



# SISKIYOU COUNTY ORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2018-2019



Oral Health Program  
Siskiyou County



## Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Siskiyou County Oral Health Needs Assessment .....	
<b>Oral Health Knowledge, Perception &amp; Barriers</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Social Determinants of Oral Health .....	
<b>Findings</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Population Characteristics .....	
Socioeconomic Characteristics .....	
School Enrollment.....	
Oral Health of Children and Adolescents.....	
Oral Health of Adults .....	
Access to Dental Care & Programs in S.C.....	
<b>Surveys and Interviews</b> .....	<b>15</b>
General Population Survey Findings .....	
Dental Provider Survey Findings .....	
Dental Provider Roundtable Findings .....	
<b>Appendix and Sources</b> .....	<b>18</b>



## Executive Summary

Siskiyou County, 3,347 square miles, is the most northern county in the state of California. With the Oregon border to the north and Mount Shasta to the south, Siskiyou County is often considered one of the last untouched frontiers in the lower 48. Known for its gold rush and railroad beginnings, Siskiyou County is still a recreationist and adventurers dream.

Despite its reputation as a beautiful country side, Siskiyou County has been faced with struggles in all factions of life for a long time. The gold rush ended, the railroad industry changed and the timber industry moved. For many years, the county has battled with how to adapt but still retain its beautiful charm.

When compared to the state as a whole, the [County Health Rankings and Roadmaps](#) list Siskiyou County as 56<sup>th</sup> out of 57 in overall health outcomes and dental care and treatment is no different. Today, very high numbers of children and adults are without adequate overall health care and treatment.

According to the [Health and Human Services Department's 2014 Oral Health Framework](#), "Total health and wellness are inextricably linked to oral health... Oral disease has an impact on physical, psychological, social, and economic health and well-being, often resulting in pain, diminished function, and reduced quality of life." As in other places in the state of California, this is true in Siskiyou County. Many people experience poor oral health for many different reasons; lack of access to care, oral health education, cultural beliefs, and much more.

In order to inform the future development of oral health services for low-income and other high-risk populations, a great deal of changes is needed to be made, especially in Siskiyou County. This was emphasized in the [Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health](#), which referred to oral health as the "silent epidemic of dental disease" and how it "is affecting some population groups. This burden of disease restricts activities in school, work, and home, and often significantly diminishes the quality of life."

But, through the Local Oral Health Program and all of the partners throughout the county, we can make steps forward. We, as a collective group, can help direct the importance of oral health in all facets of life and at all ages. Regardless of economic status, home situation, or location, we can educate our community to be their own oral health champions!



## Background

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) alongside various partners including the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) developed an advisory committee to look into the oral health status in the state. In order to properly paint the oral health landscape in California, the committee drew upon the key findings of [the Burden of Oral Diseases](#) in California to support the development of the California Oral Health Plan 2018-2028. Some of the key findings from the Burden of Oral disease in California included:

- Insufficient infrastructure to promote culturally sensitive community-based oral health programs
- Insufficient data to inform interventions; a range of barriers preventing access to care
- A lack of implementation of evidence-based and demonstrable models of oral disease prevention and dental treatment
- A lack of consistent and effective messaging to encourage improvements in oral health

After further understanding of the severity of these issues, [the California Oral Health Plan 2018-2028 was](#) developed as a roadmap for improvements in oral health. This plan includes [“five key goals for improving oral health and achieving oral health equity for all Californians”](#):

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4	GOAL 5
Improve the oral health of Californians by addressing determinants of health and promote healthy habits and population based prevention interventions to attain healthier status in communities.	Align the dental health care delivery system, payment systems, and community programs to support and sustain community-clinical linkages for increasing utilization of dental services.	Collaborate with payers, public health programs, health care systems, foundations, professional organizations, and educational institutions to expand infrastructure, capacity, and payment systems for supporting prevention and early treatment services.	Develop and implement communication strategies to inform and educate the public, dental teams, and decision makers about oral health information, programs, and policies.	Develop and implement a surveillance system to measure key indicators of oral health and identify key performance measures for tracking progress.

As an extension of the statewide oral health report, the California Department of Public Health through the Oral Health Program granted all 58 counties proportional funding to conduct a strategic planning process that is designed to improve their oral health services and outcomes. The grant funds both an oral health needs assessment and a strategic plan that will help to drive improved oral health services, equity and outcomes.



## › SISKIYOU COUNTY ORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Funded by Proposition 56, this five-year grant (2018-2022) permitted Siskiyou County Public Health Department and the Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) to educate county residents about oral health, dental disease prevention, address common risk factors for oral health, and increase access to oral health and dental health services. As a first step in the LOHP, we launched into a full dental community evaluation and began the process to develop a comprehensive needs assessment.

A needs assessment is a methodically organized method to evaluate and review the oral health status in Siskiyou County. Along with primary data, we collected secondary data from reliable and verified sources. Combining these sources and data collection, we further understood where oral health is suffering or making strides in Siskiyou County.

