

LOUISIANA 2021 Oral Health Report Card



State Score: **D**

When compared with the national statistics on 12 oral health indicators, Louisiana scores a **D**.

The Louisiana Oral Health Coalition is a voluntary collaborative representing oral health interests throughout Louisiana. It consists of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to improving the oral health of all Louisianans.

Indicator

Children: Enrolled in Medicaid		Grade
1	48% of children age 1-20 received a preventive dental care visit	C
2	11% of children age 6-14 received a dental sealant on permanent molars	F

Children: General Population		Grade
3	76% of children age 1-17 received a preventive dental care visit in the last year	C
4	56% of third graders have a dental caries experience	C
5	26% of third graders have untreated dental decay	F
6	29% of third graders have dental sealants on permanent molars	F

Adults		Grade
7	57% of adults age 18-64 visited the dentist in the last year	D
8	18% of adults age 65+ have lost all of their natural teeth to decay or gum disease	F
9	40% of adults age 65+ have lost six or more of their natural teeth to decay or gum disease	D
10	33% of pregnant women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy	F

General Population		Grade
11	39% of Louisiana residents are served by fluoridated water systems	F
12	53% of needs were met in Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas	A

State and National Comparison

	Children: Enrolled in Medicaid	Desired Trend	LA %	US %	% DIFF.	Points	Grade
1	Children age 1-20 who received a preventive dental care visit	↑	47.6	46.6	2.2 better	2	C
2	Children age 6-14 who received a dental sealant on permanent molars	↑	10.6	15.3	36.3 worse	0	F

	Children: General Population	Desired Trend	LA %	US %	% DIFF.	Points	Grade
3	Children age 1-17 who received a preventive dental care visit in the last year	↑	76.1	79.6	4.5 worse	2	C
4	Third graders who have a dental caries experience	↓	56.4	51.6	8.9 worse	2	C
5	Third graders who have untreated dental decay	↓	26.2	15.5	51.3 worse	0	F
6	Third graders who have dental sealants on permanent molars	↑	28.7	38.2	28.4 worse	0	F

	Adults	Desired Trend	LA %	US %	% DIFF.	Points	Grade
7	Adults age 18-64 who visited the dentist in the last year	↑	57.3	66.2	14.4 worse	1	D
8	Adults age 65+ who have lost all of their natural teeth to decay or gum disease	↓	17.7	13.5	26.9 worse	0	F
9	Adults age 65+ who have lost six or more of their natural teeth to decay or gum disease	↓	39.6	34.0	15.2 worse	1	D
10	Pregnant women who had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy	↑	32.8	46.3	34.1 worse	0	F

	General Population	Desired Trend	LA %	US %	% DIFF.	Points	Grade
11	Population served by fluoridated water systems	↑	39.0	73.0	60.7 worse	0	F
12	Needs that were met in Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas	↑	53.3	29.2	58.4 better	4	A
Overall Score						1	D

Method

The 12 indicators were chosen based on the following characteristics:

- Recent data is available
- The indicator has the ability to show change over time
- The indicator increases the awareness of importance of oral health in Louisiana
- The indicator is meaningful for advocacy and education efforts
- The data examines demographic characteristics
- The indicator is tracked at the national and state level

The data percentages were turned into number/letter scores by comparing the Louisiana data to national data. This national comparison grade was determined using the percentage difference between the Louisiana and US data percentages. The following percentage difference formula was used to calculate the relative difference between Louisiana's percentages and the national percentages:

$$\frac{(LA \% - US \%)}{\left[\frac{(LA \% + US \%)}{2} \right]} \times 100 = \text{Percent difference of Louisiana from national}$$

The percent difference was then converted into a numerical point value and letter grade using Table 1. The points for all 12 indicators were averaged to create a total point value for Louisiana. That point total was placed on the 4.0 scale (Table 2) to convert the point total to an overall letter grade.

Table 1		
Grade	Points	Criteria
A	4	20%+ better than national average
B	3	10.1–19.9% better than national average
C	2	0.1–10% change from national average
D	1	10.1–19.9% worse than national average
F	0	20%+ worse than national average

Table 2	
Grade	4.0 Scale
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Acknowledgments

The Louisiana Oral Health Coalition would like to thank the Oklahoma Oral Health Coalition and the Texas Oral Health Coalition for sharing their indicators and methodology.

Additional Comments/Disclaimer for the Following Indicators:

- For indicators 4, 5, and 6, state and national data years differ. The most recent findings from the Louisiana Bright Smiles for Bright Futures, Basic Screening Survey (BSS) reported to the NOHSS is for 2016-2018. Healthy People 2020 utilizes data from the 2013-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).

Source for Each Indicator

1. Louisiana Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Annual EPSDT Participation Report – Form CMS 416 (State), Fiscal Year 2019. Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>
US Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Annual EPSDT Participation Report – Form CMS 416 (National), Fiscal Year 2019. Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>
2. Louisiana Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Annual EPSDT Participation Report – Form CMS 416 (State), Fiscal Year 2019. Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/early-and-periodic-screening-diagnostic-and-treatment/index.html>
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3. Louisiana Source: National Survey of Children’s Health. NSCH 2018/2019 Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved [1/7/2021] from www.childhealthdata.org
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4. Louisiana Source: CDC State Oral Health Survey. “Percentage of students with Caries Experience (treated or untreated tooth decay), Breakdown Grade: Third Grade for 2016-2018.” Retrieved [1/12/2021] from https://nccd.cdc.gov/oralhealthdata/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DOH_DATA.ExploreByTopic&isTopic=&isYear
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US Source: Healthy People 2020 OH-2.2 Reduce the proportion of children aged 6 to 9 years with untreated dental decay in their primary or permanent teeth. Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data-search/Search-the-Data#objid=5017>
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US Source: Healthy People 2020 OH-12.2 Increase the proportion of children aged 6 to 9 years who have received dental sealants on one or more of their permanent first molar teeth, 2013-2016 Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data-search/Search-the-Data#objid=5001>
7. Louisiana Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. BRFSS Prevalence & Trends Data [online]. 2018. Retrieved [1/12/2021] from <https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/brfssprevalence/>
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