

David J. Owsiany
Executive Director – Ohio Dental Association
Written Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 675
State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
June 19, 2018
2:00 P.M.
Room 116

Chairman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee -

My name is David Owsiany, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Dental Association. As you may know, the ODA is the professional association of dentists in Ohio. We represent 70% of Ohio's practicing dentists with more than 5,300 member dentists across the state. It is my pleasure to provide proponent testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 675.

Over the last several years, the ODA has advocated for, and the Ohio General Assembly has enacted, several significant reforms to Ohio's laws to enhance the ability of underserved Ohioans to find a dental home. From Medicaid reforms to loan repayment programs to innovative expansion of duties and the loosening of supervision for dental auxiliaries, Ohio has been at the forefront of innovation in access to dental care.

And those efforts are paying off. Two recent reports – the Ohio Department of Health's Third Grade Oral Health Survey and the State of Ohio Health Assessment – demonstrate that Ohio is making significant improvements in the area of access to dental care for both children and adults. Despite the progress we are making in Ohio, however, we also know there are pockets in Ohio where certain geographic areas and specific populations would benefit from improved access to dental care.

Substitute House Bill 675 will continue the momentum Ohio is experiencing in improving access to dental care. Under the program, a municipal corporation or county may establish and operate a Hope for a Smile Program with the primary objective of improving the oral health of school-age children, by targeting children who are indigent and uninsured through the use of mobile dental units staffed by dentists and other professionals. The program will be a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Health, dental and dental hygiene academic programs, and professional associations.

On behalf of the 5,300 member dentists of the ODA, I urge your support of Substitute House Bill 675 in order to continue our state's momentum in improving the oral health of Ohioans.

Access to Oral Health Care

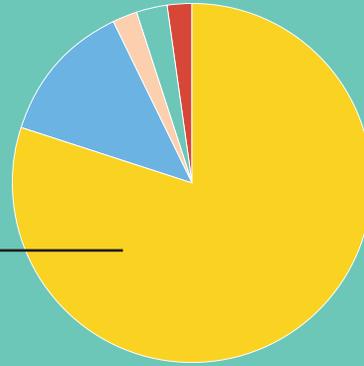
OHIO DENTAL ASSOCIATION
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Most Ohio children have visited the dentist at least once in the last year

80%

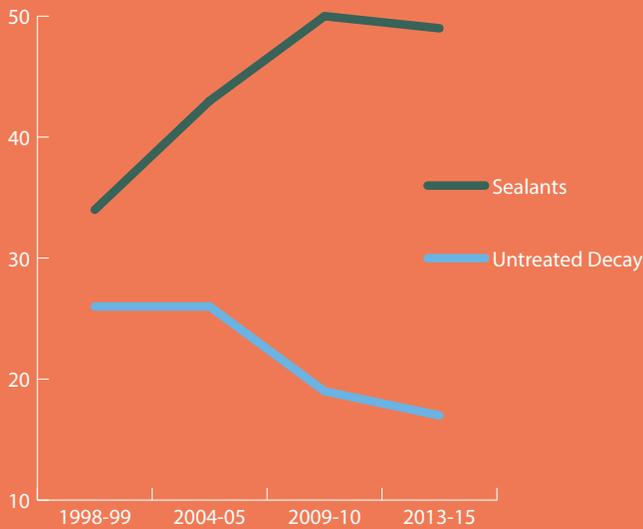
of Ohio third-graders had seen a dentist within the past year, as reported by their parents.



- Within the past year
- Within 1-3 years
- More than 3 years ago
- Never been to the dentist
- Unsure

Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health

Oral health indicators for Ohio third-graders improving



Between 1998 and 2015, the percentage of children with dental sealants has steadily increased.

Between 1998 and 2015, the percentage of children with untreated cavities has decreased steadily.

Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health

Ohio is meeting national targets

Percentage of children with one or more dental sealants:



49%

National Target

28%



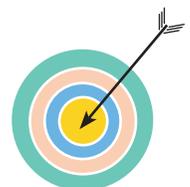
Percentage of children who had visited the dentist within the past year:



80%

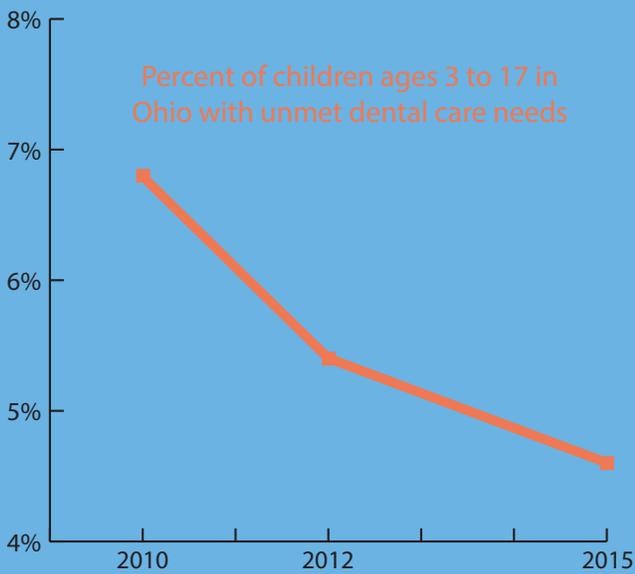
National Target

49%



Source: Make Your Smile Count! Third Grade Oral Health Screening Survey, 2013-15, Ohio Department of Health

Unmet dental care needs decreasing in Ohio



The percentage of children ages 3 to 17 in Ohio with unmet dental care needs has been decreasing over the past several years.

Source: Ohio 2016 State Health Assessment

Ohio's ratio of population to dentists better than national average

Ohio

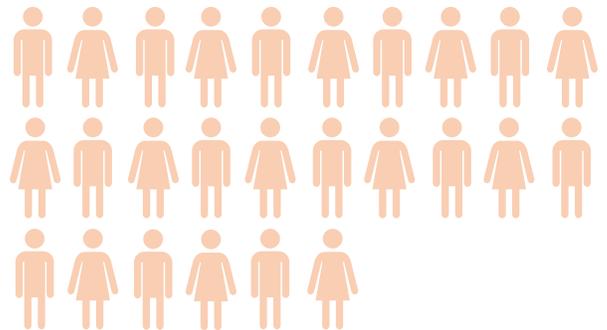
In 2014, the population to dentist ratio was:



Each person represents 100 people

The United States

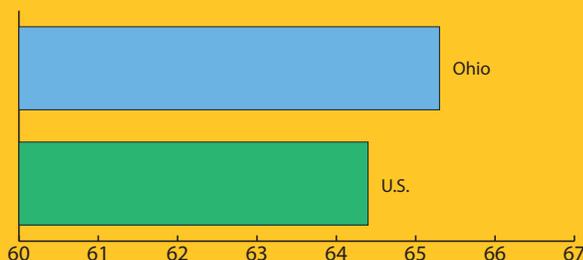
In 2014, the population to dentist ratio was:



Fewer people per dentist means that it's easier to schedule a dental appointment! Ohio has been improving its ratio of dentists to patients over the last several years. Plus, The Ohio State University College of Dentistry has announced that it is expanding its dental classes by about 10% beginning in 2018. When fully implemented, there will be 40 more dental students at the college of dentistry, adding to the number of dentists in Ohio.

Source: Ohio 2016 State Health Assessment

Adults receiving dental care



In Ohio, 65.3% of adults reported visiting a dentist in the last 12 months. This is slightly better than the national average of 64.4%.

Source: Ohio 2016 State Health Assessment