

MEASURE

The proportion of 2nd grade students (age 6-8 yrs.) with a history of dental caries (cavities), untreated decay of primary or permanent teeth, and sealant placed on the first permanent molars.

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Oral health is an integral component of overall health. Poor oral health and untreated oral disease can have a significant impact on quality of life. Millions of people in the United States experience dental caries (cavities) and periodontal disease, resulting in needless pain and suffering; difficulty in speaking and chewing; increased costs of care; loss of self-esteem; and decreased economic productivity through lost work and school days. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood, occurring five to eight times as frequently as asthma, the second most common chronic disease of children. Despite the reduction in rate of caries in recent years, more than half of all children have dental decay by the second grade. Dental caries remains a significant problem in some populations, particularly certain racial and ethnic groups and poor children. National data indicate that 80 percent of dental caries in

the permanent teeth of children is concentrated in 25 percent of the child and adolescent population.

HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COMMUNITY DOING?

During the 2008-09 school year, 202 2nd-grade students attending Montcalm Area public elementary schools participated in a dental screening project to determine the prevalence of dental caries. The table below summarizes the results of this screening project. Approximately 49% of the children screened were identified as having untreated caries, while nearly 15% of the students screened appeared to have an oral condition (pain, infection, ulceration) in need of urgent dental care. A sampling of similar age (3rd grade) students throughout Michigan in 2006 indicated that 25% of 3rd grade children had untreated cavities and nearly 10% had urgent treatment needs.

GOAL FOR MONTCALM COUNTY

HP2010 has set a goal to reduce the proportion of children 6-8 years of age with caries experience to 42%, and untreated dental decay to 21%, while improving sealant rates to 50%, to be achieved by the end of this decade.

	Montcalm Area 2nd Graders SY 2008-09	Michigan 3rd Graders SY 2005-2006	Healthy People 2010 (6-8 yrs.) Baseline	Healthy People 2010 (6-8 yrs.) Goal
Number of Children Screened	202	1,586	-	-
Caries Experience	135 (67%)	58%	Total 52% (White 49%)	42%
Untreated Caries	99 (49%)	25%	Total 29% (White 22%)	21%
Molar Sealant Present	48 (24%)	23%	Total 23% (White 29%)	50%
Urgent Care Recommended*	30 (15%)	9.6%	-	-
Non-urgent Care Recommended**	69 (34%)	-	-	-
No Medical Insurance	n/a	-	-	-
No Dental Insurance	23%	15%	-	-
Dental Visit During Previous Year	64%	84%	"3rd Graders" 82%	83%

NOTES: *Urgent care represents the recommendation for dental care as soon as possible (days). Signs or symptoms present may include pain, infection, or soft tissue ulceration. **Non-urgent care represents the recommendation for dental care within several weeks. Signs or symptoms present include cavities without associated pain or suspicious soft-tissue areas. **SOURCE:** Mid-Michigan District Health Department, 2008-2009 & MDCH 2006.