who Received a Comprehensive or Periodic Oral Evaluation:  
Ages <1 through 20

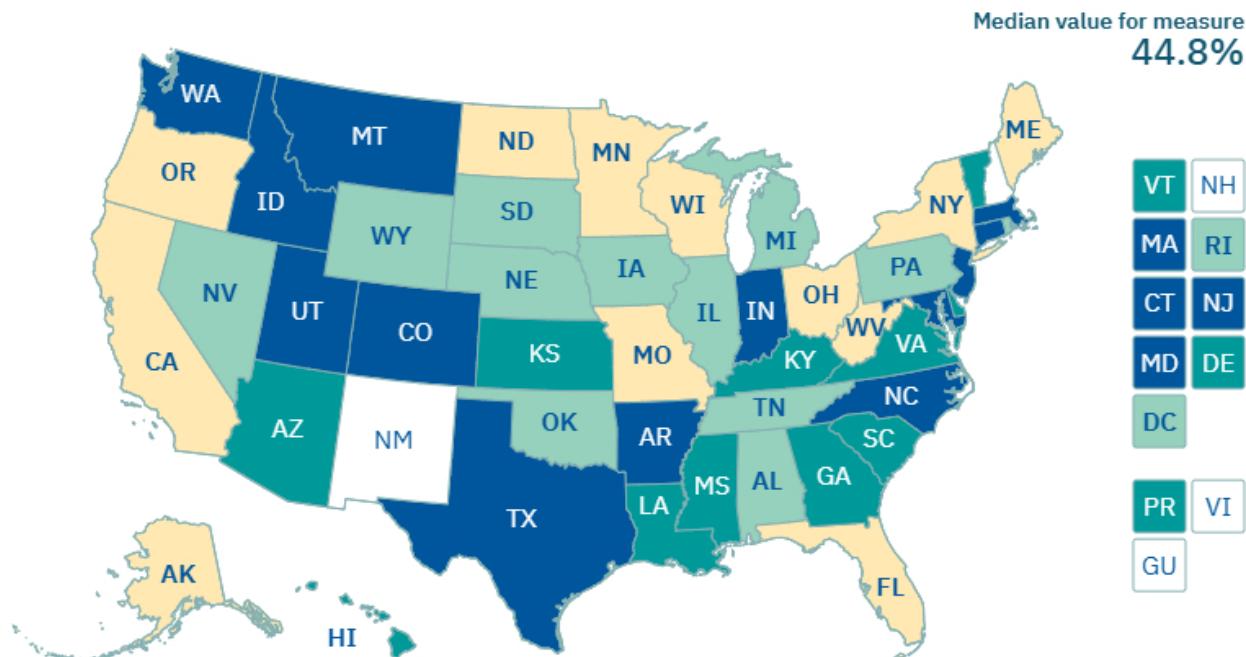
Population: All states view (mixed populations)

Methodology: All states view (mixed methodologies)

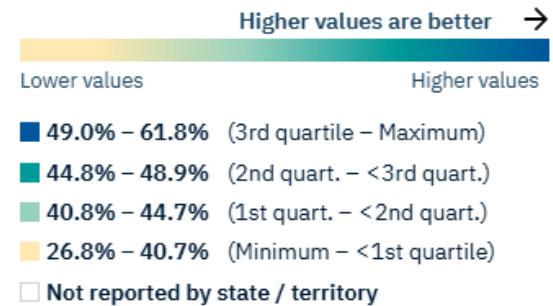
Core Set Year: 2024

Exported from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Core Set Data Dashboard, <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/core-set-data-dashboard/>

Date of download: 09/23/2025



## How to read this chart



Arkansas:  
50.2%

Source: Medicaid/CHIP Core Set Data Dashboard<sup>1</sup>



## TOPICAL FLUORIDE FOR CHILDREN: AGES 1 THROUGH 20 (TFL-CH)

## Mandatory measure

Percentage of Enrolled Children who Received at Least Two Topical Fluoride Applications as Dental or Oral Health Services: Total (Ages 1 through 20)

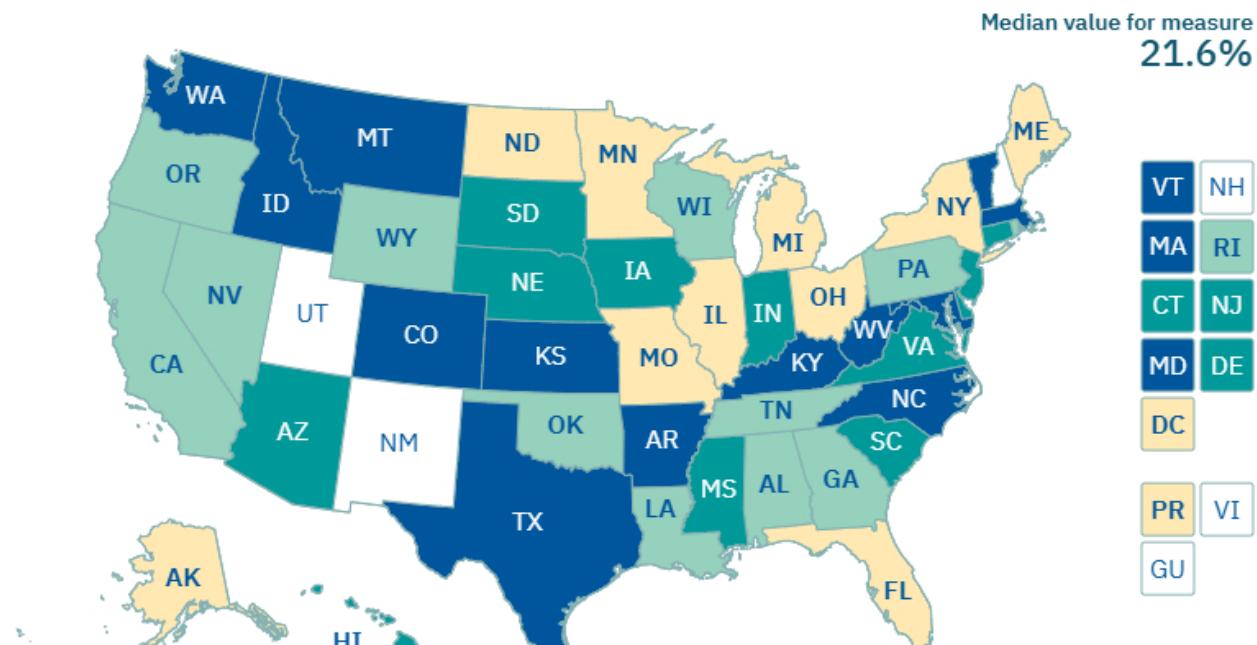
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## How to read this chart

Higher values are better →

Lower values

Higher values

25.3% – 49.3% (3rd quartile – Maximum)

21.6% – 25.2% (2nd quart. – <3rd quart.)

16.5% – 21.5% (1st quart. – <2nd quart.)

6.9% – 16.4% (Minimum – <1st quartile)

Not reported by state / territory

**Arkansas:**  
**25.9%**

Source: Medicaid/CHIP Core Set Data Dashboard<sup>1</sup>



## SEALANT RECEIPT ON PERMANENT FIRST MOLARS: AGE 10 (SFM-CH)

## Mandatory measure

Percentage who Received a Sealant on at Least One Permanent First Molar Tooth by their 10th Birthday

Rate: At Least One Molar Sealed

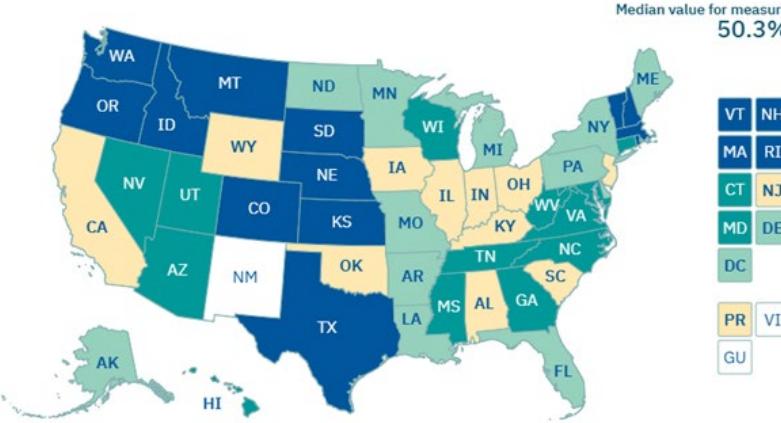
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**Arkansas:**  
**41.2%**

## SEALANT RECEIPT ON PERMANENT FIRST MOLARS: AGE 10 (SFM-CH)

## Mandatory measure

Percentage who Received Sealants on All Four Permanent First Molars by their 10th Birthday

