

THE DENTAL COMPLIANCE AND
DENTAL HEALTH STATUS OF ILLINOIS
SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN,
SECOND, AND SIXTH GRADES FOR THE
2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

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Foreword

Dental data are collected annually from Illinois public and nonpublic schools as required by Section 27-8.1 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-8.1). This report is a compilation of the 2008-2009 data on the dental health of Illinois school-age children in kindergarten and second and sixth grades, with the exception of City of Chicago School District 299. The interpretations and conclusions expressed herein were based on the available data and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education. Inquiries regarding this report should be directed to Mr. Md. Shafiqul Azam in the ISBE Division of Data Analysis and Progress Reporting at 217/782-3950 or mazam@isbe.net.

Background

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

Major Findings

The 2008-2009 dental examination status data reported for Illinois school-age children in kindergarten and second and sixth grades (excluding City of Chicago School District 299) indicates the following:

- The compliance level of all students in all reported schools was 78.44 percent.
- The compliance level of public school students in all reported schools was 76.48 percent.
- The compliance level of nonpublic school students in all reported schools was 91.87 percent.
- A statewide total of 88,908 reported students (21.56 percent) of the total reported students (412,343) were in noncompliance with the dental examination mandates on May 15, 2009.
- The compliance level of all reported students in kindergarten was 86.59 percent. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 85.40 percent and 93.75 percent, respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in second grade was 78.94 percent. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 77.13 percent and 91.83 percent, respectively.
- The compliance level of all reported students in sixth grade was 70.04 percent. Compliance rates for public and nonpublic schools were 67.41 percent and 89.73 percent, respectively.
- Compliance levels obtained for nonpublic schools were much higher than those for public schools, by overall measure as well as by grade levels.
- Compliance levels decreased with increasing grade levels.

Limitations

The following should be considered when interpreting the results provided in this report:

- Dental data obtained from public schools do not include dental data from City of Chicago School District 299, the largest public school district in Illinois.
- Dental data were submitted by 2,450 public schools and 870 nonpublic schools.
- Public school dental data represent 761 public school districts (excluding City of Chicago School District 299) that serve any combination of kindergarten and second and sixth grades.
- In some instances, the total percentage may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding errors.

Procedures

Data collection instruments and procedures used to collect dental data were developed by Illinois State Board of Education staff, in consultation with Illinois Department of Public Health staff. Data have been collected via a Web-based online survey since the 2005-2006 school year. Only students entering kindergarten and second and sixth grades are required to have a dental examination.

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, the number of children who have received a waiver or exemption, and the number of children with scheduled appointments. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, additional data elements, such as counts on dental sealants, caries/restoration history, and untreated caries, were included in the data collection. The online dental survey must be completed no sooner than May 16 and no later than June 30 of each year.

Results

Compliance Data

Compliance for students (only those in kindergarten and second and sixth grades) were 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. Second and sixth grade students in noncompliance may have their report cards withheld by school authorities.

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

Statewide Compliance

Table 1 shows the 2008-2009 compliance levels for all reported Illinois school-age children in kindergarten and second and sixth grades. The compliance level for the total 412,343 reported public and nonpublic children in Illinois was 78.44 percent. The data show 88,908 children (21.56 percent) in noncompliance because they did not have a completed dental examination or did not receive a waiver or exemption.

Public District Compliance

For Illinois public school districts, the compliance level for the total 359,840 reported children was 76.48 percent. (See Table 1.)

Nonpublic School Compliance

Of the 870 nonpublic schools that submitted dental data, the compliance level was 91.87 percent, which is significantly higher than that for public schools. (See Table 1.)

Table 2 shows statewide dental examination status information, including the number of students who obtained waivers, scheduled dental appointments, or obtained exemptions. Statewide, 76.95 percent of students completed dental examinations; 1.49 percent complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment; and 21.56 percent were in noncompliance.

Table 3 shows public school dental examination status information, including the number of students who obtained waivers, scheduled dental appointments, or obtained exemptions. Within public school districts, 75.03 percent of students completed dental examinations; 1.45 percent complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment; and 23.52 percent were in noncompliance.

Table 4 shows nonpublic school dental examination status information, including the number of students who obtained waivers, scheduled a dental appointment, or obtained exemptions. Within nonpublic schools, 90.06 percent of students completed dental examinations; 1.81 percent complied by obtaining a waiver, religious exemption, or approved schedules for a dental appointment, and 8.13 percent were in noncompliance. Compliance rates for nonpublic schools were much higher than the compliance rates for public schools.

Compliance by Grade Level

Tables 5, 6, and 7 provide dental examination status for kindergarten and second and sixth grade students (statewide, public, and nonpublic facilities), respectively.

Kindergarten—When public and nonpublic schools are considered, 86.59 percent of students were found to be in compliance (including those with waivers, exemptions, or with approved schedules for dental examinations). The compliance rate for public schools was 85.40 percent and the compliance rate for nonpublic schools was 93.75 percent, which is higher than the public school compliance rate.