The needs assessment, as you will read below, highlights key indicators and data that are needed to fully understand where we are today. The oral health needs assessment was driven by an interest in understanding how the social determinants of health—including factors such as education, economic status and access to other community resources—influence oral health outcomes.

The primary data was used to interpret and refine the education, prevention, and treatment needs of Siskiyou County residents overall. Through online surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews, we were able to find a more local and up-to-date understanding of oral health in our community. We reviewed secondary data from trustworthy sources which further supported our findings in the primary data collection.







The following assessment highlights the many areas in which the county is falling behind the state of California in oral health services and outcomes. We see that there are inequities in service delivery and disparities in outcomes, especially among the most vulnerable populations in the county. However, analyzing what we found from this needs assessment has shown us how we can improve, better support and close the gaps through evidence-based solutions and improve oral health in Siskiyou County.



## Oral Health Behaviors, Knowledge, Perceptions and Barriers to Care

### Social Determinants of Oral Health:

Addressing social determinants of oral health in a community can significantly aid in the development of a successful Oral Health plan. Social Determinants of Oral Health can be defined as “conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks” ([Source](#)). Conditions (social, economic and physical) can affect a person in various environments and settings differently. Understanding the relationship between these social determinants and the conditions that follow furthers the understanding of the need at hand. Community Commons and the Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. have developed a community framework for addressing the social determinants of Oral Health for Low-Income Populations as shown below: ([Source](#))

Community Common Indicators Relevant to Oral Health	
 <p><b>Demographics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population with limited English proficiency</li> <li>• Urban and rural population</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Social and Economic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per capita income</li> <li>• Population with no high school degree</li> <li>• Unemployment rate</li> <li>• Uninsured adults</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Physical Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food access — low</li> <li>• Housing vacancy rate</li> <li>• Use of public transportation</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Clinical Care</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to primary care</li> <li>• Access to dentists</li> <li>• Population living in a health professional shortage area</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Health Behaviors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fruit/vegetable consumption</li> <li>• Tobacco usage — current smokers</li> <li>• Soda expenditures</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Health Outcomes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor dental health</li> </ul>



## Findings

### > POPULATION CHARACTICS

Table 1. Siskiyou County Demographic Profile	Siskiyou County	California
<b>Population, 2017</b>	43, 853	39,536,653
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	44,900	37,254,518
Population, percent change – 2010 to 2017	-2.3%	6.1%
<b>Population, Census, April 1, 2010</b>	44,900	37,253,956
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.2%	6.3%
Persons under 18 years, percent	20.2%	22.9%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	24.7%	13.9%
Female persons, percent	50.2%	50.3%
<b>Ethnicity, Percent 2017</b>		
White alone, percent	85.5%	72.4%
Black or African American alone, percent	1.4%	6.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	5.0%	1.6%
Asian alone, percent	1.4%	15.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	0.4%	.5%
Two or More Races, percent	5.3%	3.9%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	12.6%	39.1%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	76.3%	37.2%
<b>Veterans, 2012-2016</b>	4,047	1,720,635
<b>Foreign born persons, percent, 2012-2017</b>	5.3%	27.0%
<b>Housing units, July 1, 2017, (V2017)</b>	24,144	14,176,670
<b>Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2013-2017</b>	65.5%	54.5%
<b>Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2013-2017</b>	\$176,600	\$443,400
<b>Median gross rent, 2013-2017</b>	\$829	\$1,358
<b>Building permits, 2017</b>	56	114,780
<b>Households, 2013-2017</b>	19,018	12,888,128
<b>Persons per household, 2013-2017</b>	2.26	2.96
<b>Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2013-2017</b>	85.1%	86.2%
<b>Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2013-2017</b>	8.4%	44.0%
<b>High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2013-2017</b>	89.3%	82.5%
<b>Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2013-2017</b>	22.7%	32.6%
<b>With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2013-2017</b>	14.1%	6.9%
<b>Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent</b>	8.1%	8.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2013-2017</b>	18.9	28.8
<b>Median household income (in 2016 dollars), 2013-2017</b>	\$40,884	\$67,169

Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2016 dollars), 2013-2017	\$24,605	\$33,128
Persons in poverty, percent	17.7%	13.3%
Total employer establishments, 2016	1,071	922,477
Total employment, 2016	8,685	14,600,349
Population per square mile, 2010	7.2	239.1
Land area in square miles, 2010	6,277.89	155,779.22

Data Source: Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts.

