

**THE DENTAL EXAMINATION STATUS OF SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN OF KINDERGARTEN, SECOND, AND SIXTH GRADES
IN ILLINOIS
FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR**

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division
September 2006**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....		iii
BACKGROUND.....		iv
MAJOR FINDINGS.....		1
LIMITATIONS.....		2
PROCEDURES.....		3
RESULTS.....		4
Compliance Data.....		4
Statewide Compliance.....		4
Public District Compliance.....		4
Nonpublic School Compliance.....		4
Compliance by Grade Level.....		5
Table 1	2005-2006 Dental Compliance Summaries of Reported Educational Facilities.....	6
Table 2	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students	7
Table 3	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students.....	8
Table 4	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students.....	9
Table 5	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of <i>Kindergarten</i> Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities	10
Table 6	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of 2 nd <i>Grade</i> Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities	11
Table 7	2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of 6 th <i>Grade</i> Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities	12

FOREWORD

Dental data are collected annually from Illinois Public and Nonpublic Schools. This report is a compilation of the data on the dental health status of school-age children in grades kindergarten, second, and sixth in Illinois for the school year 2005-2006 and was prepared by Md. Shafiqul Azam, Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division. The interpretations and conclusions expressed herein was based on the available data and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

BACKGROUND

As mandated by Section 27-8.1 (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1) of the School Code, all children in kindergarten, second, and sixth grade shall have a dental examination by May 15th of each year in compliance with the rules adopted by the Department of Public Health. In addition, the School Code requires all public school districts and nonpublic schools to submit completed surveys to the Illinois State Board of Education summarizing dental compliance status of all children in grades kindergarten, second, and sixth by June 30 of each year. This report summarizes the statewide dental compliance data.

MAJOR FINDINGS

The 2005-2006 dental examination status of school-age children in kindergarten, second, and sixth grade in reported Illinois schools provide the following facts and figures:

- The compliance level of all students in all reported schools was 80.30%.
- The compliance level of public school students in all reported schools was 78.76%.
- The compliance level of nonpublic school students in all reported schools was 90.57%.
- A statewide total of 78,732 reported students (19.70%) of the total reported students of 399,746) were in noncompliance with dental examination mandates on May 15, 2006.
- The compliance level of all reported students in kindergarten is 85.34%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 84.38% and 91.02% respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in 2nd grade is 81.54%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 80.15% and 90.93% respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in 6th grade is 74.25%. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 72.16% and 89.68% respectively.
- Compliance levels obtained for nonpublic schools were much higher than those for public schools by overall measure as well as by grade levels.

LIMITATIONS

As dental data was collected for the first time in the school year 2005-2006, there are some limitations in the findings of this report. The followings should be considered while interpreting the results provided in this report.

1. Of the 3,035 active public schools in 772 active public school districts that serve any combination of kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades, dental data was obtained from 2,349 public schools.
2. Dental data obtained from public schools does not include dental data from Chicago Public Schools, the largest public school district in Illinois.
3. Of the 1,135 active nonpublic schools dental data was obtained from 828 schools.
4. Public school dental data represents 730 of the 772 active public school districts that serve any combination of kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades.

PROCEDURES

Data collection instruments and procedures used to collect dental data are developed by staff of the Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with staff from the Illinois Department of Public Health. However, from the 2005-2006 school year, the paper-based instrument was replaced with a web-based online survey. The formerly paper based data collection will now be completed and reviewed online via a secure connection over the Internet known as ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS). Only students of kindergarten, second, and sixth grade require having dental examinations.

School administrators are required to provide information on the number of children who have received the required dental examination, the number of children who have not received the required dental examination, the number of children who are exempt from the dental examination on religious grounds, and the number of children who have received a waiver. The online dental survey must be completed on or before June 15 of each year.

RESULTS

Compliance Data

Compliance for students (only those in kindergarten, second, and sixth grade) are calculated based upon the information provided by Illinois school officials. Data reported by school officials show overall compliance with the requirements of the dental examination mandate. Students in noncompliance (those in 2nd and 6th grade) may find their report cards withheld by school authorities.

Students are identified as being in compliance with state law if they present proof of having a dental examination, have religious exemptions, have received a waiver for the dental examination due to undue burden or lack of access to a dentist, or if they are on an approved schedule for a dental examination.

Statewide Compliance. Table 1 contains the 2005-2006 compliance levels for all reported school-age children of kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades in Illinois. The compliance level for the total 399,746 reported public and nonpublic children in Illinois is 80.30%. The data shows 78,732 children (19.70%) are in noncompliance because they did not have a dental examination done or did not get a waiver/exemption on religious grounds.

Public District Compliance. For Illinois public school districts, the compliance level for the total 273,617 reported children is 78.76% (Table 1).

Nonpublic School Compliance. Of the 828 nonpublic schools that submitted dental data, the compliance level was 90.57% (Table 1), which is significantly higher than that for public schools.