Rate: All Four Molars Sealed

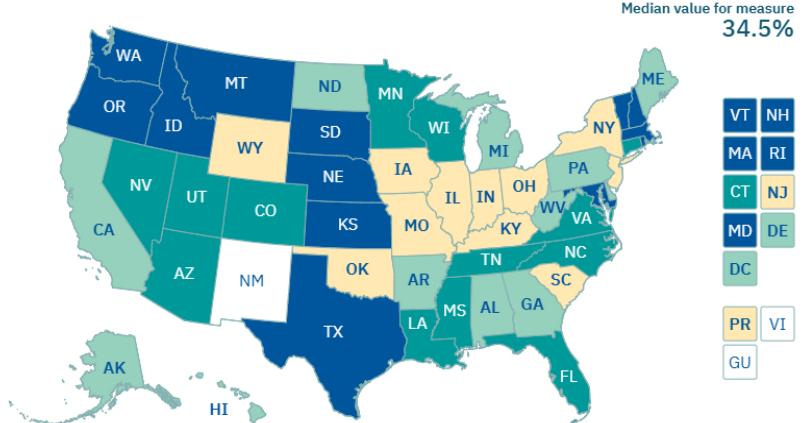
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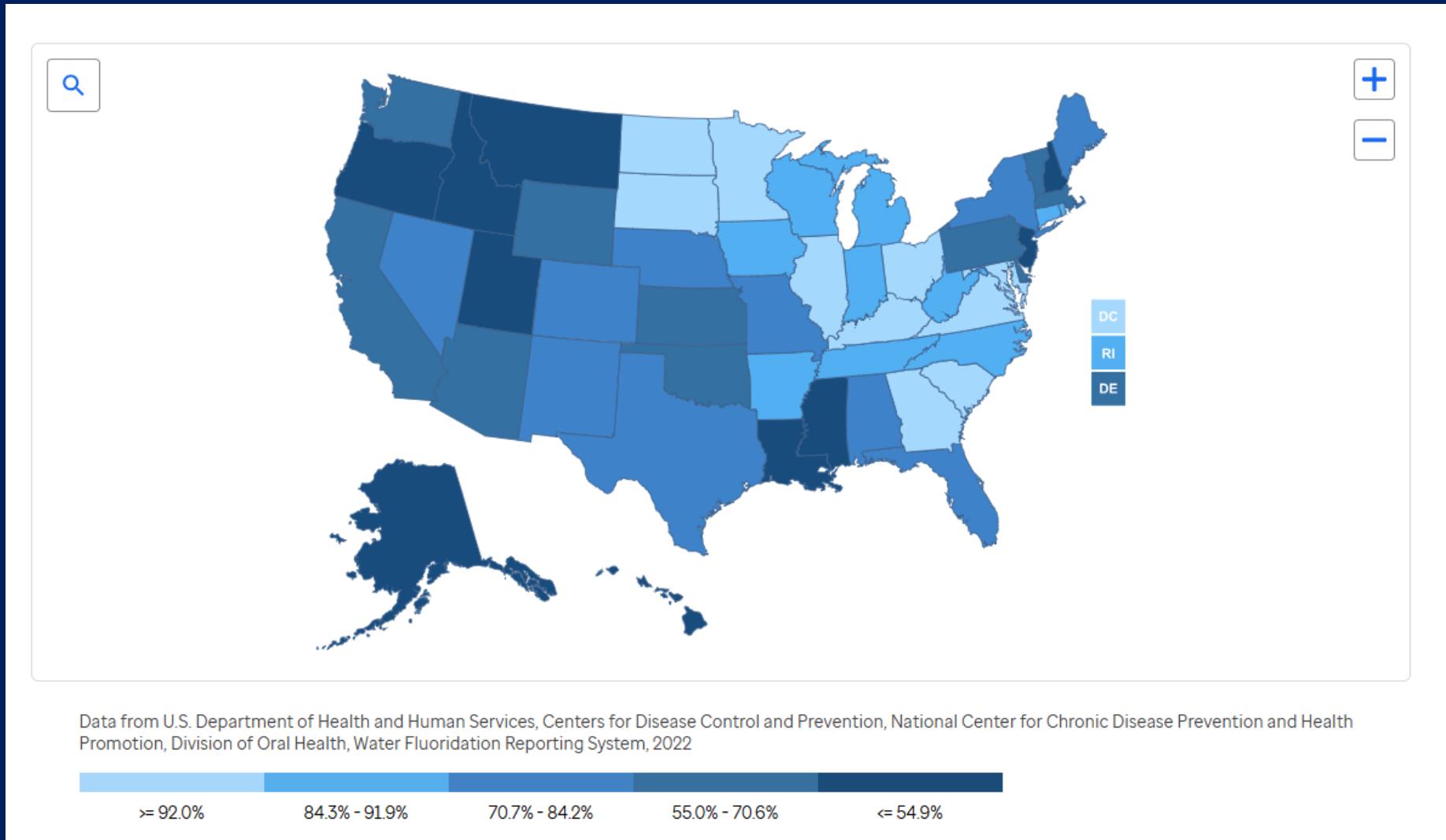
**Arkansas:**  
**28.4%**

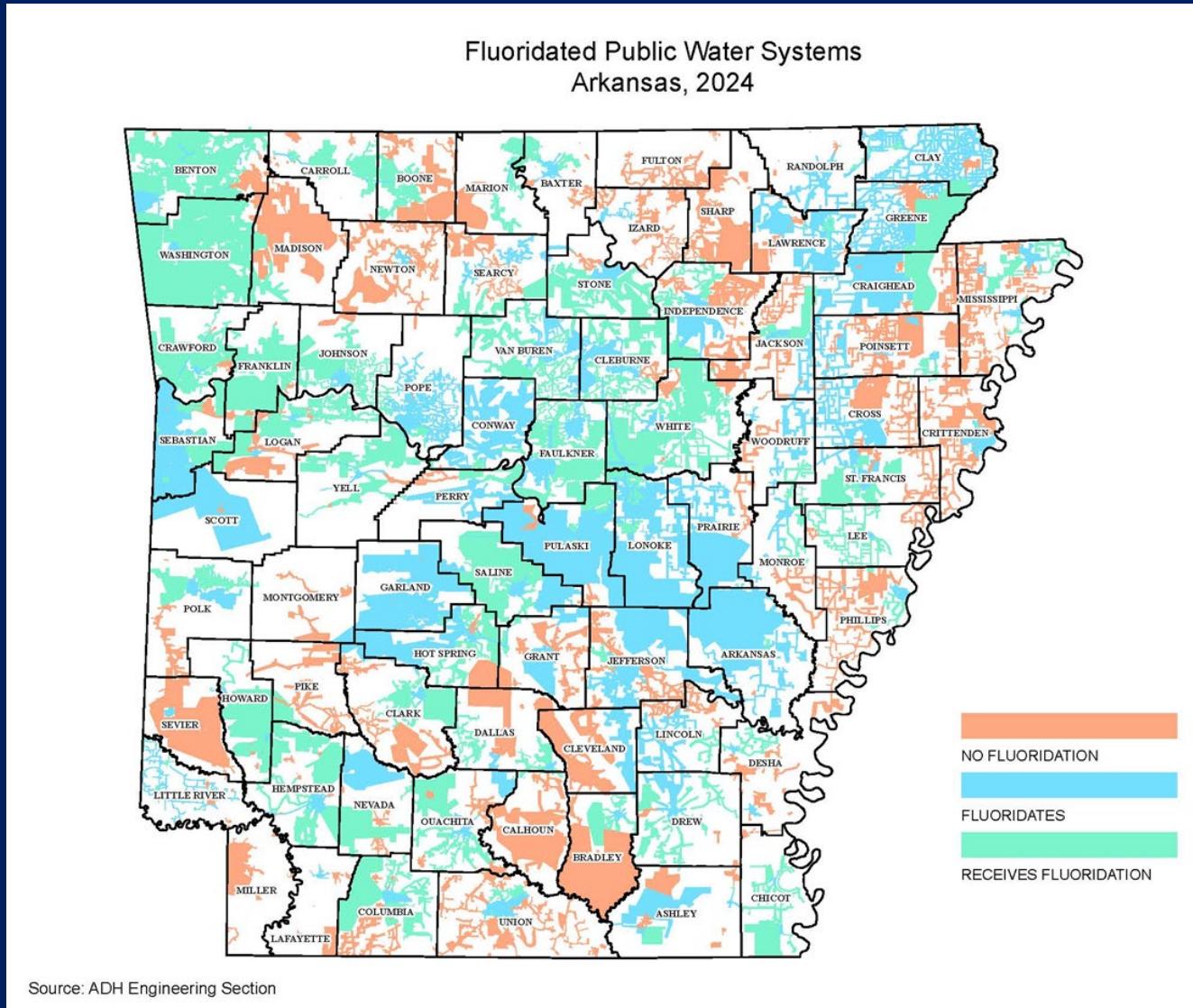
Pop Quiz: what work isn't captured in these numbers?

