

Oral health of youth and adults in Snohomish County, Washington

BACKGROUND

Oral health is vital to an individual's overall health. Good oral health improves one's ability to speak, smile, smell, taste, touch, chew, swallow, and make facial expressions to show feelings and emotions. Oral diseases, including dental caries (cavities) or oral cancer, result in pain and disability for many Americans despite the existence of effective prevention and treatment efforts, including water fluoridation. Many Americans do not have access to preventive interventions and treatments for reasons that include limited access to and availability of dental services, lack of knowledge around the need for care, cost, and fear of dental procedures.

Using public health data sources, this report examines trends and patterns of oral health among youth and adults in Snohomish County, Washington.

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Office of the Surgeon General. Oral health in America: A report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; 2000

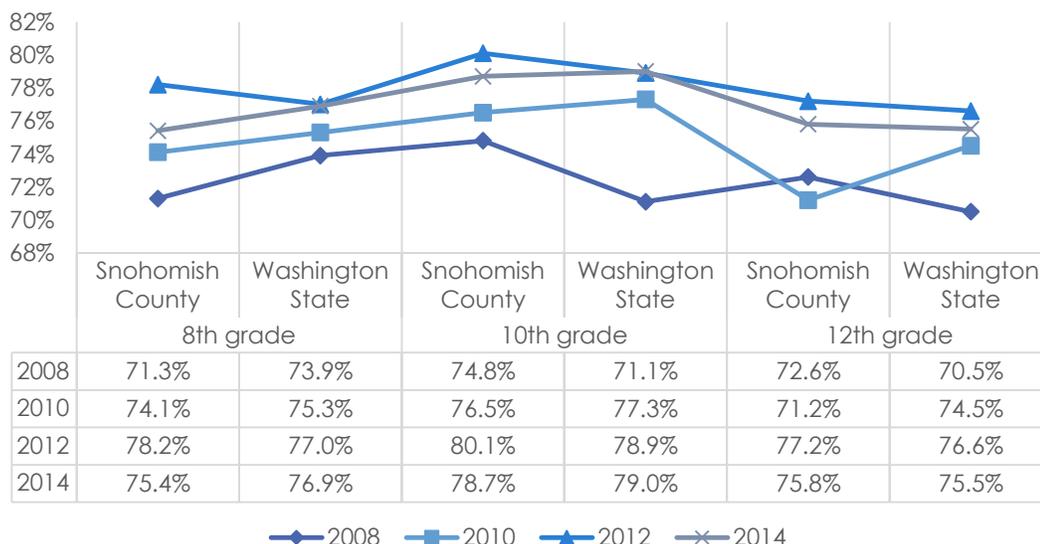
YOUTH WHO HAVE VISITED A DENTIST IN THE PAST YEAR

- In 2014, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Snohomish County who participated in the Health Youth Survey were just as likely to see a dentist in the past year for a check-up, cleaning, or other dental work as students of the same ages in Washington State.

KEY FINDINGS

- Students and adults in Snohomish County are just as likely to have visited a dentist in the past year as students and adults in Washington State.
- Snohomish County has fewer dentists per population than Washington State.
- Only 31% of individuals in Snohomish County eligible for WA Apple Health dental coverage use it.
- Snohomish County has four dental health professional shortage areas: Tulalip Clinic, Stillaguamish Tribal Clinic, Community Health Center of Snohomish Center, and Darrington.