Table 2 displays statewide dental examination status information providing the number of students who obtained waivers, scheduled dental appointments, or obtained exemptions from dental examinations on religious grounds. Statewide, 78.01% of students had had dental examinations done, 2.29% complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment, and 19.7% were in noncompliance.

Table 3 displays public school dental examination status information providing the number of students who obtained waivers, scheduled dental appointments, or obtained exemptions from dental examinations on religious grounds. Within public school districts 76.43% of students had had dental examinations done, 2.32% complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment, and 21.24% were in noncompliance.

Table 4 displays nonpublic school dental examination status information providing the number of students obtained waivers, scheduled a dental appointment, or obtained exemptions from dental examinations on religious grounds. Within nonpublic schools 88.46% of students had had

dental examinations done, 2.11% complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment, and 9.43% were in noncompliance. Compliance rates for nonpublic schools is much higher than that for public schools.

Compliance by Grade Level. Tables 5, 6, and 7 provides dental examination status for kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grade students (statewide, public, and nonpublic facilities) respectively.

Kindergarten. When both public and nonpublic schools are considered, 85.34% students were found to be in compliance (including those with waivers, religious exemptions, or with approved schedules for dental examinations). For public schools, the compliance rate was 84.38%, and for nonpublic schools, the compliance rate was 91.02%, which is significantly higher than the public school compliance rate.

2nd Grade. A compliance rate of 81.54% was observed with combined public and nonpublic school students. The public school compliance rate was 80.15%. The nonpublic school compliance rate (90.93%) was higher than public school compliance rate.

6th Grade. The 6th grade compliance rate was 74.25%, 72.16%, and 89.68% for all schools, public schools, and nonpublic schools respectively. We can see a wide gap in compliance levels between public and nonpublic schools.

A closer look at Tables 5, 6, and 7 reveals that the compliance rate gradually decreases with the increase in grade levels for both public and nonpublic schools. While this decline is insignificant for nonpublic schools, it is very pronounced in public schools. It is not clear why this is so.

Table1. 2005-2006 Dental Compliance Summaries of Reported Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
Students in Compliance as of June30, 2006	273,617	78.76	47,397	90.57	321,014	80.30
Students not in compliance	73,799	21.24	4,933	9.43	78,732	19.70
All Students	347,416	100.00	52,330	100.00	399,746	100.00

Table 2. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	311,831	78.01
Approved appointment scheduled	4,739	1.19
Religious Exemption	57	0.01
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	651	0.16
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	959	0.24
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	1,487	0.37
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	1,290	0.32
Students not in compliance	78,732	19.70
Total	399,746	100.00

Table 3. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	265,542	76.43
Approved appointment scheduled	3,796	1.09
Religious Exemption	44	0.01
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	646	0.19
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	898	0.26
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	1,427	0.41
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	1,264	0.36
Students not in compliance	73,799	21.24
Total	347,416	100.00

Table 4. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	46,289	88.46
Approved appointment scheduled	943	1.80
Religious Exemption	13	0.02
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	5	0.01
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	61	0.12
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	60	0.11
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	26	0.05
Students not in compliance	4,933	9.43
Total	52,330	100.00

Table 5. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of *Kindergarten* Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	92,852	82.34	17,092	89.48	109,944	83.37
Approved appointment scheduled	959	0.85	242	1.27	1,201	0.91
Religious Exemption	14	0.01	5	0.03	19	0.01
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	138	0.12	3	0.02	141	0.11
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	237	0.21	12	0.06	249	0.19
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	532	0.47	19	0.10	551	0.42
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	421	0.37	13	0.07	434	0.33
Not in compliance	17,613	15.62	1,715	8.98	19,328	14.66
Total	112,766	100		100	131,867	100

Table 6. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of 2nd Grade Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	88,991	77.85	14,918	88.58	103,909	79.22
Approved appointment scheduled	1,266	1.11	341	2.02	1,607	1.23
Religious Exemption	13	0.01	3	0.02	16	0.01
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	212	0.19			212	0.16
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	264	0.23	23	0.14	287	0.22
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	448	0.39	22	0.13	470	0.36
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	433	0.38	8	0.05	441	0.34
Not in compliance	22,689	19.85	1,527	9.07	19,328	18.46
Total	114,316	100	16,842	100	131,158	100

Table 7. 2005-2006 Dental Examination Status of 6th Grade Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Compliance Status	Public Schools		Nonpublic Schools		All Schools	
	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	83699	69.56	14,279	87.14	97,978	71.66
Approved appointment scheduled	1,571	1.31	360	2.20	1,931	1.41
Religious Exemption	17	0.01	5	0.03	22	0.02
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	296	0.25	2	0.01	298	0.22
Do not have any type of dental insurance, and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community to see the children	397	0.33	26	0.16	423	0.31
Enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program and is not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/KidCare)	447	0.37	19	0.12	466	0.34
Enrolled in Medicaid/KidCare, but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community that is able to see the children and accept Medicaid/KidCare	410	0.34	5	0.03	415	0.30
Not in compliance	33,497	27.84	1,691	10.32	35,188	25.74
Total	120,334	100	16,387	100	136,721	100