Second Grade—A compliance rate of 78.94 percent was observed with combined public and nonpublic school students. The public school compliance rate was 77.13 percent and the nonpublic school compliance rate was 91.83 percent, which is higher than the public school compliance rate.

Sixth Grade—Compliance rates were 70.04 percent, 67.41 percent, and 89.73 percent for all schools, public schools, and nonpublic schools, respectively. There is a wide gap in compliance levels between public and nonpublic schools.

A close look at Tables 5, 6, and 7 reveals that the compliance rate gradually decreases with the increase in grade levels for public and nonpublic schools. While this decline is insignificant for nonpublic schools, it is pronounced for public schools.

Dental Health Status of Students with Complete Dental Examination

Table 8 provides dental health status (the number of students with or without dental sealants, the number of children with or without caries experience, the number of students with or without untreated caries, and the number of students who need urgent dental treatment) for statewide, public, and nonpublic facilities, respectively. A review of Table 8 indicates that among all examined public and nonpublic school students in kindergarten and second and sixth grades, 30.35 percent had dental sealants, 30.36 percent had caries/restoration history, 19.72 percent had untreated caries, and 1.84 percent needed urgent treatment. The corresponding figures for students from public educational entities were 30.52 percent, 31.10 percent, 21.07 percent, and 2.08 percent, and for nonpublic students, 29.39 percent, 26.16 percent, 12.04 percent, 0.50 percent, respectively. Statistics indicate that, in general, nonpublic school students had better dental health indices.

Tables 9, 10, and 11 provide dental health status for students in kindergarten and second and sixth grades, respectively.

Table 1. 2008-2009 Dental Compliance Summary 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	275,200	76.48	48,235	91.87	323,435	78.44
Students not in compliance	84,640	23.52	4,268	8.13	88,908	21.56
All students	359,840	100.00	52,503	100.00	412,343	100.00

Table 2. 2008-2009 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public and Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	317,279	76.95
Approved appointment scheduled	2,583	0.63
Religious exemption	107	0.03
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	25	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	26	0.01
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance(Medicaid/All Kids)	1,009	0.24
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	323	0.08
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	1,049	0.25
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	1,034	0.25
Students not in compliance	88,908	21.56
Total	412,343	100.00

Table 3. 2008-2009 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Public School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	269,996	75.03
Approved appointment scheduled	1,911	0.53
Religious exemption	67	0.02
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	19	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	26	0.01
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance(Medicaid/All Kids)	929	0.26
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	309	0.09
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	1,001	0.28
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	942	0.26
Students not in compliance	84,640	23.52
Total	359,840	100.00

Table 4. 2008-2009 Dental Examination Status for All Reported Illinois Nonpublic School Students

Compliance Status	Number of Students	Percent
In compliance with complete dental examination	47,283	90.06
Approved appointment scheduled	672	1.28
Religious exemption	40	0.08
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	6	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	0	0.00
Waiver:		
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance(Medicaid/All Kids)	80	0.15
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	14	0.03
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	48	0.09
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	92	0.18
Students not in compliance	4,268	8.13
Total	52,503	100.00

Table 5. 2008-2009 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	97,602	84.19	17,645	92.17	115,247	85.32
Approved appointment scheduled	494	0.43	188	0.98	682	0.50
Religious exemption	37	0.03	24	0.13	61	0.05
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	6	0.01	0	0.00	9	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	9	0.01	3	0.02	9	0.01
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance(Medicaid/All Kids)	249	0.21	26	0.14	275	0.20
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	85	0.07	2	0.01	87	0.06
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to find a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	311	0.27	21	0.11	332	0.25
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	221	0.19	37	0.19	258	0.19
Students not in compliance	16,923	14.60	1,197	6.25	18,120	13.41
Total	115,937	100.00	19,143	100.00	135,080	100.00

Table 6. 2008-2009 Dental Examination Status of Second 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	91,696	75.73	15,255	90.00	106,951	77.48
Approved appointment scheduled	666	0.55	228	1.35	894	0.65
Religious exemption	9	0.01	6	0.04	15	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	11	0.01	3	0.02	14	0.01
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	8	0.01	0	0.00	8	0.01
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	301	0.25	32	0.19	333	0.24
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	102	0.08	4	0.02	106	0.08
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	291	0.24	13	0.08	304	0.22
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	306	0.25	24	0.14	330	0.24
Students not in compliance	27,690	22.87	1,385	8.17	29,075	21.06
Total	121,080	100.00	16,950	100.00	138,030	100.00

