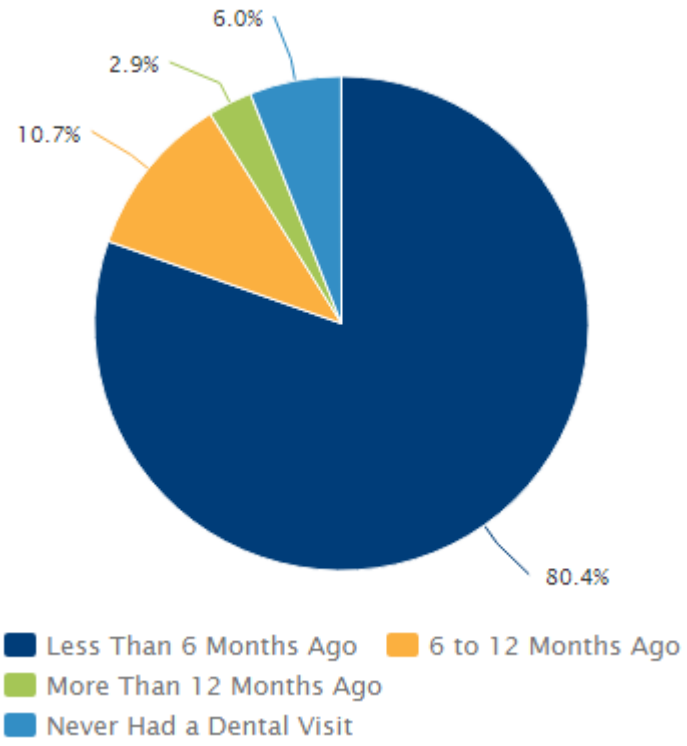
KidsData

POWERED BY PRB

Children's Dental Care in California

Length of Time Since Last Dental Visit Among Children Ages 2-11: 2017-2018
California



Definition: Length of time since last dental visit among children ages 2-17, by age group (e.g., in 2017-2018, an estimated 6% of California children ages 2-11 had never had a dental visit).
Data Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020).

Children Ages 2-11 Who Had a Dental Visit in the Previous 6 Months: 2017-2018

Locations	Percent
Alameda County	67.2%
Contra Costa County	87.4%
Fresno County	83.4%
Kern County	81.2%
Los Angeles County	81.3%
Orange County	81.1%
Riverside County	80.7%
Sacramento County	73.2%
San Bernardino County	78.0%
San Diego County	81.2%
Santa Clara County	86.7%

What It Is

Kidsdata.org's indicator of dental care measures the length of time since children last visited a dentist, hygienist, or orthodontist. Estimates of the percentage of children with a dental visit less than 6 months prior to the time of survey, between 6 and 12 months prior to survey, more than 12 months prior to survey, and the percentage who have never had a dental visit, are available for ages 2-11 and 12-17.

Why This Topic Is Important

Oral health affects overall health and is essential for healthy development. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease and the greatest unmet health need among children in California and the U.S. Untreated dental problems such as cavities and gum disease can affect a child's health and quality of life by causing pain, loss of teeth, impaired growth, sleep and speech issues, self-confidence problems, poor school performance, and increased school absences, among other issues. Nationwide, children miss more than 51 million hours of school each year due to dental problems.

Tooth decay is an infectious disease that can be transmitted from mothers to their infants, making oral health for pregnant women a critical public health issue. Problems with oral health and access to dental care disproportionately affect people of color, low-income families, those with public or no insurance, and those in rural areas. For example, children in these groups—especially young children—are less likely to receive routine dental checkups, which are critical for preventing tooth decay. In California, the disparity in oral health between lower- and higher-income children is among the worst in the nation. In addition, California children with public insurance are more likely to have oral health problems not only when compared with those with private insurance but also when compared with those who are uninsured; this may be due to the state's low reimbursement rates for providers, along with other barriers to accessing care.

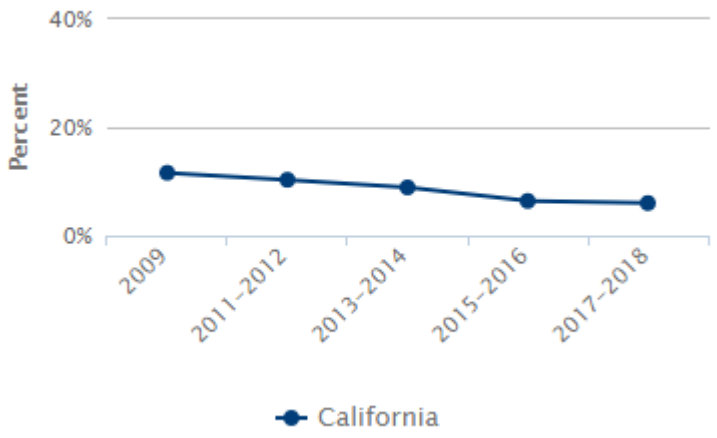
How Children Are Faring

According to 2017-2018 estimates, 80% of California children ages 2-11 had visited a dentist, hygienist, or orthodontist in the previous six months, up from 70% in 2009. The estimate for adolescents ages 12-17 was 78% in 2017-2018, similar to previous years.

In 2017-2018, fewer than 1 in 16 children ages 2-11 (6%) and fewer than 1 in 60 adolescents

Definition: Length of time since last dental visit among children ages 2-17, by age group (e.g., in 2017-2018, an estimated 6% of California children ages 2-11 had never had a dental visit).
Data Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020).

Children Ages 2-11 Who Have Never Had a Dental Visit



Definition: Length of time since last dental visit among children ages 2-17, by age group (e.g., in 2017-2018, an estimated 6% of California children ages 2-11 had never had a dental visit).
Data Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020).

Length of Time Since Last Dental Visit Among Adolescents Ages 12-17: 2017-2018

California	Percent
Length of Time	Ages 12-17
Less Than 6 Months Ago	78.3%
6 to 12 Months Ago	11.7%
More Than 12 Months Ago	8.6%
Never Had a Dental Visit	1.5%

Definition: Length of time since last dental visit among children ages 2-17, by age group (e.g., in 2017-2018, an estimated 6% of California children ages 2-11 had never had a dental visit).
Data Source: UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, California Health Interview Survey (Aug. 2020).

ages 12-17 (1.5%) had *never* had a dental visit. Across regions with data, the estimated percentage of children ages 2-11 who had never had a dental visit ranged from 4.5% to 9%.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
https://charts.kidsdata.org/topic/50/dental-care/summary