### **Total Population**

The assessed population of Siskiyou County in 2017 was 43,853, down from 44,900 in the 2010 [US Census](#). According to the 2017 Census, the majority of Siskiyou County's population live in the city of Yreka (7,765 or 5.65%) and the majority ethnicity is White at 85.5%. The next largest population is Hispanic or Latino (12.6%), which is then followed by two or more races at 5.3% and American Indian and Alaska Native 5.3%. (See table below)

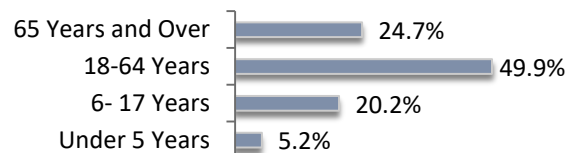
Race/Ethnicity 2017	Siskiyou County	State of California
<b>Total Population</b>	43, 853	39,536,653
<b>Ethnicity, Percent 2017</b>		
White alone	85.5%	72.4%
Black or African American alone	1.4%	6.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	5.0%	1.6%
Asian alone	1.4%	15.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.4%	0.5%
Two or More Races	5.3%	3.9%
Hispanic or Latino	12.6%	39.1%

Source:

### **Age of Siskiyou County Residents:**

The majority of the Siskiyou County population is people between the ages of 18 and 64 (49.9%) the next largest group is over the age of 65 (24.7%). The third largest group is those between the ages 6 and 17 (20.2%). [Source:](#)

#### **Almost one-half of Siskiyou County's population is between the ages 18 & 64.**



### **Public Water Systems and Fluoridation in Siskiyou County:**

Siskiyou County is one of the few counties in the state of California that does not have a fluoridated water system. There are a few factors that play into this, but largely being the because of the massive number of different water systems that exist throughout the county. The California State

#### **Water Systems in Siskiyou County**





Water Resource Board states that there are 74 different water systems throughout the county. Of the 74 water systems, 68 are Ground Water (protected wells) and 8 are Surface water (e.g., river, reservoir, intake). [Source](#)

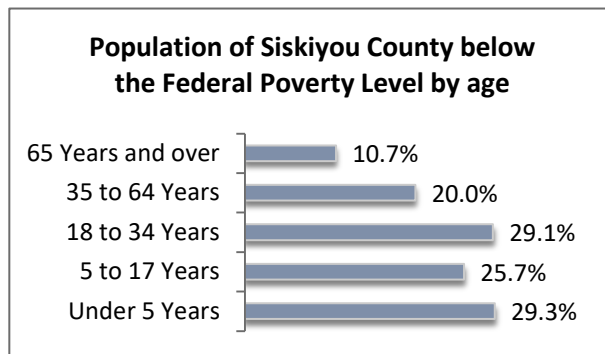
## › SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

### **Median Household Income:**

The [American Community Survey](#) estimates that in 2017, the median household income in Siskiyou County in was \$40,884, compared to the state of California \$67,169.

### **Poverty Levels:**

The official poverty measure was established in 1969 and is calculated based on data collection in the Annual Social and Economic Supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) are updated every year. There are two factors that are used to determine a family's or individual's poverty status: (1) their family or individual income and (2) their poverty threshold. The [US Census](#)



details that the “poverty thresholds are set by the Office of Management and Budget’s Statistical Policy Directive 14 and are updated every year for inflation.” Like the two factors that are used to determine a person’s or family’s poverty status, thresholds vary by only two factors as well: (1) size of the family and (2) age of the family members. [Source](#)

Taking into consideration the details above, data collection and newly updated [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) that came into effect as of January 11, 2019, Siskiyou County has an estimate of 20.7% of its population living under the federal poverty level as reported by the [2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#). [Source](#)

### **Populations with and without Health Insurance Coverage:**

According to the United Census Bureau, there are 3,041 people between the ages 18 and 64 who do not have any health insurance in Siskiyou County. [Source](#)

Age	Siskiyou County
<b>Total Population</b>	43, 853
<b>Under 18</b>	
With Health Insurance Coverage	8,871
No Health Insurance Coverage	493
<b>18-64 Years</b>	
With Health Insurance Coverage	20,857
No Health Insurance Coverage	3,041
<b>65+ Years</b>	
With Health Insurance Coverage	10,074
No Health Insurance Coverage	66



**Medi-Cal Recipients:**

There were 18,957 Medi-Cal participants in Siskiyou County for 2017, which is 43.23% of the total county population.

[Source](#)

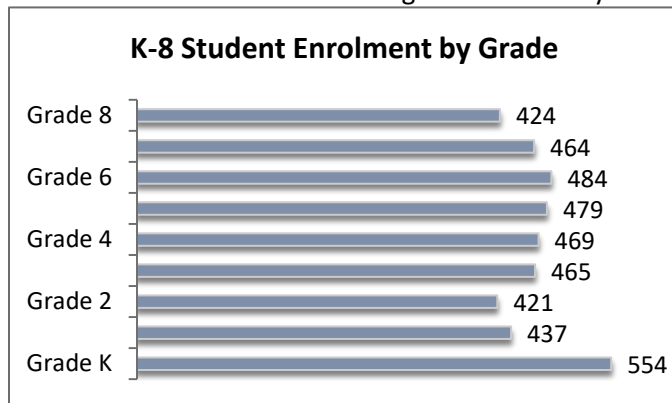
## › SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