Table 7. 2008-2009 Dental Examination Status of Sixth 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	80,698	65.70	14,383	87.65	95,081	68.29
Approved appointment scheduled	751	0.61	256	1.56	1,007	0.72
Religious exemption	21	0.02	10	0.06	31	0.02
Unable to complete a dental examination due to a medical reason	2	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.00
Unable to complete a dental examination due to disability	9	0.01	0	0.00	9	0.01
Waiver:						
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and not covered by private or public dental insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	379	0.31	22	0.13	401	0.29
Enrolled in the free and reduced price lunch program and ineligible for public insurance (Medicaid/All Kids)	122	0.10	8	0.05	130	0.09
Enrolled in Medicaid/All Kids but unable to locate a dentist or dental clinic in the community able to see the child and who will accept Medicaid/All Kids	399	0.32	14	0.09	413	0.30
Does not have any type of dental insurance and there are no low-cost dental clinics in the community that will see the child	415	0.34	31	0.19	446	0.32
Students not in compliance	40,027	32.59	1,686	10.27	41,713	29.96
Total	122,823	100.00	16,410	100.00	139,233	100.00

Table 8. 2008-2009 Dental Health Status of All Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Dental Health 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	269,996	—	47,283	—	317,279	—
Dental sealants: with	82,403	30.52	13,896	29.39	96,299	30.35
Dental sealants: without	180,138	66.72	31,136	65.85	211,274	66.59
Dental sealants: unknown	7,455	2.76	2,251	4.76	9,706	3.06
Caries experience/restoration history: with	83,967	31.10	12,367	26.16	96,334	30.36
Caries experience/restoration history: without	177,291	65.66	32,280	68.27	209,571	66.05
Caries experience/restoration history: unknown	8,738	3.24	2,636	5.57	11,374	3.58
Untreated caries: with	56,876	21.07	5,693	12.04	62,569	19.72
Untreated caries: without	203,545	75.39	38,663	81.77	242,208	76.34
Untreated caries: unknown	9,575	3.55	2,927	6.19	12,502	3.94
Needing urgent treatment	5,616	2.08	236	0.50	5,852	1.84

Table 9. 2008-2009 Dental Health Status of Kindergarten Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Dental Health 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	97,602	—	17,645	—	115,247	—
Dental sealants: with	6,828	7.00	1,650	9.35	8,478	7.36
Dental sealants: without	87,820	89.98	15,167	85.96	102,987	89.36
Dental sealants: unknown	2,954	3.03	828	4.69	3,782	3.28
Caries experience/restoration history: with	20,942	21.46	3,020	17.12	23,962	20.79
Caries experience/restoration history: without	73,525	75.33	13,625	77.22	87,150	75.62
Caries experience/restoration history: unknown	3,135	3.21	1,000	5.67	4,135	3.59
Untreated caries: with	20,990	21.51	2,095	11.87	23,085	20.03
Untreated caries: without	73,191	74.99	14,440	81.84	87,631	76.04
Untreated caries: unknown	3,421	3.51	1,110	6.29	4,531	3.93
Needing urgent treatment	2,208	2.26	138	0.78	2,346	2.04

Table 10. 2008-2009 Dental Health Status of Second Grade Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Dental Health 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	91,696	—	15,255	—	106,951	—
Dental sealants: with	32,661	35.62	4,967	32.56	37,628	35.18
Dental sealants: without	56,654	61.78	9,601	62.94	66,255	61.95
Dental sealants: unknown	2,381	2.60	687	4.50	3,068	2.87
Caries experience/restoration history: with	32,232	35.15	4,496	29.47	36,728	34.34
Caries experience/restoration history: without	56,626	61.75	9,943	65.18	66,569	62.24
Caries experience/restoration history: unknown	2,838	3.10	816	5.35	3,654	3.42
Untreated caries: with	22,205	24.22	2,063	13.52	24,268	22.69
Untreated caries: without	66,449	72.47	12,318	80.75	78,767	73.65
Untreated caries: unknown	3,042	3.32	874	5.73	3,916	3.66
Needing urgent treatment	2,411	2.63	74	0.49	2,485	2.32

Table 11. 2008-2009 Dental Health Status of Sixth Grade Students in All Reported Public and Nonpublic Educational Facilities

Dental Health 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	80,698	—	14,383	—	95,081	—
Dental sealants: with	42,914	53.18	7,279	50.61	50,193	52.79
Dental sealants: without	35,664	44.19	6,368	44.27	42,032	44.21
Dental sealants: unknown	2,120	2.63	736	5.12	2,856	3.00
Caries experience/restoration history: with	30,793	38.16	4,851	33.73	35,644	37.49
Caries experience/restoration history: without	47,140	58.42	8,712	60.57	55,852	58.74
Caries experience/restoration history: unknown	2,765	3.43	820	5.70	3,585	3.77
Untreated caries: with	13,681	16.95	1,535	10.67	15,216	16.00
Untreated caries: without	63,905	79.19	11,905	82.77	75,810	79.73
Untreated caries: unknown	3,112	3.86	943	6.56	4,055	4.26
Needing urgent treatment	997	1.24	24	0.17	1,021	1.07