Delta Dental of Kentucky partnered with Kentucky Youth Advocates and the University of Louisville School of Dentistry through the Delta Dental of Kentucky Making Smiles Happen® initiative to conduct a new statewide survey of children’s oral health. Dentists were sent to 60 schools across five regions of the state to directly observe the mouths of 3rd and 6th graders. Parents were also asked about family oral health history, collecting data for over 2,000 students. The result is a long overdue picture of children’s oral health in Kentucky - the last survey prior to this initiative was completed in 2001.

**Western Region Profile**

- The Western region has one of the highest rates of untreated tooth decay at 49%.
- One of two 3rd and 6th graders - around 11,700 children - in the Western region have untreated tooth decay.
- There was a significant increase in the rate of cavities experiences from 55% to 68%.

**Western Region at a Glance**

- Central
- Eastern
- Louisville
- Northern
- Western

**Western Region Screening Demographics**

- 523 Students Participated in the Study
- 87% White
- 7% Black/African American
- 5% Hispanic/Latino
- Less than 1% Asian
- 66% on Free or Reduced Lunch

**2001 vs. 2016 Survey Results Comparisons**

Children who have experienced tooth decay are at greater risk of having future tooth decay. These numbers have worsened since the 2001 survey.

**Over 2 in 3 children have experienced tooth decay**

- Western Region: 68%
- Kentucky: 56%

**Nearly 1 in 2 children have untreated tooth decay**

- Western Region: 49%
- Kentucky: 41%
2001 VS. 2016 SURVEY RESULTS COMPARISONS

Sealants can help prevent the need for early or urgent dental care.

Over 3 in 5 children do not have sealants
*Estimated number of children: 15,000*

- Western Region: 78% (2001) vs. 63% (2016)
- Kentucky: 71% (2001) vs. 57% (2016)

Over 1 in 2 children need early or urgent dental care
*Estimated number of children: 13,400*

- Western Region: 3% (2001) vs. 14% (2016)
- Kentucky: 4% (2001) vs. 8% (2016)

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Western Region 2001</th>
<th>Western Region 2016</th>
<th>Kentucky 2016</th>
<th>Regional Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child reported to have a toothache in the last 6 months</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 1 year since last dental visit</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During past 12 months, child needed dental care but could not get it</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child lacks dental insurance</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF ORAL HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>Western Region</th>
<th>Kentucky</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children living in poverty, 2011-2015</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child food insecurity rate, 2014</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People ages 25+ with a Bachelors degree or above, 2011-2015</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of dentists per 1,000 children, 2015</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children without health insurance coverage, 2011-2015</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children enrolled in Medicaid/KCHIP utilizing dental services, 2015</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarteners receiving a dental screening/exam, SY 2015-2016</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children ages 5 to 17 that speak a language other than English at home, 2011-2015</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with no vehicles, 2011-2015</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, 2012-2014</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIND COUNTY-LEVEL DATA ON OTHER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF ORAL HEALTH AT:

- KIDS COUNT Data Center | www.datacenter.kidscount.org/data#KY
- Kentucky Health Facts | www.kentuckyhealthfacts.org
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps | www.countyhealthrankings.org

*Find the complete report and learn more about how you can get involved at KentuckyOralHealth.com*