

West Virginia Oral Health Report Card

2026



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 18 key oral health indicators in 2026, but with continued collaboration and commitment, we can improve these outcomes and build a healthier future.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report card compares West Virginia's performance to national data on 18 key oral health indicators for children and adults.

18 KEY ORAL HEALTH INDICATORS



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

F

17%



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

C

81%



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

C

46%



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

B

46%



Third-grade students with dental sealants on permanent molars

A

62%



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

D

29%



Adults aged 18+ who visited the dentist in the past year

D

58%



Adults aged 45+ who have lost 6+ teeth because of tooth decay or gum disease

F

40%



Adults aged 65+ who have lost all of their natural teeth

F

20%



Incidence of head and neck cancer: oral cavity & pharynx

D

15%



Population drinking optimally fluoridated water (natural or adjusted)

A

91%



Needs met in Dental Health Provider Shortage Areas (DHPSA)

F

23%



Number of dentists per 100,000 population

F

48%



Dental care utilization among children with Medicaid benefits

C

53%



Dental care utilization among children with private insurance

C

65%



Dental care utilization among adult Medicaid beneficiaries

D

16%



Dental care utilization among adults with private insurance

D

48%



Pregnant women who had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy

F

33%

GRADE KEY

A

20%+ better than the U.S.

B

10.1 – 19.9% better

C

1 – 10% difference

D

10.1 – 19.9% worse

F

20%+ worse than the U.S.

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OVERALL GRADE	INDICATORS	A	B	C	D	F
D	18	2	1	4	5	6



ORAL HEALTH OUTCOMES: CHILDREN

Indicator	Desired Trend	WV %	US %	Grade
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



ORAL HEALTH OUTCOMES: ADULTS

Indicator	Desired Trend	WV %	US %	Grade
7 Adults aged 18+ who visited the dentist in the past year	↑	58.4	66.2	D
8 Adults aged 45+ who have lost 6+ teeth because of tooth decay or gum disease	↓	39.9	21.6	F
9 Adults aged 65+ who have lost all of their natural teeth	↓	19.8	11.2	F
10 Incidence of head and neck cancer: oral cavity & pharynx	↓	14.5	12.1	D



ACCESS TO CARE

Indicator	Desired Trend	WV %	US %	Grade
11 Population drinking optimally fluoridated water (natural or adjusted)	↑	90.9	62.8	A
12 Needs met in Dental Health Provider Shortage Areas (DHPSA)	↑	22.6	32.9	F
13 Number of dentists per 100,000 population	↑	48.4	59.3	F



UTILIZATION OF DENTAL CARE

Indicator	Desired Trend	WV %	US %	Grade
14 Dental care utilization among children with Medicaid benefits	↑	53	49	C
15 Dental care utilization among children with private insurance	↑	65	67	C
16 Dental care utilization among adult Medicaid beneficiaries	↑	16	18	D
17 Dental care utilization among adults with private insurance	↑	48	56	D
18 Pregnant women who had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy	↑	32.7	45.1	F

U.S. COMPARISON

D



20%+ better than the U.S.



10.1 – 19.9% better



1 – 10% difference



10.1 – 19.9% worse



20%+ worse than the U.S.



The mission of the WVOHC is to promote and improve the oral health of all West Virginians.



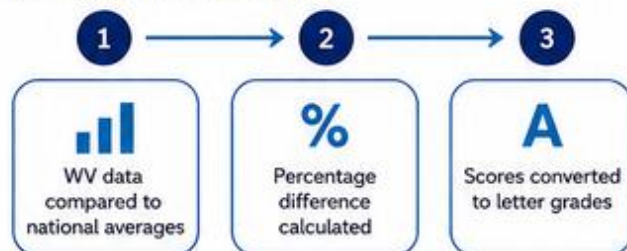
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West Virginia Oral Health Report Card 2026: Methods

How Grades Were Calculated



Percentage Difference Formula

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

$V_1 = \text{WV } \%$

$V_2 = \text{US } \%$

Indicator Selection Criteria

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

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 Oral Health Report Card 2026: Sources

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