

# West Virginia Children's Oral Health Report Card



The West Virginia Oral Health Coalition envisions a state where everyone enjoys optimal oral health as part of overall well-being. Through strong partnerships and collaborative efforts, the Coalition works to advance innovative solutions that reduce oral health inequities. West Virginia earned a D on 16 key oral health indicators for children in 2026, but with continued collaboration and commitment, we can improve these outcomes and build a healthier future.

## About This Report

This report compares West Virginia's performance to national data on 16 key oral health indicators for children.

Children ages 1-2 enrolled in Medicaid who received preventive dental care through Medicaid



17%

**F**

Children ages 1-17 who have received one or more preventive dental visit in the last year



81%

**C**

Children ages 1-20 enrolled in Medicaid who received preventive dental care through Medicaid



46%

**C**

Third-grade students with decay experience (treated and/or untreated tooth decay)



46%

**B**

Children ages 1-5 enrolled in Medicaid that received an oral health service from a non-dental provider



2%

**F**

Third-grade students with dental sealants on permanent molars



62%

**A**

Children ages 3-5 with decay experience (treated and/or untreated tooth decay)



29%

**D**

Children ages 6-14 enrolled in Medicaid who received dental sealants on permanent teeth through Medicaid



12%

**D**

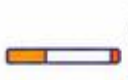
High school students who reported drinking a can, bottle or glass of soda pop two or more times per day in the past week



23%

**F**

Children ages 12-17 who reported using a tobacco product in the past month



3%

**F**

High school students who reported using an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days



28%

**F**

Population drinking optimally fluoridated water (natural or adjusted)



91%

**A**

Needs met in Dental Health Provider Shortage Areas (DHPSA)



23%

**F**

Head Start Programs meeting the dental examination requirements



89%

**C**

Dental care utilization among children with Medicaid benefits



53%

**C**

Dental care utilization among children with private insurance



65%

**C**

# West Virginia Children's Oral Health Report Card



| OVERALL GRADE | INDICATORS | A | B | C | D | F |
|---------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| D             | 16         | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 |

| INDICATOR                                                                                                                     | DESIRED TREND | WV % | US % | GRADE |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|------|-------|
| <b>1. CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH OUTCOMES</b>                                                                                     |               |      |      |       |
| 1 Children ages 1-2 enrolled in Medicaid who received preventive dental care through Medicaid                                 | ↑             | 16.9 | 28.2 | F     |
| 2 Children ages 1-17 who have received one or more preventive dental visit in the last year                                   | ↑             | 80.5 | 80.2 | C     |
| 3 Children ages 1-20 enrolled in Medicaid who received preventive dental care through Medicaid                                | ↑             | 45.7 | 43.6 | C     |
| 4 Third-grade students with decay experience (treated and/or untreated tooth decay)                                           | ↓             | 46.4 | 55.4 | B     |
| 5 Third-grade students with dental sealants on permanent molars                                                               | ↑             | 62.2 | 32.2 | A     |
| 6 Children ages 3-5 with decay experience (treated and/or untreated tooth decay)                                              | ↓             | 28.8 | 23.3 | D     |
| 7 Children ages 6-14 enrolled in Medicaid who received dental sealants on permanent teeth through Medicaid                    | ↑             | 11.6 | 13.3 | D     |
| 8 Children ages 1-5 enrolled in Medicaid that received an oral health service from a non-dental provider                      | ↑             | 1.5  | 11.5 | F     |
| <b>2. RISK BEHAVIOR OUTCOMES</b>                                                                                              |               |      |      |       |
| 9 High school students who reported drinking a can, bottle or glass of soda or pop two or more times per day in the past week | ↓             | 22.5 | 8.5  | F     |
| 10 Children ages 12-17 who reported using a tobacco product in the past month                                                 | ↓             | 3.0  | 1.9  | F     |
| 11 High school students who reported using an electronic vapor product in the past 30 days                                    | ↓             | 27.5 | 18.0 | F     |
| <b>3. ACCESS TO CARE AND UTILIZATION OF BENEFITS</b>                                                                          |               |      |      |       |
| 12 Population drinking optimally fluoridated water (natural or adjusted)                                                      | ↑             | 90.9 | 62.8 | A     |
| 13 Needs met in Dental Health Provider Shortage Areas (DHPSA)                                                                 | ↑             | 22.6 | 32.9 | F     |
| 14 Head Start programs meeting the dental examination requirements                                                            | ↑             | 88.7 | 93.6 | C     |
| 15 Dental care utilization among children with Medicaid benefits                                                              | ↑             | 53   | 49   | C     |
| 16 Dental care utilization among children with private insurance                                                              | ↑             | 65   | 67   | C     |