Source: Medicaid/CHIP Core Set Data Dashboard<sup>1</sup>

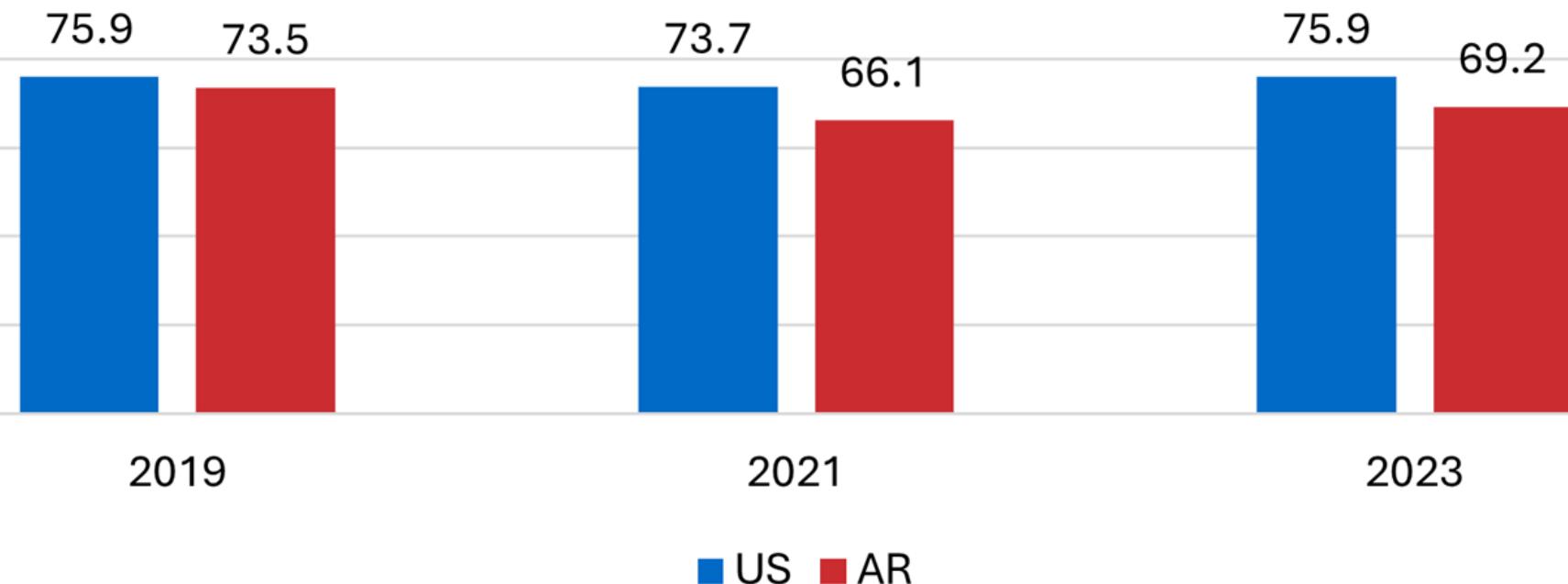


# Access to Fluoridated Water





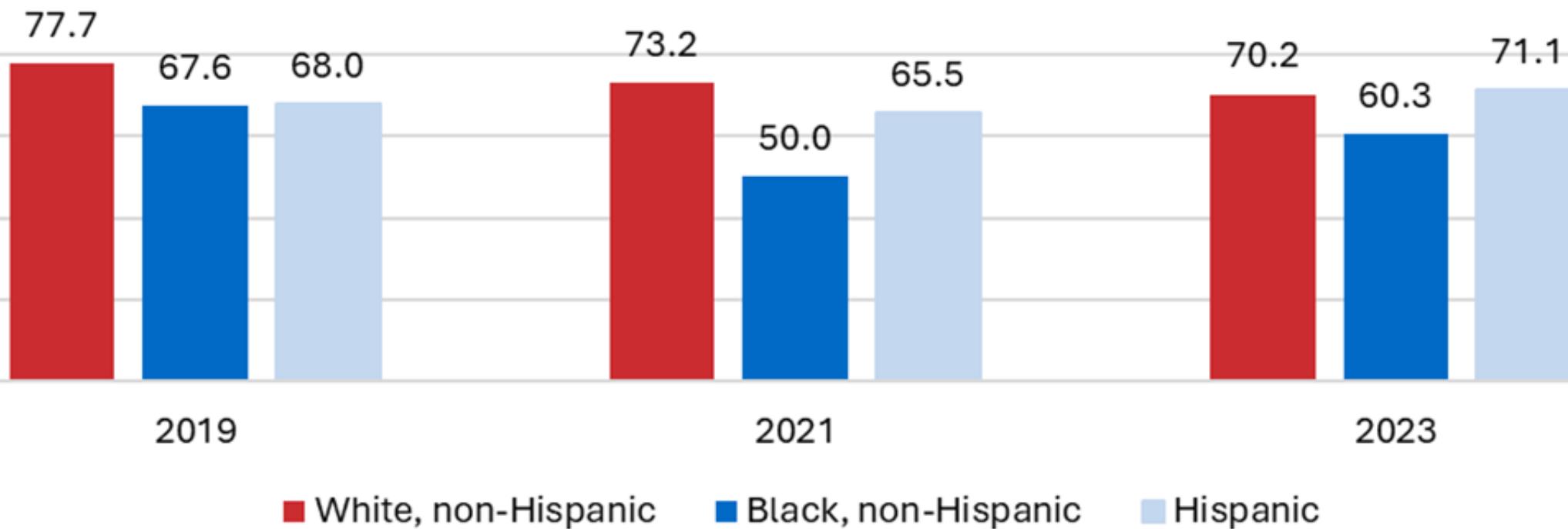
Percent of High School Students that Visited a Dentist  
within the Past Year, United States and Arkansas,  
2019 – 2023



Source: Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck 2024<sup>2</sup>



Percent of High School Students that Visited a Dentist within the Past Year by Race/Ethnicity, Arkansas, 2019 - 2023

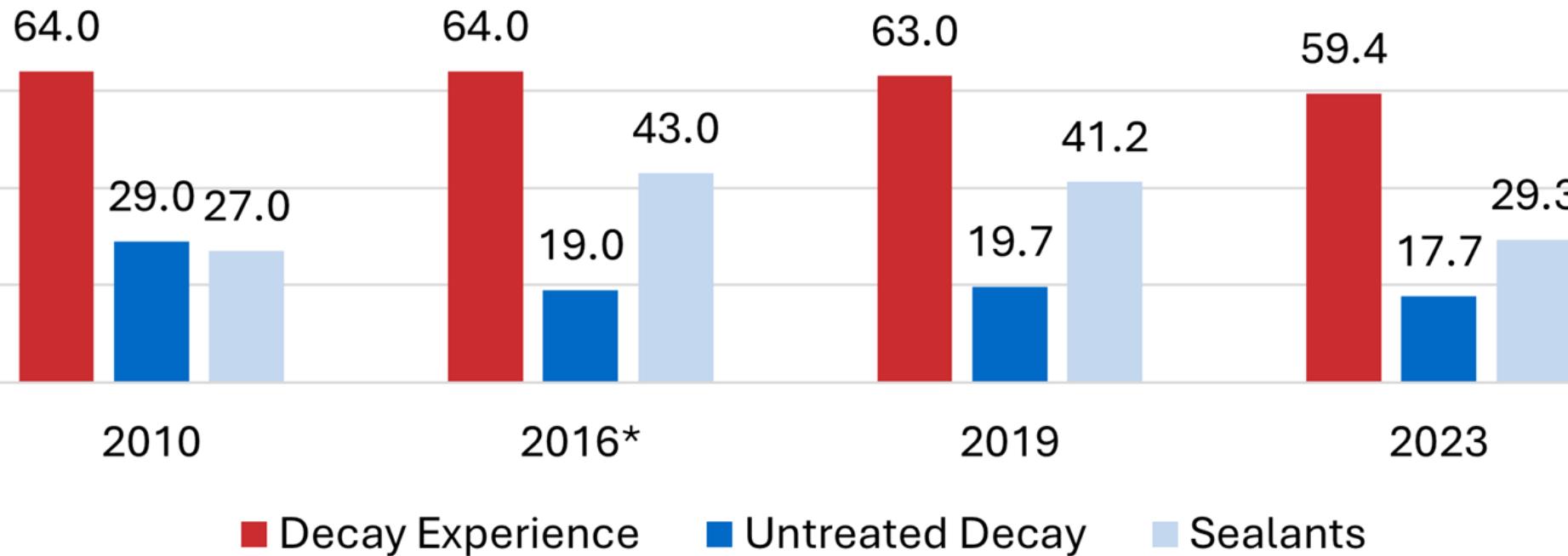


Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



# Basic Screening Survey

## Percent of Select Oral Health Indicators Among Arkansas 3rd Graders, 2010-2023



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



## Numbers in Context

- 35,771 third grade students enrolled in Arkansas public schools in 2022-23 school year<sup>3</sup>
- 17.7 percent = 6,331 children with untreated decay