**Siskiyou County Schools:**

In Siskiyou County, there are about 25 different school districts within the Siskiyou County Office of Education. Within those 25 school districts, there are a total of 43 schools and 5,934 students enrolled as of [2017/2018](#). In Siskiyou County, the term 'elementary school' is categorized as K-8, Pre-K to 8, K-6, K-3 and 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. The term 'middle school' is not used and there is only one Jr. High School. Many of these locations are so remote that they cannot get children to and from. As a result of this, many schools are all grades within the same building if not a one-room school house. Furthermore, there are two charter schools as well as two alternative schools on the high school campuses. (See attached Map of school Locations)

**Kindergarten through 8:**

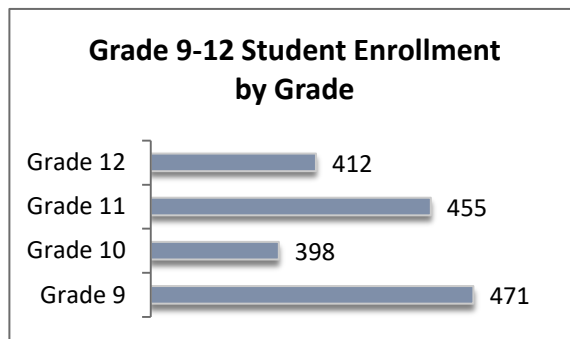
Of the 43 total schools in Siskiyou County, 26 of them are K-8 schools. There are a total of 4,197 students in the K-8 schools throughout the county.



[Source](#)

**High School:**

Of the 43 total schools in Siskiyou County, 9 of them are high schools. The California Department of Education states that there are a total of 1,737 students in high school throughout the county. [Source](#)



**Eligible Students under the Free or Reduced Price Meals (FRPM):**

Siskiyou County has 43 schools (elementary, high and charter schools). The average enrollment in Siskiyou County is only 138, including all levels of schools. Of those 43 schools, only eight schools are below 50% of their student body that are eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals (highlighted in blue in table). 39 schools are 50% or more eligible, with five schools that have 100% eligibility.

School	Total Enrollment (K-12)	FRPM (K-12)	Percent Eligible FRPM (K-12)
Golden Eagle Charter	495	348	70.3%
J. Everett Barr Court	5	5	100.0%
Siskiyou County Special Education	95	45	47.4%
Big Springs Elementary	179	103	57.5%
Bogus Elementary	13	13	100.0%
Butteville Elementary	207	99	47.8%
Delphic Elementary	61	45	73.8%
Dunsmuir Elementary	87	79	90.8%
Dunsmuir High	63	43	68.3%
Forks of Salmon Elementary	9	4	44.4%
Gazelle Elementary	26	26	100.0%
Grenada Elementary	205	132	64.4%
Happy Camp Elementary	108	85	78.7%
Hornbrook Elementary	57	47	82.5%
Junction Elementary	28	18	64.3%
Klamath River Elementary	20	15	75.0%
Little Shasta Elementary	16	9	56.3%
McCloud Elementary	52	27	51.9%
Montague Elementary	154	115	74.7%
Sisson Elementary	308	130	42.2%
Mt. Shasta Elementary	250	125	50.0%
Seiad Elementary	17	13	76.5%
Jefferson High (Continuation)	9	7	77.8%
Happy Camp High	60	36	60.0%
McCloud High	16	7	43.8%
Mt. Shasta High	296	137	46.3%
Weed High	161	124	77.0%
Weed Elementary	286	252	88.1%
Willow Creek Elementary	40	32	80.0%
Jackson Street Elementary	550	368	66.9%
Evergreen Elementary	444	311	70.0%
Yreka Community Day	5	4	80.0%
Discovery High	31	20	64.5%
Yreka Union High Community Day	6	5	83.3%

Yreka High	575	292	50.8%
Butte Valley High	99	46	46.5%
Butte Valley Elementary	217	181	83.4%
Scott River High	10	10	100.0%
Scott Valley Community Day	2	2	100.0%
Etna Union High	197	94	47.7%
Etna Elementary	179	118	65.9%
Fort Jones Elementary	150	96	64.0%
Scott Valley Junior High	146	91	62.3%

Source: [California Department of Education](#)

