

DENTAL DILEMMA?

The Current Status of Oral Health in Eaton County



Published October 2016

PROBLEM: Oral health affects our ability to speak, smile, eat, and show emotions. It also affects self-esteem, school performance, and attendance at work and school. Oral diseases—which range from cavities to gum disease to oral cancer—cause pain and disability for millions of Americans. They also cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/basics/index.html>

ADULTS:

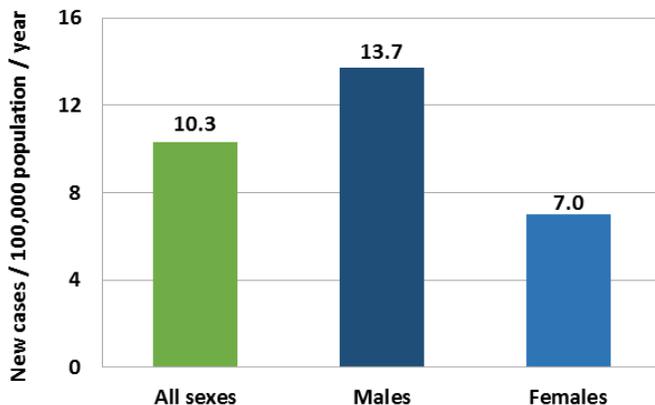
- 11.2% of Eaton County adults reported that there was a time in the past year when they needed to see a dentist but could not (for any reason)
- This rate has decreased from 18.9% in 2008-2010, but it is higher than the 9.2% reported in 2006-2007
- For those making less than \$25,000 per year, this rate increases to 33.3%



Source: Eaton County Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 2011-2013

- The rate of oral and pharyngeal cancers in Eaton County residents is 10.3 per 100,000 population per year
- Eaton County's rate is lower than the rates for Michigan (11.4) and the United States (11.3)
- Males in Eaton County have a much higher rate of oral and pharyngeal cancers than females

Incidence Rates of Oral and Pharyngeal Cancers, Eaton County Residents, 2009-2013

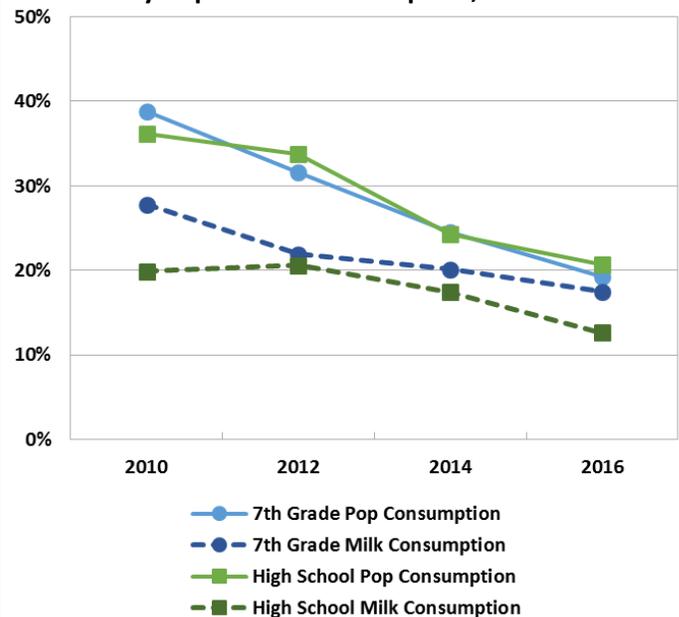


Source: <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov>

YOUTH:

- 74.6% of 7th graders and 76.4% of high school students in Eaton County saw a dentist for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work during the past year
 - This is slightly above the rates for Michigan (73.7%) and the United States (74.4%)
- The good news is that the percentage of children who report drinking pop on a daily basis has been steadily decreasing to 19.3% of 7th graders and 20.7% of high school students in 2016
- Unfortunately, the percentage of children who report drinking 3 or more servings of milk per day has also decreased to 17.5% of 7th graders and 12.6% of high school students in 2016

Percentage of Eaton County Students Reporting Daily Pop or Milk Consumption, 2010-2016



Source: Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey, 2010-2016. High school students are 9th and 11th graders. Consumption is defined as one or more servings of pop or three or more servings of milk each day during the past week.

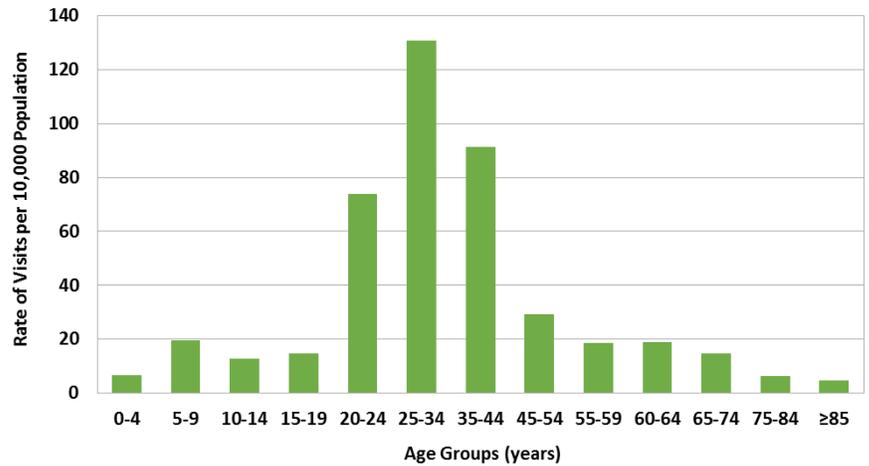
HEALTH SERVICES IMPACT:

Eaton County emergency room visits for oral health complaints from October 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016 show:

- The age range of patients is 8 months to 87 years; the average age is 35 years
- Females make up 58.1% of visits, but are only 51.2% of the county's population
- Adults aged 25-34 had the highest rate of ER visits

Sources: Eaton Rapids Medical Center, Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital

Rate of Oral Health Visits to Eaton County Emergency Departments, per 10,000 Population, October 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016



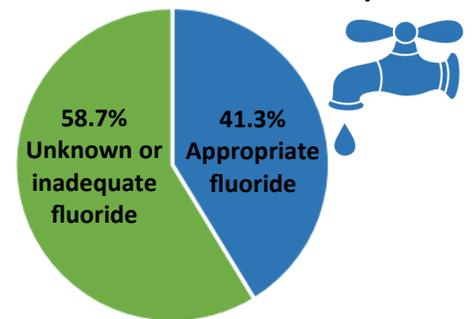
SOLUTIONS: Improving oral health in Eaton County could include enhancing integration between health care providers, increasing knowledge and awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health, and improving oral health care access among underserved populations.

DRINK UP: FLUORIDE

- Fluoride can prevent or even reverse the development and progression of tooth decay. Water fluoridation benefits all members of the community and is the most cost-effective method of delivering fluoride, regardless of age, education, or income level.
- In 2016, 41% of Eaton County residents were serviced by a public drinking water system with the CDC-recommended level of fluoride (0.7 mg/L)

Source: CDC My Water's Fluoride

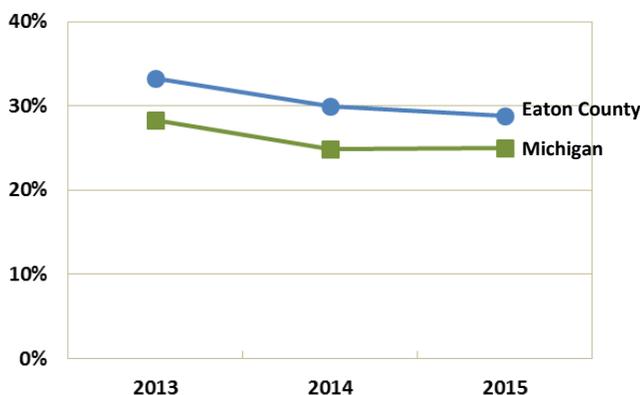
Home Drinking Water Fluoride: Status of Persons in Eaton County



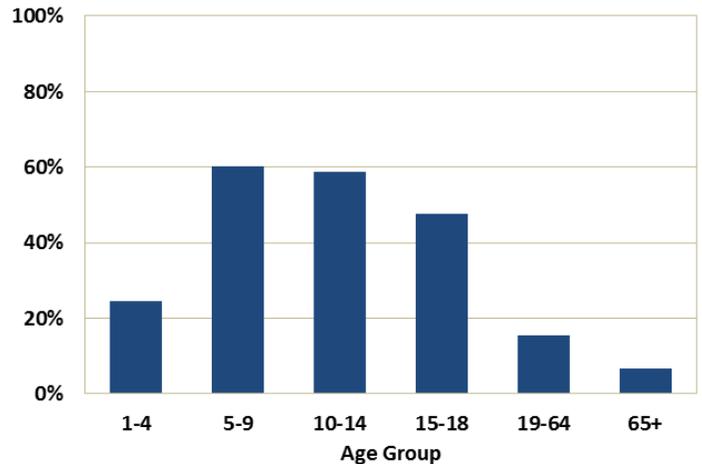
IMPROVING ACCESS: MEDICAID VISITS

- Preventive dental visits are vital to the establishment of good oral health and early identification of oral health problems
- In 2015, only 28.8% of Eaton County Medicaid beneficiaries one year and older saw a dentist for a preventive visit
- People with Medicaid are getting fewer preventive visits lately

Eaton County Medicaid Beneficiaries ≥1 Year of Age with at Least One Preventive Dental Visit in the Past Year



Eaton County Medicaid Beneficiaries ≥1 Year of Age with at Least One Preventive Dental Visit in 2015



Utilization varied widely by age in 2015:

- Children aged 5-9 years have the highest rate (60.2%)
- Adults aged 65 and older have the lowest rate (6.6%)

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Join the Eaton Oral Health Coalition! Contact Jill Sambaer at jsambaer@bedhd.org or (517) 541-2610