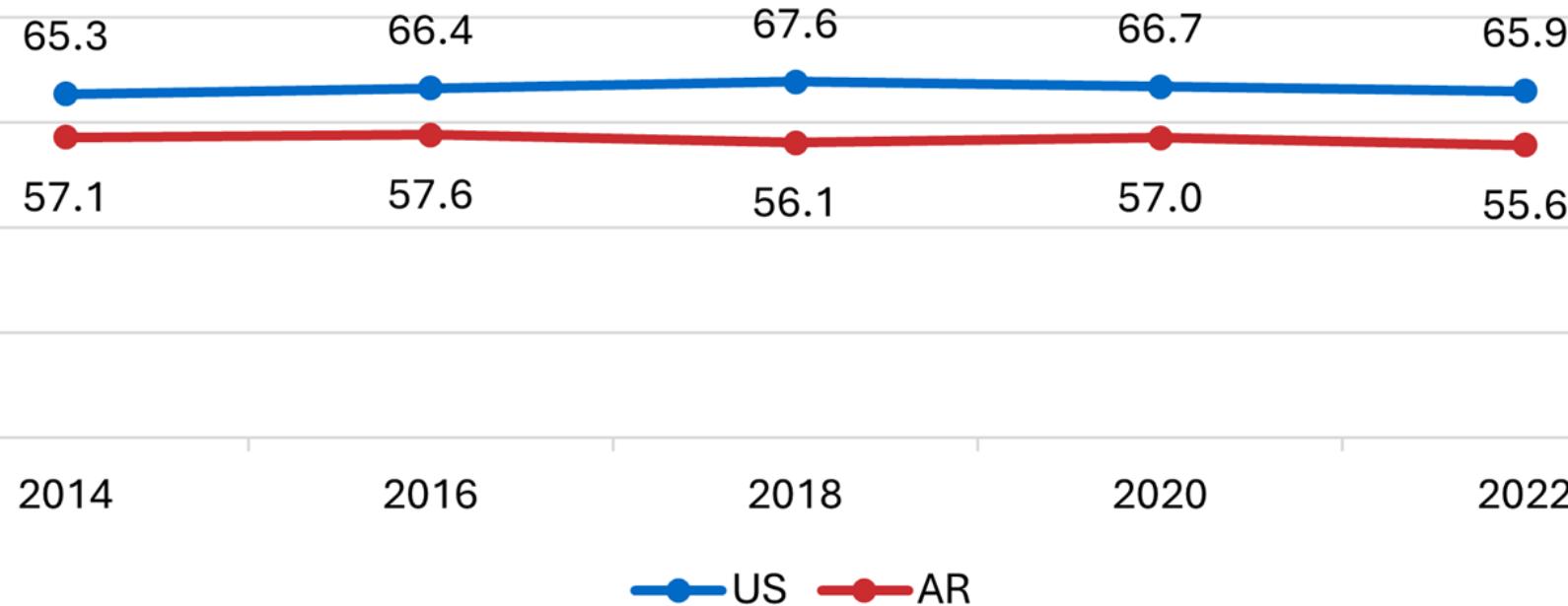
Population equivalent of Osceola, Greenbrier, or Cave Springs<sup>4</sup> or 88 school buses (3 per seat) or 132 school buses (2 per seat)



# Arkansas Adult Oral Health Indicators



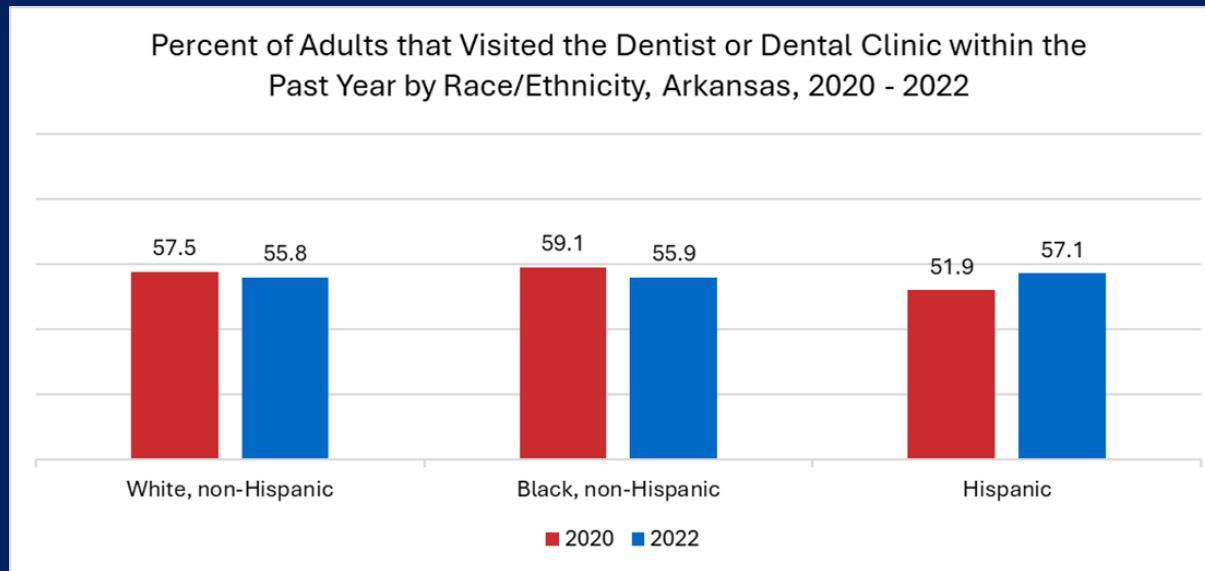
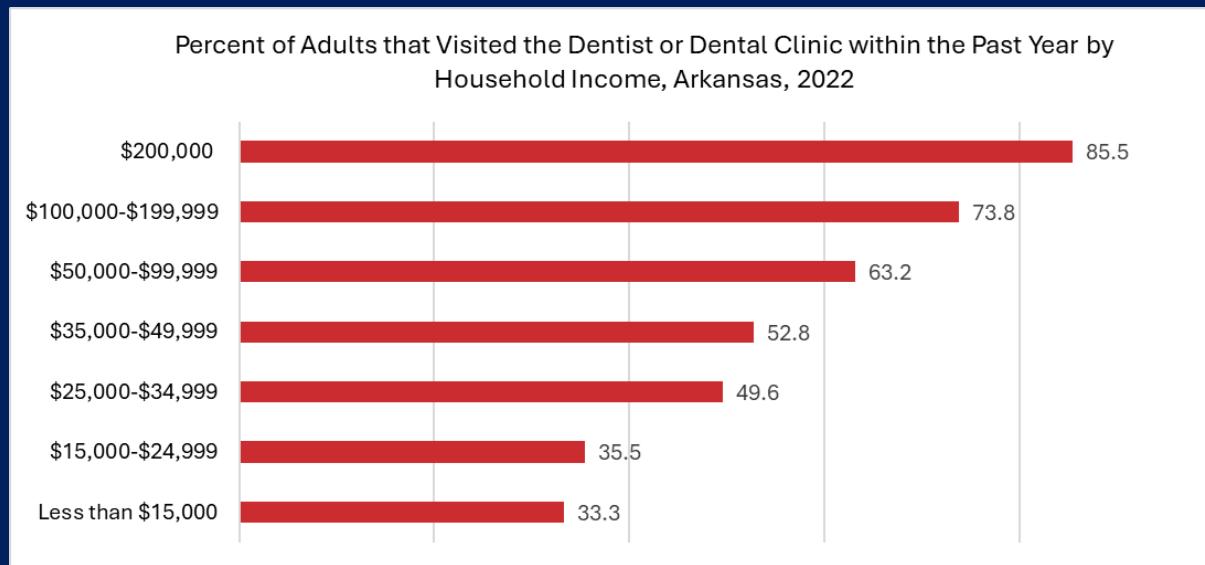
Percent of Adults that Visited the Dentist or Dental  
Clinic within the Past Year, United States and Arkansas,  
2014 – 2022



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



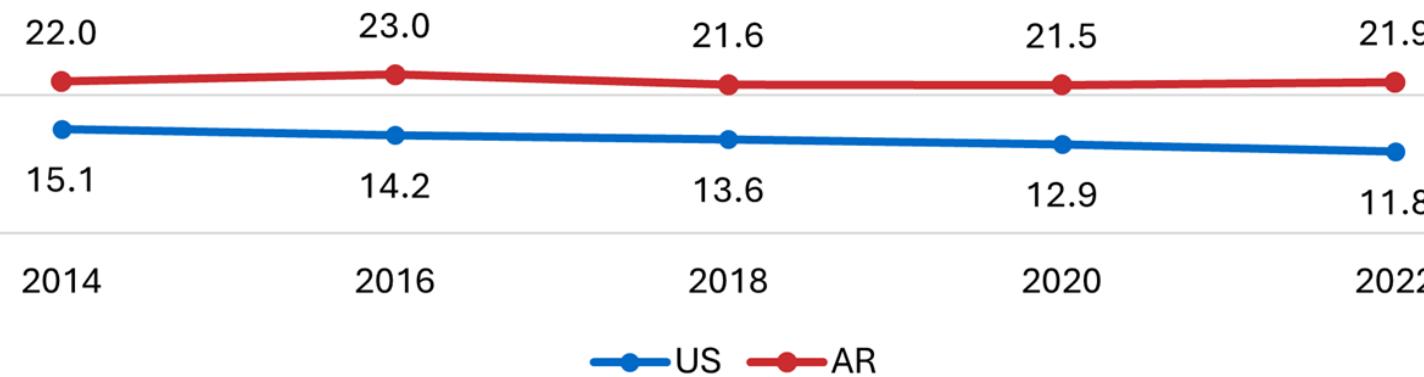
BRFSS



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



Percent of Adults Aged 65+ with No Natural Teeth Present,  
United States and Arkansas, 2014 – 2022