### **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment:**

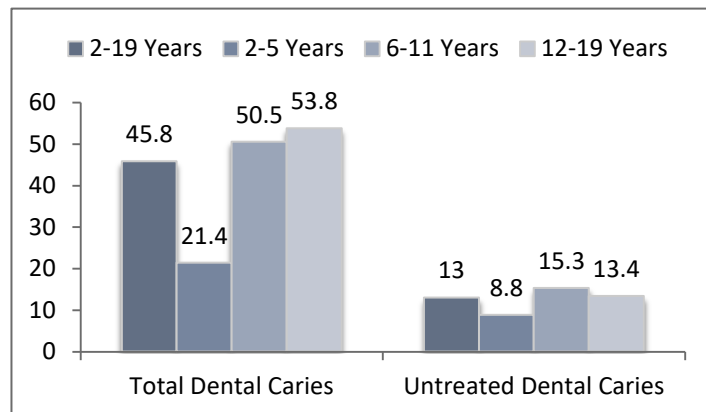
According to the California Dental Association, the “kindergarten dental checkup requirement, AB 1433 signed into law in 2005, is one way schools can support children’s school readiness and success – by identifying children suffering from untreated dental disease and helping parents establish a dental home for their children” ([Source](#)). The AB 1433 funding and plan is included in the funding that schools receive through the Local Control Funding Formula.

In 2018, the law was updated to include Prop 56 Funds and its local oral health programs to support, aid, and encourage schools in their coordination and reporting on kindergarten oral health assessment. As of 2017, only four schools had reported data to the California Dental Association for Siskiyou County. [Source](#)

## › ORAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

### **Percent of Children with Dental Caries Experience:**

Dental caries, or cavities, commonly known as tooth decay, are caused by a breakdown of tooth enamel. The collapse is the result of bacteria on teeth that break down foods and produce acid that eats away tooth enamel. As stated in the [Status of Oral Health in California: Oral Disease Burden and Prevention 2017](#), “tooth decay is a preventable disease, yet it remains the most

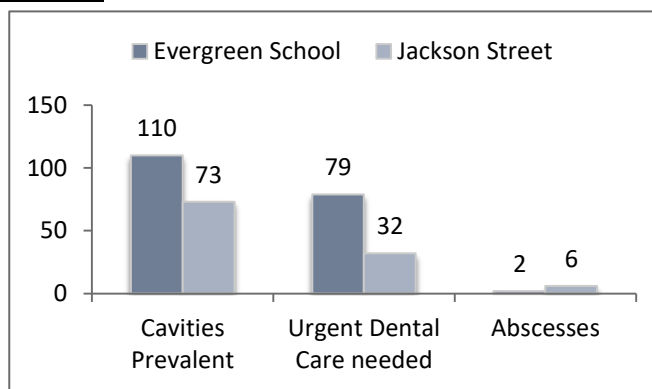


common chronic disease of children aged 6 to 11 years and adolescents aged 12 to 19 years.” Although data is not readily available specifically for Siskiyou County, the prevalence of total dental caries (untreated and treated) in primary or permanent teeth among youth aged 2–19 years was 45.8% in the state of California. Prevalence increased with age, going from 21.4% among youth aged 2–5 to 50.5% among those aged 6–11 to 53.8% among those aged 12–19 in California.

[Source](#)

**Number of Children with Dental Issues - Sample:**

During the 2015 school year, a Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist and Dentist performed screenings on all preapproved students at Evergreen Elementary and all preapproved students Jackson Street School. A total of 334 students were seen at Evergreen and 361 total students were seen at Jackson Street. Of the 334 students at Evergreen, 110 or 32.9% had cavities that were prevalent, 79



students or 23.65% that were in need of urgent dental care and 2 students who had abscesses. At Jackson Street, of the 361 students seen, 73 students or 20.22% had cavities prevalent, 32 students or 8.86% who were in need of urgent dental care, and 6 students who had abscesses.

Source: Screening data provided by Thana Webb – School Nurse – attached.

**Percent of Children with Dental Sealant on a Molar:**

An indicator of oral health is whether a child received a sealant on at least one of the four permanent first molars. However, data regarding the number of children that have a sealant on a molar in Siskiyou County is very low. As of 2016, according to The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which funds all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), only 19% of children ages 6-9 had received sealants in Siskiyou County.

Source: FQHC Sealant Data Dashboard

**Number of Children Treated Under General Anesthesia:**

Some dental procedures involve a child to lie completely still because of various reasons and as a result, anesthesia or sedation are required. These reasons include length and severity of issue. In these cases, general anesthesia or sedation can afford the safest, most pain-free treatment. However, there are no dental providers in the Siskiyou County that provide such services and as a result, there are no (0) children are treated under general anesthesia within the county. If a child needs to be sedated, parents must drive out-of-county for this service to Sacramento or Oakland but also out of the state to Oregon. These clinics are used by so many people that many times, children from Siskiyou County are not seen for months even though it is an emergency situation. Because of there is not a dentist who can perform these types of treatments available in our County, the actual number of children that must travel out of the county, if not the state, for this type of service is unknown beyond what is referred out of the dental home.

