
Last Dental Visit

Description

- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over reported last time when they went to a dentist.

Specific Indicators and Method of Calculation

- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who reported their last visit to a dentist was less than 1 year ago.
- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who reported their last visit to a dentist was 1 year or more ago.
- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who reported their last visit to a dentist was less than 3 year ago.
- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who reported their last visit to a dentist was 1 to less than 3 year or more ago.
- Proportion of the population aged 12 and over who reported their never visited a dentist

Proportion of last dental visit less than 1 year ago:

$$\frac{\text{Weighted population aged 12+ who reported their last visit to a dentist was less than 1 year ago}}{\text{Weighted total population aged 12+}} * 100$$

Proportion of last dental visit 1 year or more ago:

$$\frac{\text{Weighted population aged 12+ who reported their last visit to a dentist was 1 year or more ago}}{\text{Weighted total population aged 12+}}$$

Proportion of last dental visit less than 3 years ago:

$$\frac{\text{Weighted population aged 12+ who reported their last visit to a dentist was less than 3 years ago}}{\text{Weighted total population aged 12+}}$$

Proportion of last dental visit 3 years or more ago:

$$\frac{\text{Weighted population aged 12+ who reported their last visit to a dentist was 3 years or more ago}}{\text{Weighted total population aged 12+}}$$

Proportion of last dental visit 1 to less than 3 years ago:

Weighted population aged 12+ who reported their last visit to a dentist was 1 to less than 3 years ago

Weighted total population aged 12+

Proportion of no dental visit:

Weighted population aged 12+ who reported that they never had a dental visit

Weighted total population aged 12+

Basic Categories

- Age groups: 12-17, 18-24, 25-44, 45-64, 65+
- Sex: male, female
- Geographic areas: CCHS - all 36 Public Health Units in Ontario

Data Sources

Numerator & Denominator: Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

Original source: Statistics Canada

Distributed by:

1. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
2. Statistics Canada

Suggested citation (see [Data Citation Notes](#)):

1. Canadian Community Health Survey [year], Statistics Canada, Share File, Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.
2. Canadian Community Health Survey [year], Statistics Canada, Public Use Microdata File, Statistics Canada.

Analysis Check List

- Last dental visit is measured on a scale from less than 1 year ago to never. The scale is often categories into the following groups:
 - "less than 1 year ago", "1 year or more ago", and "never"
 - "less than 3 year ago", "3 year or more ago", and "never"
 - "less than 1 year ago", " 1 to less than 3 years ago", "3 year or more ago", "never"
- Users need to consider whether or not to exclude the 'Refusal, 'Don't Know' and 'Not Stated' response categories in the denominator. Rates published in most reports, including Statistics Canada's publication Health Reports generally exclude these response categories. In removing not stated responses from the denominator, the assumption is that the missing values are random, and this is not always the case. This is particularly important when the proportion in these response categories is high. In Ontario, 2.8% of respondents were "don't

know", "refusal" and "not stated" for this indicator in CCHS 2013/2014.

- Estimates must be appropriately weighted (generally the share weight for the CCHS) and rounded.
- It is recommended that public health units use the Share File provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care rather than public use file (PUMF) provided by Statistics Canada. The Share File has a slightly smaller sample size because respondents must agree to share their information with the province to be included; however, the share file has more variables and fewer grouped categories within variables. The Share File is a cleaner dataset for Ontario analysis because all variables that were not common content, theme content or optional content for Ontario have been removed.
- Users of the CCHS Ontario Share File must adhere to Statistics Canada's release guidelines for the CCHS data when publishing or releasing data derived from the file in any form. Refer to the appropriate user guide for guidelines for tabulation, analysis and release of data from the CCHS.
- In general, when calculating the CV from the share file using the bootstrap weights, users should not use or release weighted estimates when the unweighted cell count is below 10. For ratios or proportions, this rule should be applied to the numerator of the ratio. Statistics Canada uses this approach for the tabular data on their website. When using only the Approximate Sampling Variability (CV) lookup tables for the share file, data may not be released when the unweighted cell count is below 30. This rule should be applied to the numerator for ratios or proportions. This provides a margin of safety in terms of data quality, given the CV being utilized is only approximate.
- Before releasing and/or publishing data, users should determine the CV of the rounded weighted estimate and follow the guidelines below:
 - Acceptable (CV of 0.0 - 16.5) Estimates can be considered for general unrestricted release. Requires no special notation.
 - Marginal (CV of 16.6 - 33.3) Estimates can be considered for general unrestricted release but should be accompanied by a warning cautioning subsequent users of the high sampling variability associated with the estimates. Such estimates should be identified by the letter E (or in some other similar fashion).
 - Unacceptable (CV greater than 33.3) Statistics Canada recommends not to release estimates of unacceptable quality. However, if the user chooses to do so then estimates should be flagged with the letter F (or in some other fashion) and the following warning should accompany the estimates: "The user is advised that...(specify the data)...do not meet Statistics Canada's quality standards for this statistical program. Conclusions based on these data will be unreliable and most likely invalid". These data and any consequent findings should not be published. If the user chooses to publish these data or findings, then this disclaimer must be published with the data.
- Since its first cycle in 2000/01, a few major changes have been made to CCHS. Some of these changes include:
- Until 2005, the CCHS data were collected every two years over a one year period and released every two years, about six months after the end of the collection period. Since 2007, the data are collected on an ongoing basis with annual releases, rather than every two years as was the case prior to 2007.
- Caution should be taken when comparing data from previous cycles to data released for the 2015 cycle onwards due to a major redesign starting in 2015. As a result of the redesign, the 2015 CCHS has a new collection strategy, is drawing the sample from two different frames and has undergone major content revisions. For a summary of changes, please refer to <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getMainChange&Id=238854>