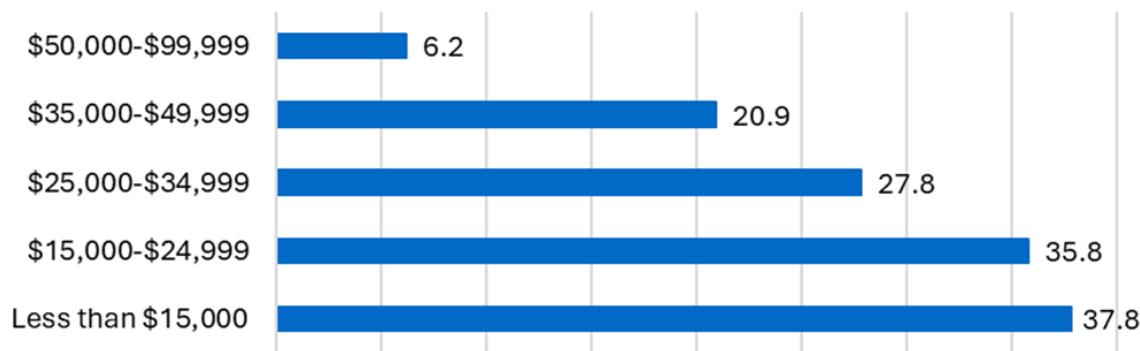


Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>

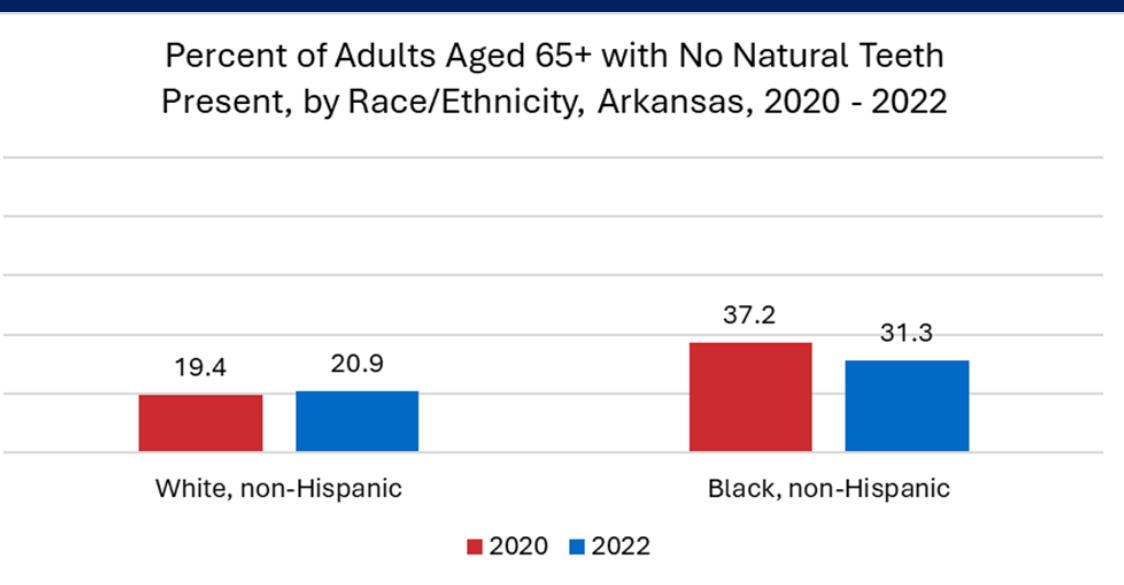


BRFSS

Percent of Adults Aged 65+ with No Natural Teeth Present, by Household Income, Arkansas, 2022



Percent of Adults Aged 65+ with No Natural Teeth Present, by Race/Ethnicity, Arkansas, 2020 - 2022



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



## PRAMS-Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

Percent of Females who Knew it was Important to Take Care of  
Their Teeth and Gums During Their Most Recent Pregnancy,  
Arkansas, 2017 – 2020

84.4                    85.3                    82.8                    84.2



2017

2018

2019

2020

Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



# PRAMS-Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

Percent of Females who had Teeth Cleaned by a Dentist or  
Dental Hygienist during Their Most Recent Pregnancy,  
Arkansas, 2017-2020

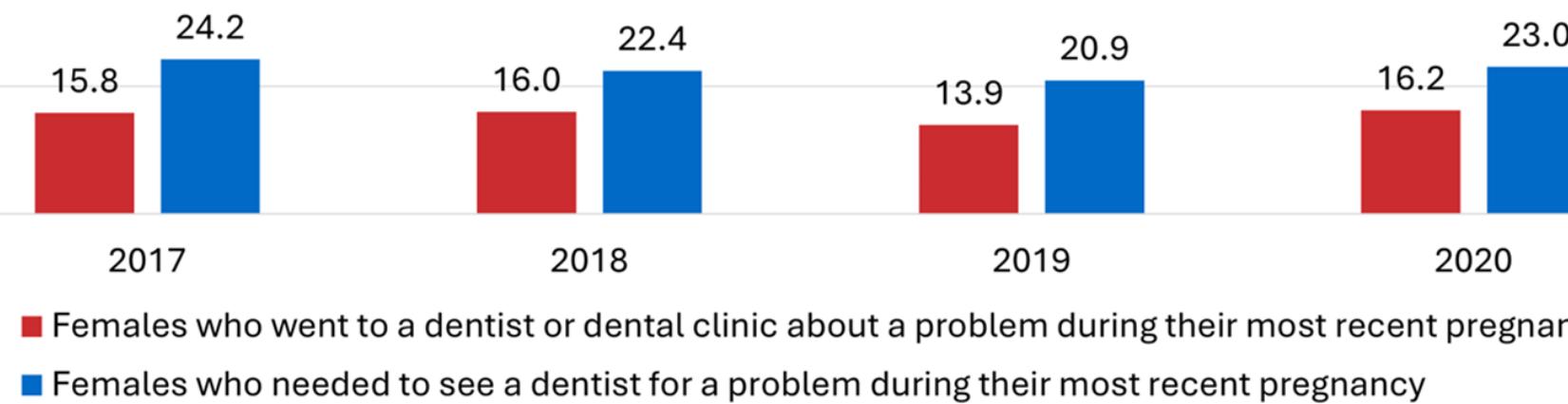


Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



# PRAMS-Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

Percent of Dental Care Need vs. Utilization During Most Recent Pregnancy, Arkansas,  
2017-2020



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>



# Numbers in Context

- 34,259 live births in Arkansas in 2020<sup>6</sup>
- 28,709 women did not visit the dentist during their most recent pregnancy (2020)

Population equivalent of Jacksonville or Texarkana<sup>4</sup> or about 1.6 Simmons Bank Arenas