Figure 1. Comparison of the percent of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Snohomish County and Washington State who visited a dentist in the past year, 2008-2014

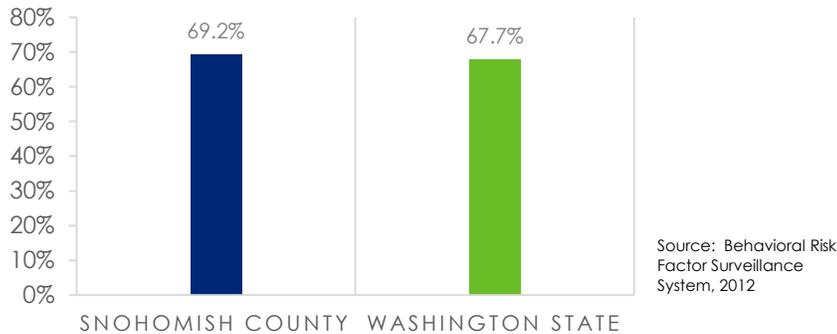


Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014. Retrieved from: <https://www.askhys.net/FactSheets>

ADULTS WHO HAVE VISITED A DENTIST OR DENTAL CLINIC IN PAST YEAR

- In 2012, a similar percentage of adults in Snohomish County and Washington State reported visiting a dentist or dental clinic in the past year.

Figure 2. Comparison of the percent of adults in Snohomish County and Washington State who visited a dentist in the past year, 2012



DENTISTS PER POPULATION

Between 2007 and 2013, Snohomish County had fewer dentists per population than Washington State.

Table 1. Comparison of the ratio of dentists to population in Snohomish County and Washington State, 2007-2013

	2007	2010	2012	2013
Snohomish County	1:1,895	1:1,600	1:1,597	1:1,577
Washington State	1:1,804	1:1,406	1:1,354	1:1,327

Source: County Health Ranking, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015. Retrieved from: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/washington/2015/overview>

DENTAL CARE SHORTAGES BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

- A dental health professional shortage area (HPSA) is an area identified as having a shortage of dental health professionals. When there are 5,000 or more people per 1 dentist, an area is considered a dental HPSA.
- Four areas in Snohomish County have been designated a dental HPSA by Health Resources and Services Administration.
- The four dental HPSAs in Snohomish County are: Tulalip Clinic (Native American Tribal Population), Stillaguamish Tribal Clinic (Native American Tribal Population), Community Health Center of Snohomish (Comprehensive Health Center), and Darrington (HSPA Geographic).

Source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Data Warehouse. 2015. Retrieved on 16 July 2015 from: <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/hpsafind.aspx>

MEDICAID/WASHINGTON APPLE HEALTH CONTRACTED DENTAL PROVIDERS

- In Washington State, Medicaid is called Washington Apple Health.
- According to the Health Care Authority, there are 91 Apple Health contracted dental providers.
- This total includes dental clinics and their associated providers as well as individual providers. This means the total number of individual providers who provide treatment to people with Apple Health Dental coverage is expected to be greater than 91.

Source: Washington Health Care Authority. 2015. Retrieved on 16 July 2015 from: <https://fortress.wa.gov/hca/pl1findaprovider/Results.aspx>

DENTAL CLIENTS USING MEDICAID/WASHINGTON APPLE HEALTH FOR COVERAGE

- Not all individuals eligible for Apple Health Dental coverage use it. This is evident across all age groups when comparing the number of individuals eligible for assistance to the number of users.
- Youth ages 2 to 14 years have to greatest ratio of users (individual using Washington Apple Health dental coverage) to those eligible (individuals eligible to receive Washington Apple Health dental coverage).
- The greatest variability in the ratio of users to those eligible is observed among individuals age 21 years and older.
- The ratio of users to those eligible peaks between the ages of 6 to 14 and declines from there.

Source: WA Health Care Authority, 2014 data include claims thru mid-January 2015, accessed at: <http://.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/dentalproviders/pages/index.aspx>