Survey Questions

Data Source: CCHS

| Module | Survey questions | Response Categories | Year | Variable |
|--------------|--|--|---------|----------------------|
| Dental Visit | DEN_Q130. It was reported earlier that you have "seen" or "talked to" a dentist in the past 12 months. Did you actually visit one? | DEN_Q130: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • DK, Refusal, Not stated | 2000 | OH1C_20 |
| | | | 2003* | DENC_130 DENC_132 |
| | DEN_Q132: When was the last time that you went to a dentist? | DEN_Q132: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 1 year ago • 1 year to less than 2 years ago • 2 years to less than 3 years ago • 3 years to less than 4 years ago • 4 years to less than 5 years ago • 5 or more years ago • DK, Refusal, Not stated | 2005 | DENE_130 DENE_132 |
| | | | 2008 | DEN_130 DEN_132 |
| | | | 2009/10 | DEN_130 DEN_132 |
| | | | 2011 | DEN_130 DEN_132 |
| | | | 2013/14 | DEN_130 DEN_132 |

*: This module was selected for 24 of Ontario public health units in 2003.

Indicator Comments

- In addition to a healthy diet and a good oral hygiene, regular dental visits are also important to maintain good oral health.
- America's Pediatric Dentists recommend that a check-up every six months for children in order prevent cavities and other dental problems. However, the frequency of dental visit can also be determined by the dentists based on children's personal oral health ¹.
- There are no specific recommendations for adults. How often a person should go for dental exams depends on her/his oral health needs. The goal is to catch small problems early. The American Dental Association (ADA) recommends regular dental visits, at intervals determined by a dentist ².
- A new study published in the Journal of Dental Research titled "Patient Stratification for Preventive Care in Dentistry" suggests that the frequency of regular dental visits should be tailored by the dentists to accommodate based on clients current oral health status and health history ³.

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) establish requirements for the fundamental public health programs and services carried out by boards of health, which include assessment and surveillance, health promotion and policy development, disease and injury prevention, and health protection. The OPHS outline the expectations for boards of health, which are responsible for providing public health

programs and services that contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being of all Ontarians. Boards of health are responsible for the assessment, planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of a variety of public health programs and services that address multiple health needs, as well as the contexts in which these needs occur.

Program Outcomes Related to this Indicator

- The board of health achieves timely and effective detection and identification of children and youth at risk of poor oral health outcomes, their associated risk factors, and emerging trends.
- Children and youth from low-income families have improved access to oral healthcare.
- The oral health of children and youth is improved.

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/

Requirements

- The board of health shall offer support to school boards and schools, in accordance with the School Health Guideline, 2018 (or as current), to assist with the implementation of health-related curricula and health needs in schools, based on need and considering in the areas of Oral health.
- The board of health shall conduct surveillance, oral screening, and report data and information in accordance with the Oral Health Protocol, 2018 (or as current) and the Population Health Assessment and Surveillance Protocol, 2018 (or as current).
- The board of health shall provide the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) Program in accordance with the Oral Health Protocol, 2018 (or as current).

Corresponding Health Indicator(s) from Statistics Canada and CIHI

- N/A

Corresponding Indicator(s) from Other Sources

A similar question is asked in Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) ⁴. RRFSS also asks “when was the last time you went to the dentist for a regular check-up or cleaning?” and reasons for last dental visit.

| Data Source | Module | Survey questions | Response Categories | Note |
|-------------|--------|---|--|-----------------|
| RRFSS | Denta2 | How long has it been since your LAST visit to a dentist or other dental care provider: would you say less than one year ago, between 1 and 2 years ago, between 3 and 5 years ago, more than 5 years ago or have you never been to a dentist or dental care provider? | 1. less than one year ago 2. between 1 and 2 years ago 3. between 3 and 5 years ago 4. more than 5 years ago 5. never 8. don't know 9. refused | Similar to CCHS |

| | | | | |
|--|----------|---|--|-------------------|
| | Denta2 | What was the main reason you visited the dental care provider? | 1 regular checkup/cleaning 2 follow-up to a checkup 3 maintenance/treatment 4 an emergency visit due to pain or other trouble (includes toothache, tooth/teeth pulled due to emergency.) 0 other, please specify 8 don't know skip 9 refusal | Not asked in CCHS |
| | Dental 1 | When was the last time you went to the dentist for a regular check-up or cleaning: was it less than a year ago, between 1 and 2 years ago, between 3 and 5 years ago, more than five years ago, or never? | 1. less than one year ago 2. between 1 and 2 years ago 3. between 3 and 5 years ago 4. more than 5 years ago 5. never 8. don't know 9. refused | Not asked in CCHS |

Reference

1. America's Pediatric Dentists. http://www.aapd.org/resources/frequently_asked_questions
2. American Dental Association. <http://www.ada.org/en/press-room/news-releases/2013-archive/june/american-dental-association-statement-on-regular-dental-visits>
3. W.V. Giannobile et al. Patient Stratification for Preventive Care in Dentistry. *J Dent Res* 92(8):694-701, 2013. <http://jdr.sagepub.com/content/92/8/694.full.pdf+html>
4. Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System. www.rffss.ca

Acknowledgements

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Changes made

| Date | Type of Review- Formal Review or Ad Hoc? | Changes made by | Changes |
|----------------|--|---|---------------|
| February, 2018 | Formal Review | Oral Health Task Group of the Child and Adolescent Health Indicators Subgroup | New indicator |