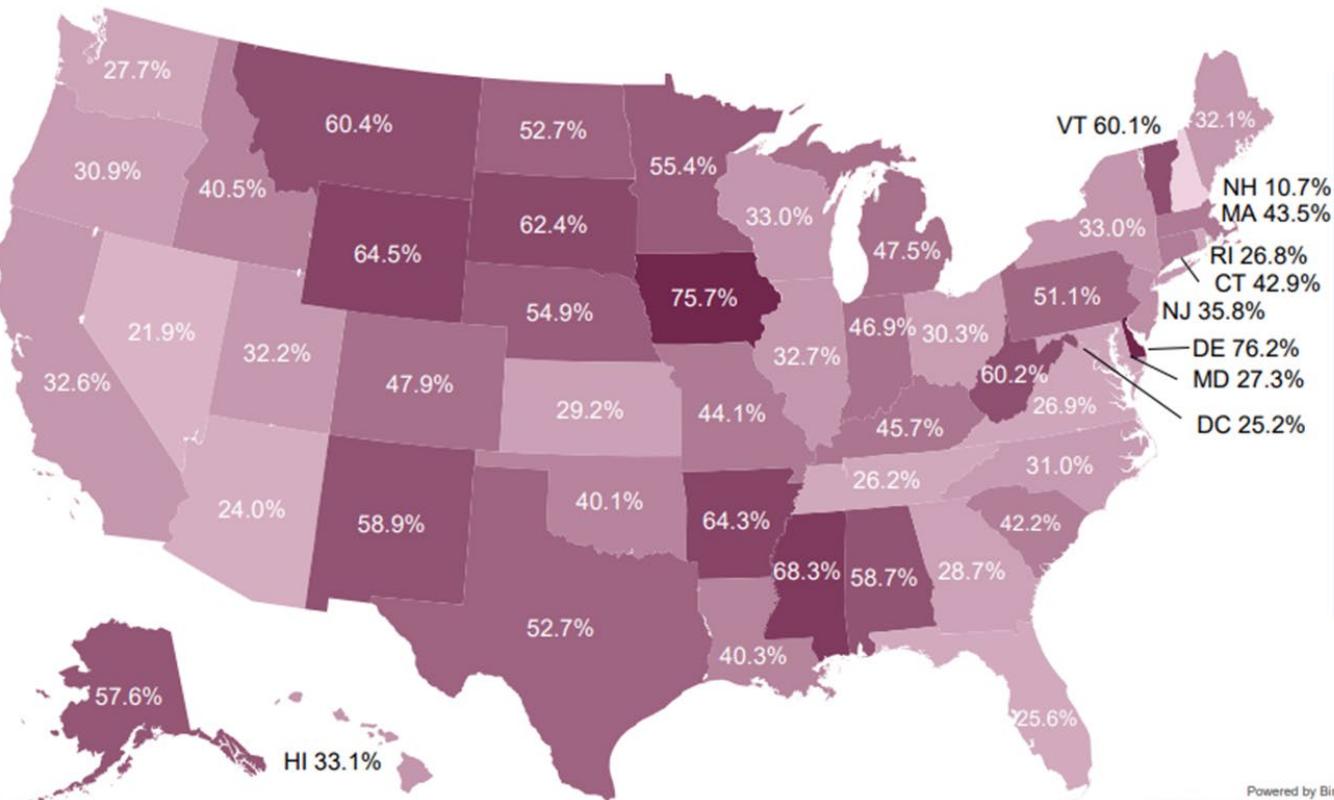


# Dental Insurance Landscape

- ~54% of Arkansans had some evidence of dental coverage in APCD for 2019<sup>7</sup>
- 407,206 adults enrolled in Medicaid (May 2025)<sup>8</sup>
  - \$500 yearly benefit\*, prior authorizations for certain procedures
- 409,592 children enrolled in Medicaid (May 2025)<sup>8</sup>
  - No specific dollar cap; procedures limited based on program reimbursable codes, prior authorizations required for some procedures/treatments

# Wide Variation in Medicaid Participation by State

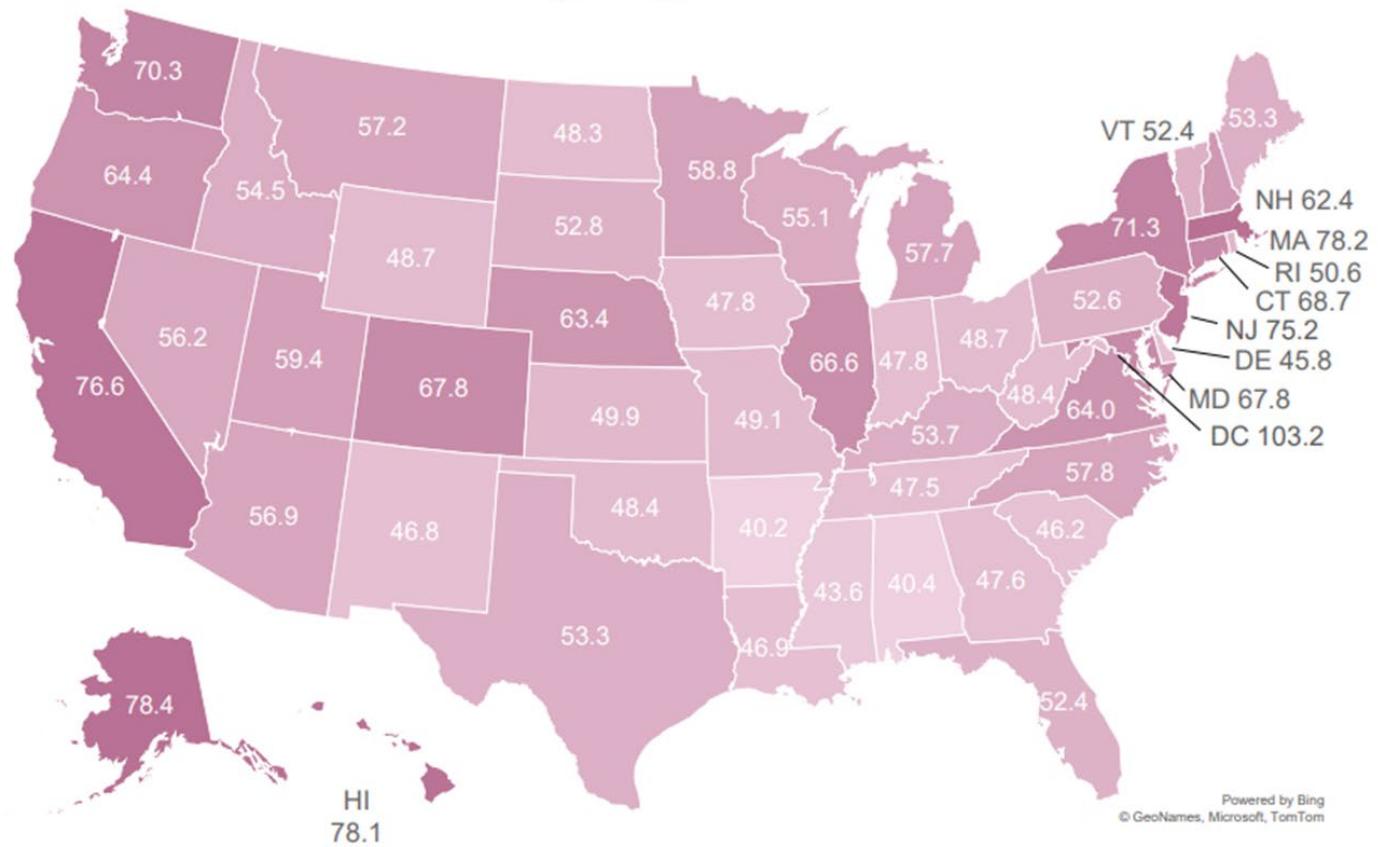
Share of Dentists Enrolled as Medicaid Providers, 2024



# Oral Health Care Provider Landscape

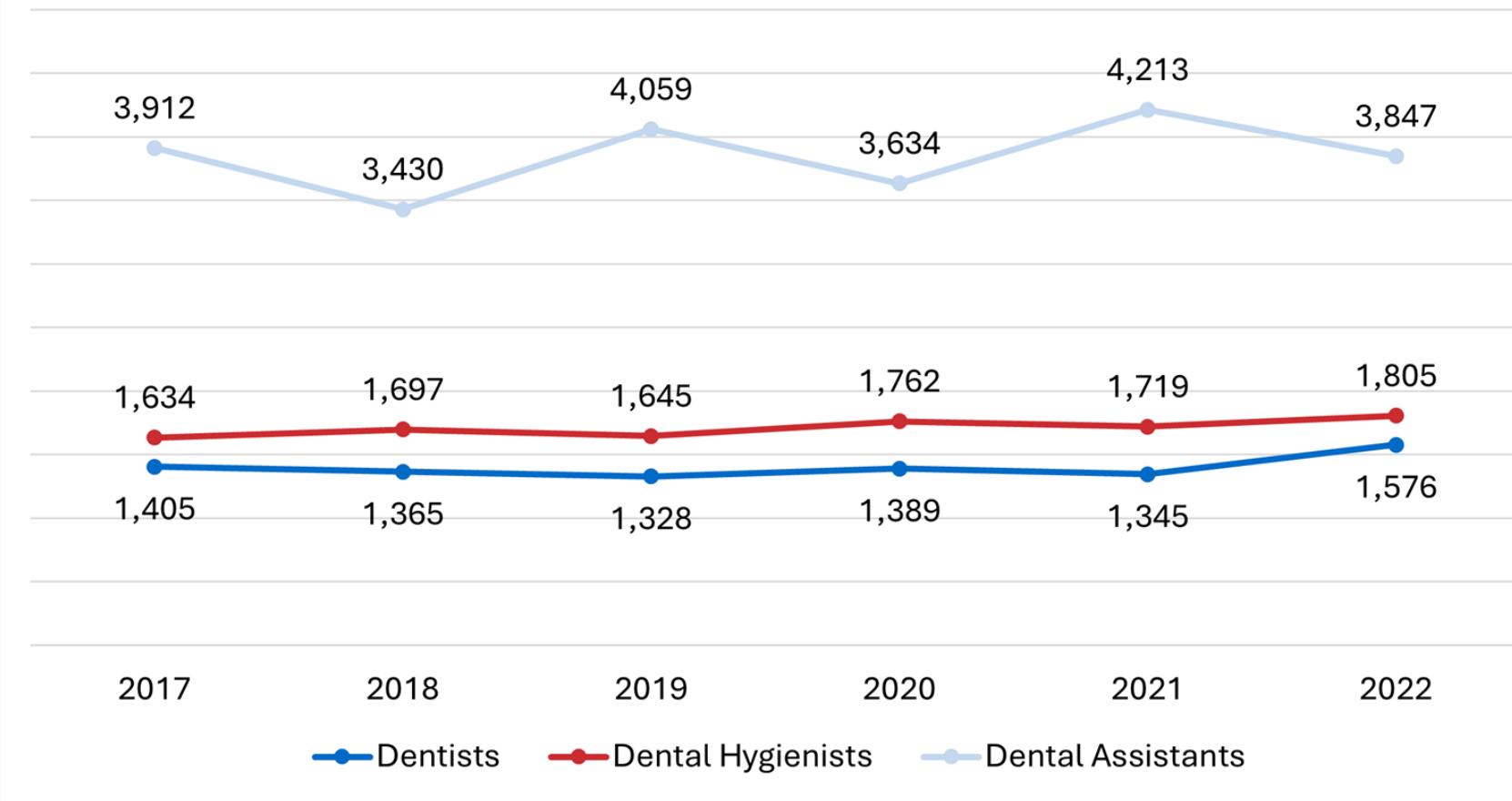
## Dentist-to-Population Ratios Vary by State

While the overall dentist to 100,000 population ratio in the U.S. is 59.5 in 2024, these ratios varied by state, from a low of 40.2 in Arkansas to a high of 103.2 in the District of Columbia.