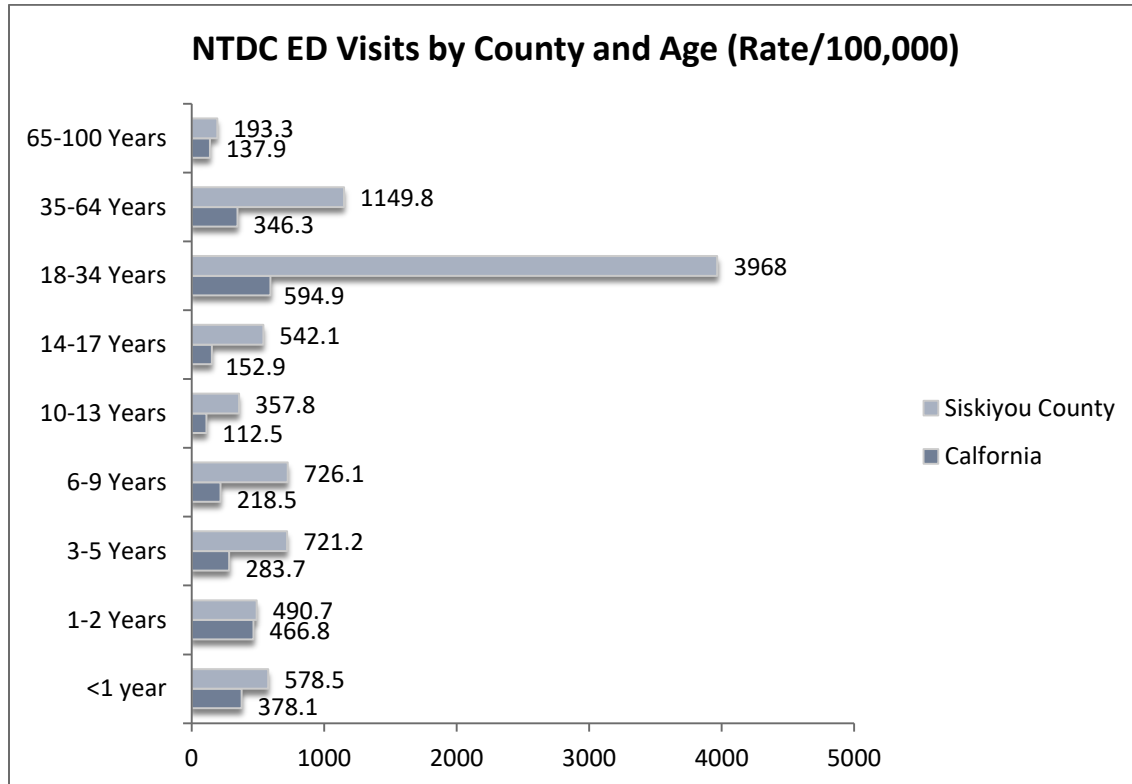
**Percent of Teens (Ages 13-17 years) in Siskiyou County who Chew Tobacco, Smoke, or Vape:**

When reviewing the 2015-2016 Healthy Kids Survey, of the 471 total 9th graders, 11% reported that they had smoked cigarettes, 10% had tried smokeless tobacco, and 18% had used electronic cigarettes or other vaping devices. Of the 455 total 11th graders, 15% reported that they had smoked cigarettes, 17% had tried smokeless tobacco, and 35% had used electronic cigarettes or other vaping devices. [Source](#)

## > ORAL HEALTH OF ADULTS

### **Number of Emergency Room Visits:**

Siskiyou County has a significant number of age's 18-34 peoples (3,968) who were reported to have a non-traumatic dental condition emergency room visit. This is almost six times the state for 2012-2016 of 594.9.



Source: CDPH – Dental Data Dashboard

### **Number of Pregnant Woman with Dental Visit During Pregnancy:**

A good indicator of oral health knowledge and understanding is the number of pregnant women that visit the dentist during their pregnancy. However, data was not specifically available for Siskiyou County through the Maternal and Infant Health Assessment (MIHA). Siskiyou County data is lumped into the title “North/Mountain Region” with other surrounding counties. The MIHA states that this region had 45.1% of pregnant women who had a dental visit during pregnancy in 2015-2016.

Source: MIHA Data Dashboard 2015-2016

### **Percent of Adults who Chew Tobacco, Smoke or Vape:**

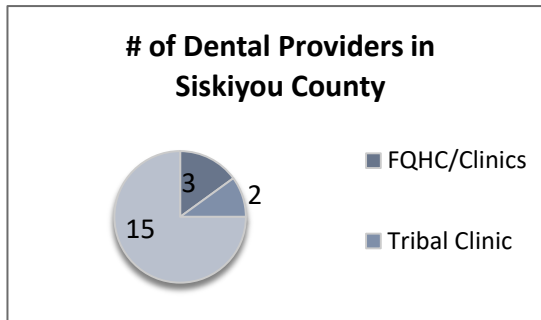
According to the [Health Interview Survey](#), Siskiyou County’s data is a combination of six different counties (Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra & Trinity). The Current smoker rate in the state of California is 12.4% whereas in Siskiyou County (the combined total of all six counties) is higher, at 19.8%.



> ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE AND PROGRAMS IN SISKIYOU COUNTY

**Number of Dental Providers (Private Insurance vs. Medi-Cal accepting):**

Siskiyou County has a total of 21 Dental providers spanning the whole county, with 13 that offer oral health services to those who have private insurance. On the other hand, there is only 5 other clinics/FQHC that provide oral health services or support for low-income and vulnerable populations (the organizations are attached in the resources section). According to the California Health and Human Services Open Data Portal, Siskiyou County is considered a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area in five different locations in the county (Tulelake, Mount Shasta/Weed, Dunsmuir, McCloud and Dorris). Although it qualifies us as only struggling in those areas, one could argue that the county as a whole is a dental desert because there are only 5 locations that accept Medi-Cal and 43.23% of our population that are Medi-Cal participants. [Source](#)

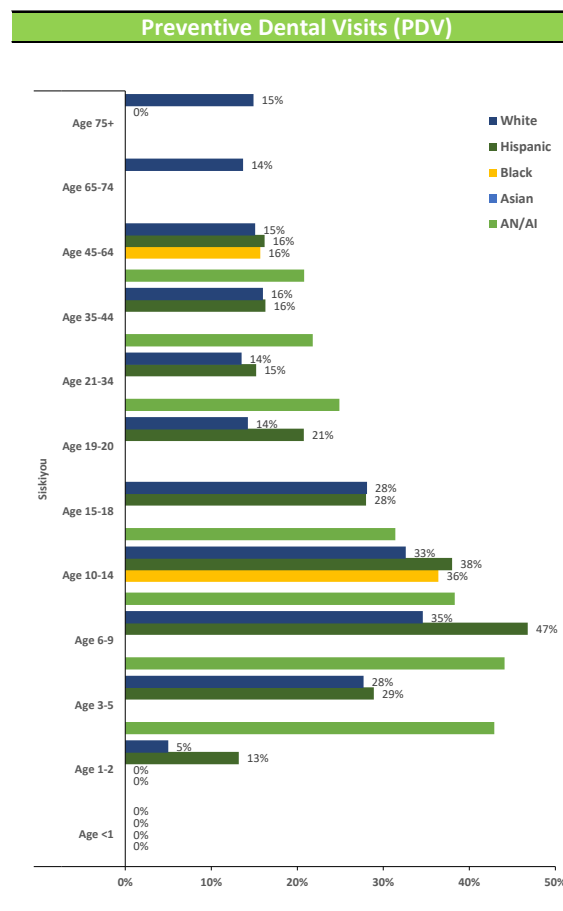


**Percentage of Medi-Cal Recipients Who Had Annual Dental Visits, 2016:**

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) reported that between October 2015 and September 2016 that 31.4% (2,262) children age 0-20 and 23.4% (2,815) adults aged 21+ had annual dental visits. [Source](#)

**Percentage of Medi-Cal Recipients Who Had Preventive Dental Visits, 2016:**

The table below shows the percent of Medi-Cal recipients by age and race that had preventive dental visits in 2016. The data was also provided by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The highest participation was by Hispanic children ages 6-9 with 47% who had preventive dental visits, and the second highest participation was American Indian children ages 6-9 with 44%.



## Surveys and Interviews

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### **General Population Survey Findings:**

An extensive oral health focused survey has not been done in Siskiyou County in the past 10 years. This provided us the opportunity to truly dive into the realities within our rural community. This was an occasion to help our community to better understand the challenges that they face when it comes to access to care, treatment options and education.

We distributed the survey to a variety of outlets including all social media platforms, WIC Clinics, First5, resource centers, Early Head Start, all schools, Klamath Health Services, County Offices, Clinics and much more. Alongside these groups, others distributed to their list serves and communities as well. We collected a total of 201 responses from the general public.

We found that much of people's frustrations or challenges were:

- General access (having too few dentists)
- Getting to a dentist that takes their insurance (transportation)
- Cost
- Not enough appointments available
- Desiring more Medi-Cal providers

Alongside their challenges, we found that 44.3% had visited the dentist in the last year and 23.4% within the last 2 years. A very close third was 17.9% of people in Siskiyou County had been to the dentist in the past 5 years. Although it does not seem like much, this was concerning to us.

When asked why they had not been to the dentist in more than one year, the answers aligned with what the general population had been communicating. Cost was the number one reason (34.9%) and getting to the office was the second highest response (30.2%). The other top two responses were 'Don't know or have a dentist to go to' with 10.9% and 'fear of the dentist' with 8.5%.

Furthermore, when the general population in Siskiyou County was asked what the main reason their child could not get dental care, the overarching answer was that the pediatric dentists did not accept Medi-Cal (36%). Although all our Medi-Cal accepting clinics and office do treat children, there is only 4-5 of them. The second leading response supported this argument in that 18.6% said the main reason their child could not get dental care was because of the difficulty getting an appointment.