|                                    |                              |                             |                             |                                   |                          |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>A</b> 20%+ better than the U.S. | <b>B</b> 10.1 – 19.9% better | <b>C</b> 1 – 10% difference | <b>D</b> 10.1 – 19.9% worse | <b>F</b> 20%+ worse than the U.S. | <b>D</b> U.S. Comparison |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|

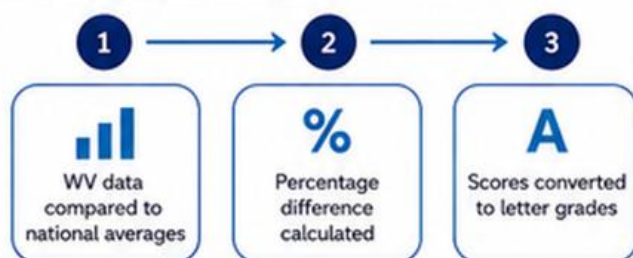


# West Virginia Children's Oral Health Report Card



## West Virginia Children's Oral Health Report Card 2026: *Methods*

### How Grades Were Calculated



### Indicator Selection Criteria

- ✓ Recent data available
- ✓ Shows change over time
- ✓ Supports advocacy
- ✓ Examines demographics
- ✓ State and national comparison

### Percentage Difference Formula

$$\frac{|V_1 - V_2|}{(V_1 + V_2)/2} \times 100 = \% \text{ difference of WV from National}$$

$V_1 = \text{WV } \%$   
 $V_2 = \text{US } \%$

| Grade | Points | Criteria                    |
|-------|--------|-----------------------------|
| A     | 4      | 20%+ better than US         |
| B     | 3      | 10.1 – 19.9% better than US |
| C     | 2      | 1 – 10% change from US      |
| D     | 1      | 10.1 – 19.9% worse than US  |
| F     | 0      | 20%+ worse than US          |

## West Virginia Children's Oral Health Report Card 2026: *Sources*

- 1, 3, 7, 8 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2024). *Annual EPSDT participation report (CMS-416)*, FY 2024. U.S. DHHS. Retrieved 2.24.2026, from [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).
- 2 Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. (2024). *National Survey of Children's Health, 2023–2024*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [NSCH Data Resource Center](https://www.nschdata.org).
- WVDHHR, Oral Health Program. (2021-2022). *WV 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Oral Health Survey, 2021-2022*.
- 4, 5 National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). *National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2017–March 2020*. Retrieved 5.19.2026, from [NHANES](https://www.nhanes.gov).
- WVDHHR, Oral Health Program. (2020). *WV Pre-K oral health survey, 2019–2020*.
- 6 National Center for Education Statistics. (2020). *National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2011-2016*. Retrieved 5.19.2026, from [NHANES](https://www.nhanes.gov).
- 9 America's Health Rankings- Health of Women and Children. (2023). *Soda consumption – youth*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [America's Health Rankings data](https://www.america'shealthrankings.org).
- 10 America's Health Rankings- Health of Women and Children. (2023). *Tobacco use – youth*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [America's Health Rankings data](https://www.america'shealthrankings.org).
- 11 America's Health Rankings- Health of Women and Children. (2021). *Electronic vapor product use – youth*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [America's Health Rankings data](https://www.america'shealthrankings.org).
- 12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Water fluoridation statistics, 2022*. Retrieved 2.24.2026, from [CDC fluoridation statistics](https://www.cdc.gov).
- 13 Health Resources and Services Administration. (2025). *Designated health professional shortage area statistics, 12.31.2025*. Retrieved 2.24.2026, from [HRSA HPSA quarterly report](https://www.hrsa.gov).
- 14 Office of Head Start. (2025). *Program Information Report (PIR)*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [HeadStart.gov PIR page](https://www.headstart.gov).
- 15, 16 American Dental Association Health Policy Institute. (2023-2024). *Dental care in Medicaid programs*. Retrieved 3.9.2026, from [ADA HPI report PDF](https://www.ada.org).