# Oral Health Care Provider Landscape

Number of Dental Health Providers by Profession as Reported by  
ASBDE Licensures and Permits, Arkansas, 2017-2022



Source: 2024 Arkansas Oral Health Data Deck<sup>2</sup>

ASBDE=Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners



# Factors contributing to Arkansas's oral health indicators:

- Oral health literacy
- Tobacco use
- Cariogenic food environment
- Medicaid\*
- Access to care
  - Employer policies (i.e., sick leave)
  - Cost
  - Provider and Service Suitability
  - Proximity/convenience to home or work

\*provider participation, enrollee/program dynamics



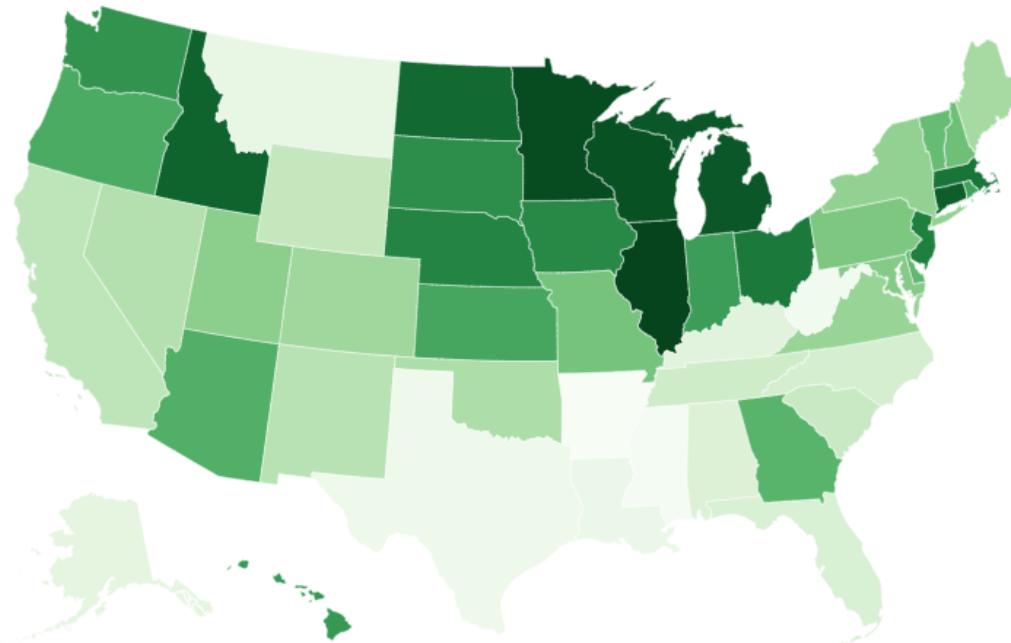
# National Oral Health Rankings: State Comparisons

## States with the Best & Worst Dental Health

According to a January report from WalletHub

Hover over a state to see where it ranks

1 — 51



Source: WalletHub • Rankings include District of Columbia (ranked 8th)

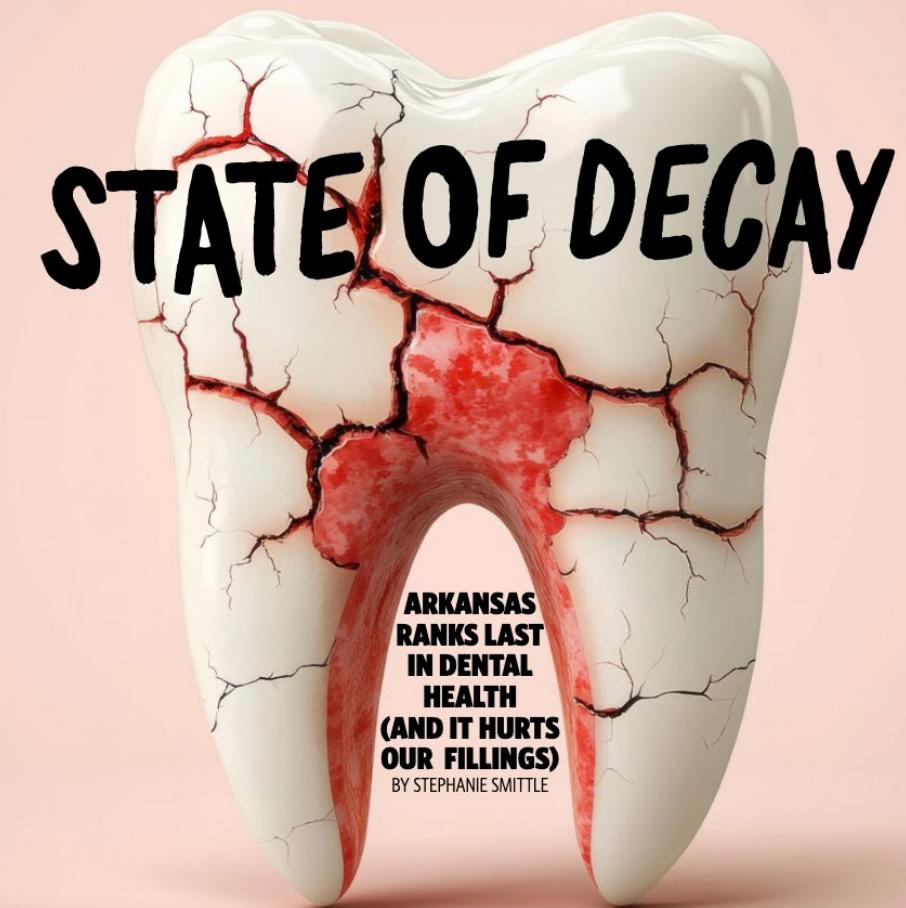
Newsweek

CAPITOL EXPENSE | HOT & STEAMY SOUPS | GAR HOLE GLORY

# ARKANSAS TIMES

ARKTIMES.COM

JANUARY 2025



# Does Arkansas really rank last?

“Open Mouth” Data

Self-Reported Survey Data

Insurance Claims Data



## In-Depth Look at the States With the Best Dental Health

### Illinois

Illinois is the best state for dental health, partly because it boasts the lowest percentage of people who have frequently experienced pain or problems sleeping in the past year due to the condition of their mouth and teeth. It also has a very low share of people whose mouth and teeth are in “poor” or “fair” condition overall.

Other factors that boost Illinois to the number-one ranking include a very high percentage of residents with access to fluoridated water and extensive dental benefits through Medicaid. Additionally, the Prairie State has the eighth-most adolescents ages 14 to 18 who visited a dentist in the past year. Visits to the dentist early in life can help establish a strong foundation for lifelong oral health.

Source: WalletHub: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-with-best-worst-dental-health/31498><sup>10</sup>