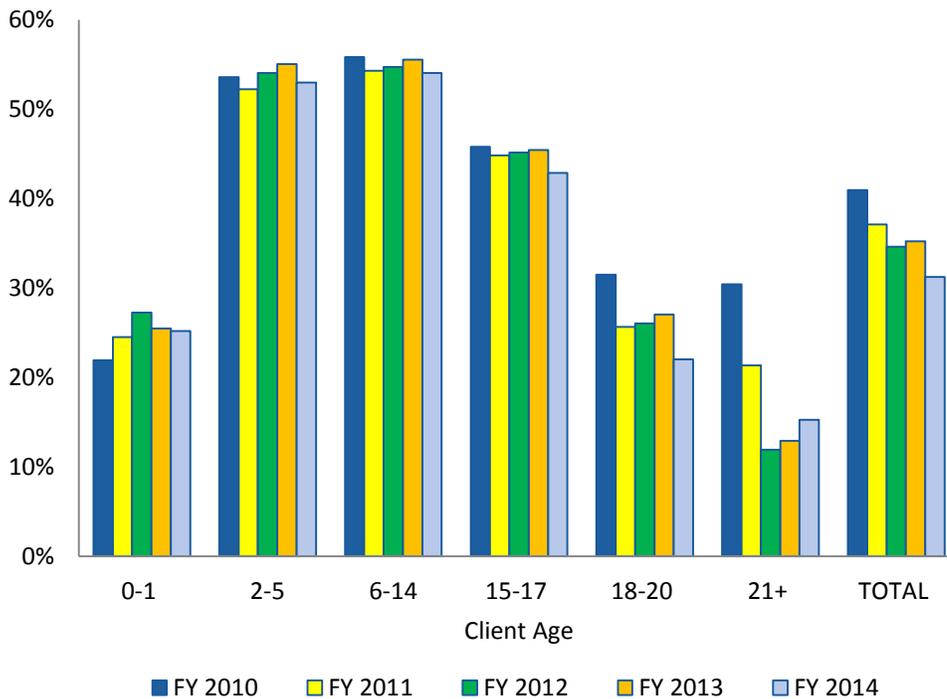
Table 2. Number of individuals in Snohomish County eligible for Washington Apple Health dental coverage and the number (and percentage) using the coverage, FY2010-2014

Client Age		FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
0-1	Eligible	11,625	11,886	11,443	11,467	11,912
	Users	2,551	2,916	3,121	2,924	3,003
	% Users	21.9%	24.5%	27.3%	25.5%	25.2%
2-5	Eligible	17,169	19,323	19,552	19,131	19,529
	Users	9,202	10,093	10,567	10,530	10,349
	% Users	53.6%	52.2%	54.0%	55.0%	53.0%
6-14	Eligible	30,349	34,095	34,995	35,421	37,792
	Users	16,942	18,514	19,154	19,673	20,423
	% Users	55.8%	54.3%	54.7%	55.5%	54.0%
15-17	Eligible	8,899	9,602	9,827	9,857	10,929
	Users	4,074	4,304	4,436	4,479	4,688
	% Users	45.8%	44.8%	45.1%	45.4%	42.9%
18-20	Eligible	5,766	6,662	6,438	6,175	7,670
	Users	1,817	1,710	1,677	1,672	1,689
	% Users	31.5%	25.7%	26.0%	27.1%	22.0%
21+	Eligible	41,459	46,033	46,153	46,444	79,667
	Users	12,618	98,28	5,506	6,009	12,170
	% Users	30.4%	21.3%	11.9%	12.9%	15.3%

FY = Fiscal year

Source: WA Health Care Authority, 2014 data include claims thru mid-January 2015. Accessed at: http://.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/dentalproviders/pages/dental_data.aspx

Figure 3. Comparison of the percentage of users (ratio of users to eligible) in Snohomish County of Washington Apple Health dental coverage over the years FY 2010 to FY 2014

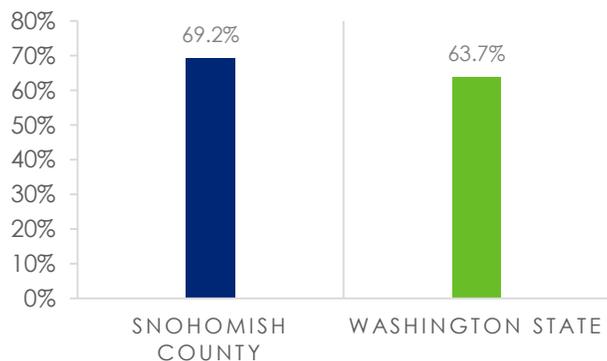


Source: WA Health Care Authority, 2014 data include claims thru mid-January 2015. Accessed at: http://hca.wa.gov/medicaid/dentalproviders/pages/dental_data.aspx

