

GEORGIA ORAL HEALTH: THIRD GRADE BASIC SCREENING SURVEY 2016-2017

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) conducted a statewide Third Grade Basic Screening Survey (BSS) of third grade students enrolled in public and charter schools in Georgia. Through dental screenings and parent questionnaires, the BSS provides data on oral health status, risk factors, as well as barriers to care and prevention services among third grade school children in Georgia.

DENTAL CARIES

- Dental caries occur when tooth enamel is destroyed by bacteria that is present on and around the tooth for an extended period of time.
 - Brushing and flossing daily can help prevent bacteria build-up from occurring.
- Dental caries are the most common chronic health condition experienced in childhood.

51%
had experienced caries

19%
had untreated caries

FACTORS WITH DENTAL CARIES

- Household income
- Lack of dental sealants
- Dental insurance status
- Maternal tooth extraction
- Child has experienced previous tooth decay

SEALANTS

- Dental sealants help prevent bacteria growth in the grooves of permanent molars of children and adolescents.
- School-age children without sealants are three times more likely to develop cavities than children with sealants*.

35%
had received sealants

64%
with caries did NOT have sealants

FACTORS WITH SEALANT PLACEMENT

- Household income
- Dental insurance status
- Barriers to receiving care

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vital Signs - Dental Sealants Prevent Cavities, Oct 2016

CARE NEEDED

- A child needs care if dental caries are detected because destroyed tooth enamel will require repair by a dental professional.
- Unrepaired tooth enamel that is destroyed can cause pain for a child and lead to infection.
- Potential impacts to a child with unrepaired tooth enamel are:
 - Lost time in school due to dental-related illness and discomfort
 - Difficulty learning and poor academic performance
 - Problems with speaking, eating, and establishing positive self-image
- Emergency dental care needed refers to urgent need of care, as evaluated by a licensed dental professional. Early dental care needed refers to need of care within the next three months.

17%
need early dental care

2%
need emergency dental care

FACTORS WITH DENTAL CARE NEEDED

- Household income
- Presence of sealants
- Dental insurance status
- Barriers to receiving care

For more information, please visit: <https://dph.georgia.gov/OralHealth>
Data Source: 2016-2017 Georgia 3rd Grade Basic Screening Survey, Georgia Department of Public Health, representing 3rd grade children enrolled in the public-school system in Georgia