# Illinois vs. Arkansas (Wallethub Rankings)



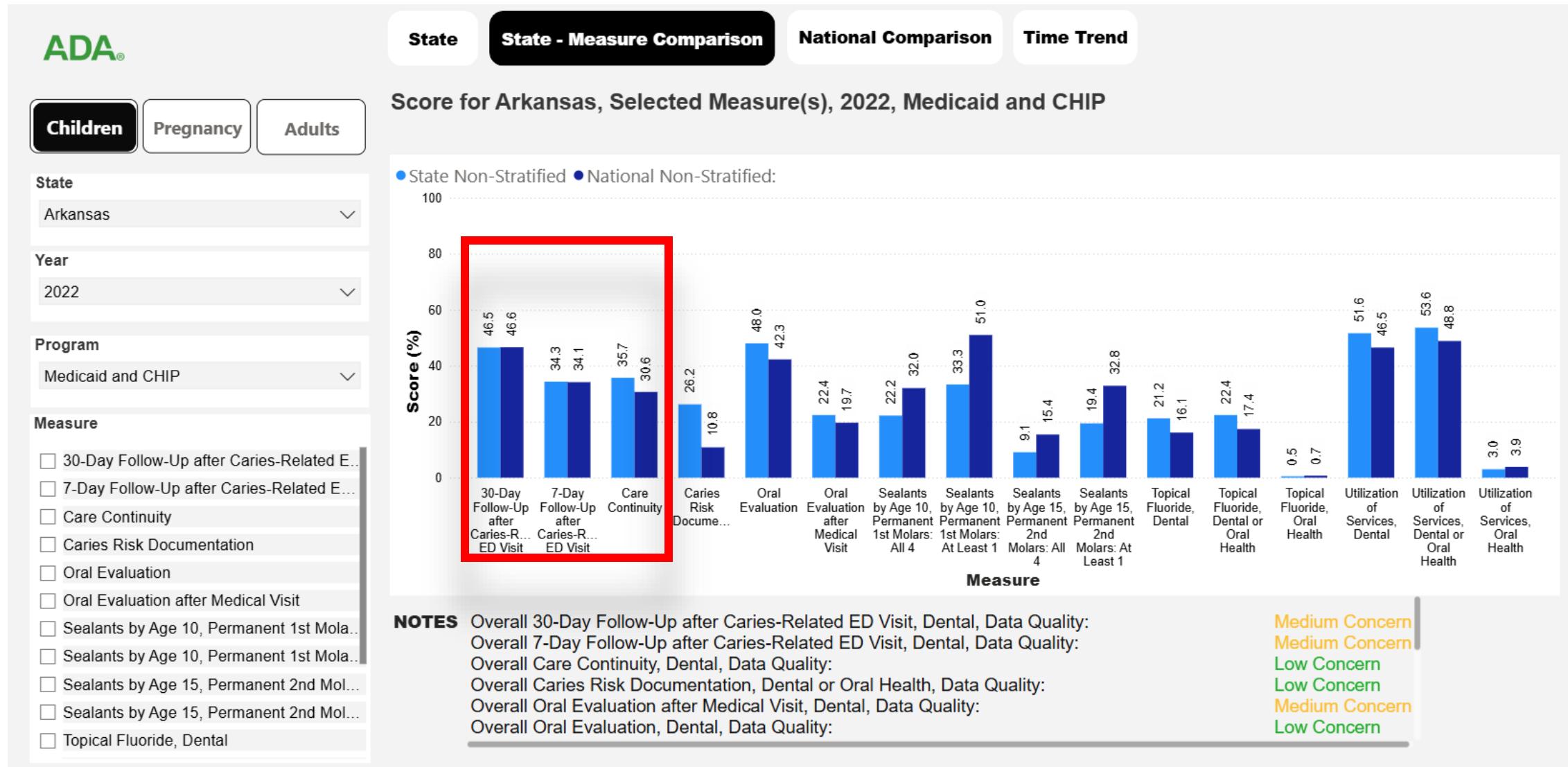
Indicator	Illinois	Arkansas
Water Fluoridation Coverage (2024)	98.21%	<b>STATE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM REPORTING</b> 86.81%
Percentage of population enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP (2023*)	30.8%	30.9%
2024 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker Score (CareQuest Institute for Oral Health)	18 points	13 points
Adolescents Visiting the Dentist (14-18) 2023	74.4%	69.2%
Percent of adults experiencing pain or problems sleeping "very often" due to oral health <sup>11</sup>	3% (pain); 3% (problems sleeping)	9% (pain); 9% (problems sleeping)
Overall condition of mouth or teeth (adults) considered "fair" or "poor" <sup>11</sup>	14% (fair); 8% (poor)	23% (fair); 15% (poor)

## CLAIMS/ INSURANCE

## SURVEY



# Insurance Claims Data



# Insurance Claims Data



**ADA.**

**State** **State - Measure Comparison** **National Comparison** **Time Trend**

**Children** **Pregnancy** **Adults**

**State**  
Illinois

**Year**  
2022

**Program**  
Medicaid and CHIP

**Measure**

- 30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related E...
- 7-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related E...
- Care Continuity
- Caries Risk Documentation
- Oral Evaluation
- Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit
- Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Mola...
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- Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Mol...
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- Topical Fluoride, Dental

**Score for Illinois, Selected Measure(s), 2022, Medicaid and CHIP**

● State Non-Stratified ● National Non-Stratified:

Measure	State Non-Stratified (Score %)	National Non-Stratified (Score %)
30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit, Dental, Data Quality	30.3	46.6
7-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit, Dental, Data Quality	19.7	34.1
Care Continuity	18.2	30.6
Caries Risk Documentation	6.2	10.8
Oral Evaluation	37.0	42.3
Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit	14.2	19.7
Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Molars: All 4	13.8	32.0
Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Molars: At Least 1	46.0	51.0
Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Molars: All 4	7.4	15.4
Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Molars: At Least 1	33.3	32.8
Topical Fluoride, Dental	10.1	16.1
Topical Fluoride, Dental or Oral Health	11.4	17.4
Utilization of Services, Dental	40.0	46.5
Utilization of Services, Dental or Oral Health	44.2	48.8
Utilization of Services, Oral Health	4.9	3.9

**NOTES**

- Overall 30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern
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- Overall Care Continuity, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern
- Overall Caries Risk Documentation, Dental or Oral Health, Data Quality: Medium Concern
- Overall Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern
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# Insurance Claims Data

**ADA.**

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# Insurance Claims Data



**ADA®**

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**Children** **Pregnancy** **Adults**

**State**  
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# Insurance Claims Data



ADA®

State

State - Measure Comparison

National Comparison

Time Trend

Children      Pregnancy      Adults

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Arkansas

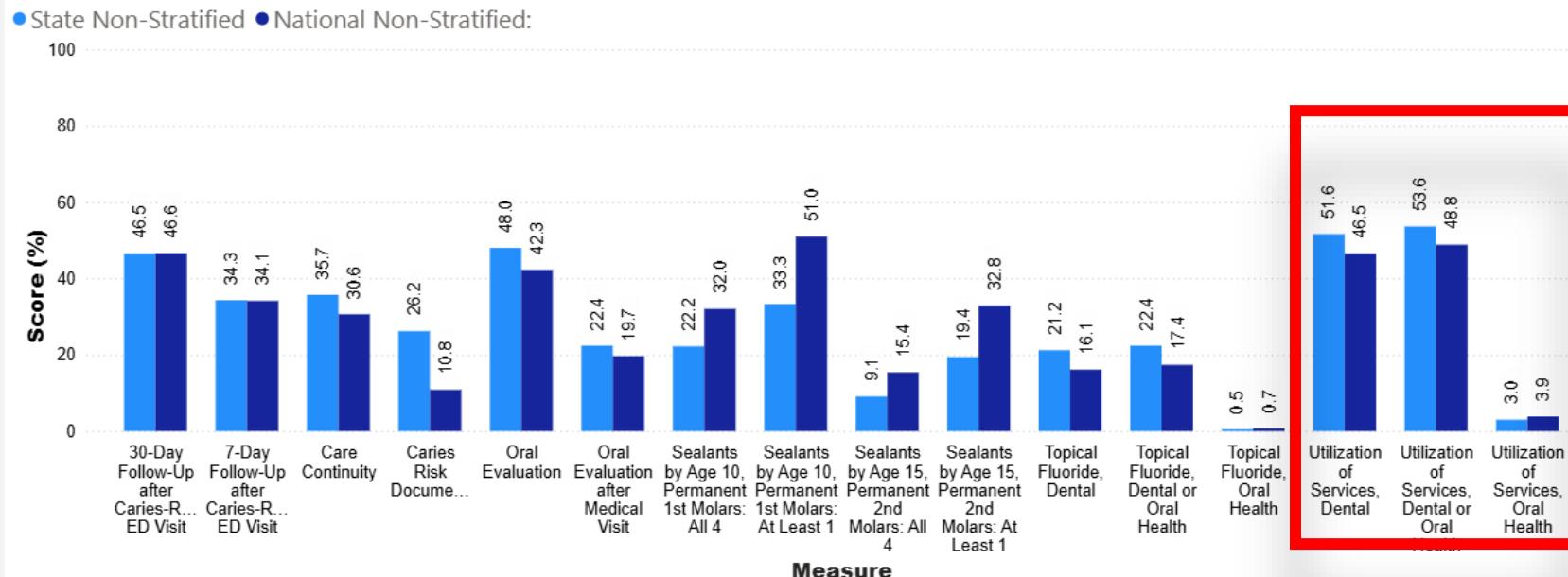
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# Insurance Claims Data



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Time Trend

Children
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State
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Medicaid and CHIP

30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related E...
 7-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related E...
 Care Continuity
 Caries Risk Documentation
 Oral Evaluation
 Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit
 Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Mola...
 Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Mola...
 Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Mol...
 Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Mol...
 Topical Fluoride, Dental

Score for Illinois, Selected Measure(s), 2022, Medicaid and CHIP
Score (%)
Measure

● State Non-Stratified
● National Non-Stratified

100
80
60
40
20
0

30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit
7-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit
Care Continuity
Caries Risk Docume...
Oral Evaluation
Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit
Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Molars: All 4
Sealants by Age 10, Permanent 1st Molars: At Least 1
Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Molars: All 4
Sealants by Age 15, Permanent 2nd Molars: At Least 1
Topical Fluoride, Dental
Topical Fluoride, Dental or Oral Health
Topical Fluoride, Oral Health
Utilization of Services, Dental
Utilization of Services, Dental or Oral
Utilization of Services, Oral Health

46.6
34.1
30.6
10.8
42.3
19.7
32.0
51.0
15.4
32.8
16.1
17.4
0.7
46.5
44.2
48.8

NOTES Overall 30-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern  
 Overall 7-Day Follow-Up after Caries-Related ED Visit, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern  
 Overall Care Continuity, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern  
 Overall Caries Risk Documentation, Dental or Oral Health, Data Quality: Medium Concern  
 Overall Oral Evaluation after Medical Visit, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern  
 Overall Oral Evaluation, Dental, Data Quality: Medium Concern

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# Thank you!

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