ADULTS WITH PRIVATE DENTAL INSURANCE

- A greater percentage of adults in Snohomish County have private dental insurance compared to adults in Washington State.
- In Snohomish County in 2012, 78.1% of adults with private dental insurance visited a dentist in the past year, while 51.1% of adults without private dental insurance visited a dentist (not in table).
- In Snohomish County in 2012, 49.9% adults with private dental insurance have not lost teeth due to disease/decay, compared to 34.4% of adults without private dental insurance (not in table).

Figure 4. Comparison of the percent of adults in Snohomish County and Washington State who have private dental insurance, 2012



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2012

ADULTS WITH PRIVATE DENTAL INSURANCE BY SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 3. Sociodemographics of adults in Snohomish County with private dental insurance

	Percent with private dental insurance	
City/town/region	East County	59.0%
	N/C Everett	60.4%
	Arlington/Stanwood	63.0%
	Lynn/Terrace/Brier	64.0%
	South Everett	65.6%
	Marysville/Tulalip	70.4%
	South Central	72.7%
	Lake Stevens	74.3%
	Mukilteo/Edmonds	74.3%
	East Metro	80.4%
Sex	Female	66.8%
	Male	71.6%
Age	18-34	70.1%
	35-49	74.4%
	50-64	74.3%
	65 +	48.4%
Annual income	Less than \$20,000	32.3%
	\$20,000 to \$50,000	53.5%
	Greater than \$50,000	85.8%
Education	High School or less	61.3%
	Some college	69.5%
	College grad	78.7%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2012

HOSPITALIZATIONS DUE TO ORAL DISEASE

- Oral cavity, salivary gland, and jaw diseases are identified using ICD-9 codes 520-529.

Table 4. Average annual hospitalizations by ICD-9 sub-codes in Snohomish County, 2011-2013

Disorder or disease	Count
Disorders of tooth development and eruption (520)	1
Diseases of hard tissues of teeth (521)	6
Diseases of pulp and periapical tissue (522)	23
Gingival and periodontal diseases (523)	4
Dentofacial anomalies, including malocclusion (524)	61
Other diseases and conditions of the teeth and supporting structures (525)	1
Diseases of the jaws (526)	12
Diseases of the salivary glands (527)	28
Diseases of the oral soft tissues, excluding lesions specific for gingiva and tongue (528)	62
Diseases and other conditions of the tongue (529)	5
TOTAL	203

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS)

HOSPITALIZATIONS DUE TO ORAL DISEASE BY SEX

- In Snohomish County, males have a slightly higher age-adjusted rate of hospitalization for oral cavity, salivary gland, and jaw diseases compared to females.

Table 5. Sex comparison of the count and age-adjusted rates of diseases of the oral cavity, salivary glands, and jaws in Snohomish County, Washington resulting in hospitalization, 2011-2013

Gender	Count	Population	Age-adjusted rate
Male	108	1,082,277	10.38
Female	95	1,078,091	9.00
Combined	203	2,160,368	9.59

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS)

HOSPITALIZATIONS DUE TO ORAL DISEASE BY AGE GROUP

- Young people ages 15 to 24 years have the highest age-adjusted rate of hospitalization for oral cavity, salivary gland, and jaw diseases in Snohomish County followed by individuals ages 65 years and older.

Table 6. Age group comparison of the count and age-adjusted rates of diseases of the oral cavity, salivary glands, and jaws in Snohomish County, Washington resulting in hospitalization, 2011-2013

Age	Count	Population	Age-adjusted rate
15-24	59	277,559	21.26
25-44	24	609,212	5.58
45-64	51	611,106	8.35
65 +	31	238,626	12.99

Source: Washington State Department of Health, Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS)

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