

LOCAL ORAL HEALTH - FACT SHEET

ORAL HEALTH OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Did you know?

Students with a toothache in the last 6 months were 4 times more likely to have a lower grade point average than their healthier counterparts¹.

Students' absences due to dental problems cost CA school districts about \$29.7 million annually².

California children miss 874,000 school days each year due to dental problems³.

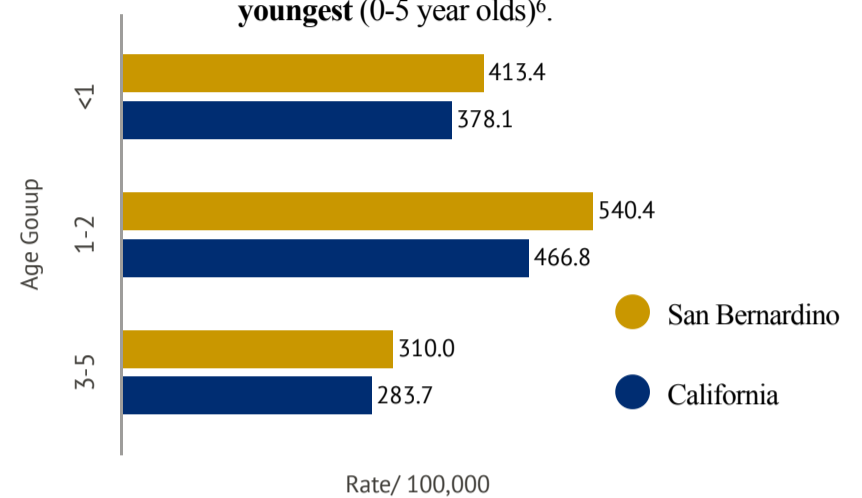
3 in 10 Californian adults avoid smiling and 1 in 4 feel embarrassment due to the condition of their mouth and teeth⁴.

Tooth decay continues to be prevalent in our County's children.

Three in ten kindergartners assessed suffer from untreated tooth decay⁵.



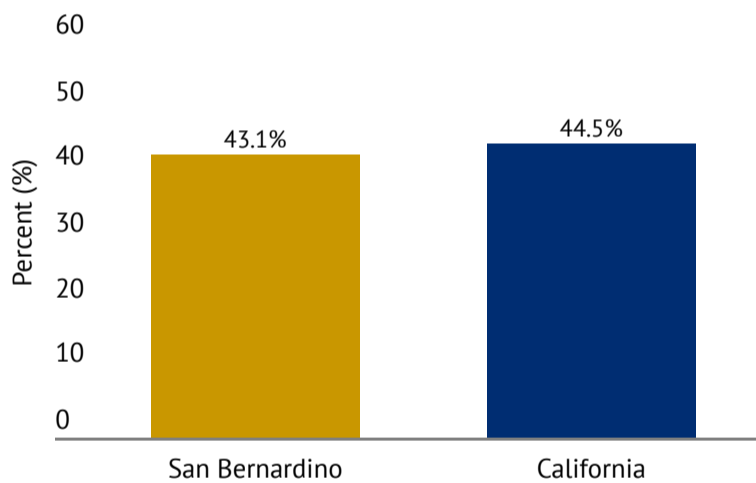
Many children end up at the Emergency Department for preventable dental conditions. Furthermore, of all children, rates were highest among our youngest (0-5 year olds)⁶.



Visits to the Emergency Department for Preventable dental conditions (e.g. tooth decay), 2012-2016.

Use of services by low-income children is lower than CA average.

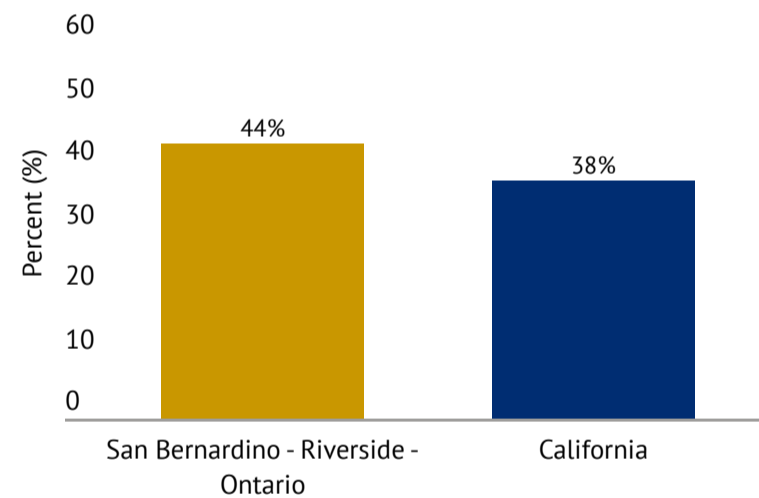
Less than half of our County's Medi-Cal eligible children had a dental visit in the past year⁷.



Percent of Medi-Cal children who used a preventive dental service in 2016.

Adults in our County have high unmet oral health care needs.

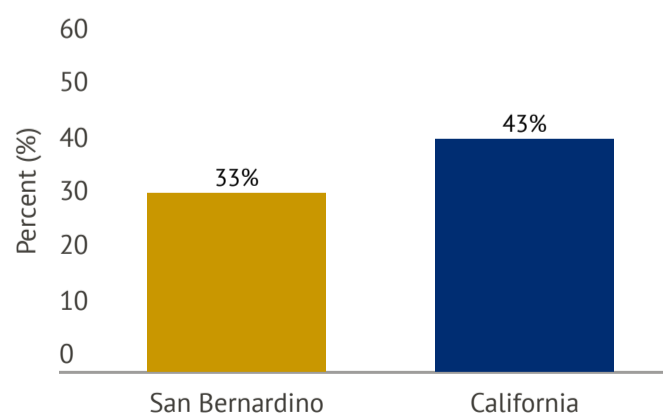
Forty-four percent (44%) of adults in our region (includes San Bernardino, Riverside and Ontario metro areas) have lost a permanent tooth to decay or gum disease⁸.



Percent of adults who lost one or more permanent tooth to dental disease, 2014.

Use of services by our County's pregnant women is lower than CA.

Only 33% of pregnant women in San Bernardino County had a dental visit during pregnancy, a rate significantly lower than CA average⁹.



Percent of pregnant women who had a dental visit during pregnancy, 2015-16.

Our County has a shortage of Medi-Cal Dental Providers.

Less than one in ten (9.7%) dentists practicing in San Bernardino County treats patients insured through Medi-Cal¹⁰.



● Accept Medi-Cal ● Do not accept Medi-Cal



Public Health
Local Oral Health

DATA SOURCES:

(1) Pourat N and Nicholson G. Unaffordable Dental Care Is Linked to Frequent School Absences. Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, 2009; (2) Seirawan H, Faust S, Mulligan R. The impact of oral health on the academic performance of disadvantaged children. American journal of public health. 2012; (3) Pourat, N., & Nicholson, G. Affordability of Needed Dental Care is linked to Frequent School Absences, pre-publication manuscript. Los Angeles: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Oct 2009; (4) American Dental Association - Healthy Policy Institute; (5) System of Children's Oral Health Reporting (SCHOR); (6) Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) and California Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health (CDPH-OOH); (7) Department of Health Care Services - Open Data Portal; (8) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; (9) CDPH - Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA); (10) American Dental Association.

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PROGRAM SUMMARY - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2018, a **Local Oral Health Program (LOHP)** was established in San Bernardino County. The program aims to work in **alignment with** and towards achieving goals and objectives outlined in the **California State Oral Health Plan, 2018-2028**. The California Oral Health Plan is a 10-year framework for addressing oral health disparities in local communities and statewide, built to align with the four focus areas of the California Wellness Plan: healthy communities; optimal health systems linked with community prevention; accessible and usable health information; and prevention sustainability and capacity. The program is **funded by the California Department of Public Health, Office of Oral Health** through funds generated as results of passage of the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016 (**Proposition 56 Tobacco Tax**).

The LOHP is tasked with **improving oral health, especially of vulnerable and high-risk populations**, through assessment, planning, health promotion and education, population-level disease control and prevention, and capacity-building. This program will also focus on coordinating county-wide efforts and building partnerships. The **first year of the grant** was devoted to conducting a **comprehensive community oral health needs assessment**, and developing a **stakeholder-informed strategic plan and evaluation plan**.

The first-ever Oral Health Strategic Plan for San Bernardino County is expected to be published in May 2019.

Overarching Program Goals:

- 1. Health promotion and disease prevention:** Improve oral health by addressing determinants of health and promoting healthy habits and population-based prevention interventions.
- 2. Establish and expand community-clinical linkages:** Increase utilization of dental services by supporting and sustaining community-clinical linkages.
- 3. Facilitate collaboration and coordinate county-wide efforts:** Improve prevention and early treatment services by facilitating increased collaboration among payers, public health programs, health care systems, professional organizations, and educational institutions.
- 4. Communication and health education:** Develop and improve communication strategies to inform and educate the public, dental teams, and decision makers about oral health information, programs, and policies.
- 5. Disease surveillance and program evaluation:** Develop a data, surveillance and evaluation system to measure key indicators of oral health and track progress.

Summary:

Funder: California Department of Public Health

Lead Agency: San Bernardino County Department of Public Health

Populations Served: All, with a focus on underserved and vulnerable populations

Main Focus: Public health services and population-level disease prevention



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