It was clear to us that those who participated in our survey are struggling to get good consistent dental care in Siskiyou County. Many factors play into it, such as transportation, geography, access and knowledge. But one thing we can take from this is that the LOHP can help improve their experience and create an environment for a healthy mouth!



### **Dental Provider Survey Findings:**

Not only has the general public not been surveyed in recent years, but the dental providers also have not been interviewed or surveyed. It was a challenge to get the 21 offices and clinic to participate, but once they understood the goals, they joined in on the process.

We received 13 responses to our dental provider survey. Most of the respondents were from either the Tribal clinics, who accept Medi-Cal, or our FQHC'S which also accept Medi-cal and their staff. We had three responses from private dentists. This skewed some of the data in that, questions regarding Medi-Cal leaned to a positive description or number because only those who accept Medi-cal are the only ones who answered.

On the other hand, it was clear that some of the comments made by the providers further supported the miscommunication between provider and public. We found the largest topics of concern for the providers were:

- Some of the patients need extensive care that they cannot provide locally
- Patients are not properly educated regarding good oral health habits
- Lack of Fluoride in the water system
- Patients are far too reliant on emergency room/do not see them until it's too bad/late
- No show rates/missing appointments
- Dental care is not a high priority

A few findings to note was that when asked if they work with any of the schools, 9 responded no. This is further supporting the lack of reporting happening in the schools – if there are no dental professionals partnering with schools, the KOHA is therefore not being done or reported. Also, when asked how often patients who do not show up for their appointments, 53.85% stated that it happens frequently. Moreover, the providers stated that 53% of children the dentists see have untreated caries and tooth decay, and 59% for adults with untreated caries and tooth decay.

To gather a more even understanding of the providers and their stance on the oral health landscape in Siskiyou County, it was clear that we needed more than just a survey. We needed to create an environment where they could voice their opinions, findings and experiences in the dental office.

### **Dental Provider RoundTable Findings:**

In order to better understand the dental providers in Siskiyou County, the LOHP hosted two dental provider roundtables; one in North County and the other in South County. The goal was to bring the dental providers together to talk about their challenges, successes, experiences and more.

In the North County roundtable, we have every clinic show up with a dentist and some with their dental director. With a total of 6 people present from three different clinics, it was stated that this was the first time they had met each other in person! Much of the conversation was surrounded the no-show rates and the plans the clinics had put into place to try to avoid this. It was quickly found that most had the same experience in that their patients either a.) Lost or did not have transportation to the appointment and b.) Oral health is not a priority. They felt that



many patients, because they mostly do not pay for the services (covered by Medi-Cal), felt that it is really that important to show up – it's not loss to them.

The next main topic was the type of fluoride that was being used as a temporary solution for the extreme amounts of caries they see. Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is being used in all clinics as an option to postpone the caries treatment and filling process. SDF is an inexpensive, non-invasive fluoride treatment that is applied topically. It works just like a typical fluoride application but the silver within it 'freezes' the cavity so that treatment can happen at a different time without much caries growth. The downside to this option is that it turns the infected area black. Because the clinics are so overrun and overbooked, they have to break out appointments into more than one visit and the SDF helps aid the success rates.

At the South County roundtable, we had a larger private practice attendance. It was an interesting experience when compared to the other roundtable in that their client pool is much different but they sometimes experience the same challenges. For the private dentist, no-show rates were nowhere near as extreme as the clinics, but they still had the same issues as to why people were not showing up – oral health is not necessarily a priority.

Food was a large topic of discussion at the second roundtable. What we put in our bodies, how often, where the food comes from, and much more were considered to be one of the barriers to having a health happy mouth in our community. Many of the providers spoke about the children they see and how often they are eating in the schools and how that has a direct effect on their teeth.

Additionally, parent education was considered one of the building blocks for a more health community. The providers spoke to the direct connection between a parent understanding the importance of good oral health and how that translates to the children. Their recommendation was to participate in more parent education classes or host parent education courses at the schools in order to create a better informed community on the topic of oral health.

Seeing that a provider roundtable discussion had not happened in recent years, it was clear to all that it was beneficial. Alongside communicating about challenges and successes, we as a group were able to connect on what each practice or person could do to provide support in Siskiyou County. All agreed, Siskiyou County is at a turning point with their oral health and that they would like to help get our community on the right direction!



## Appendix and Sources

### › SAMPLE SCREENINGS – 2015 – EVERGREEN AND JACKSON STREET SCHOOL

Dental screenings 11/3/15 & 11/10/15 Evergreen screenings by Jessica Courts Dental Assistant & Allison Ortiz Dental Hygienist.

Kinder enrollment	Seen	Seen Cavities	Urgent Dental Care	Abscess	Orthodontia
115	98	32	27	1	
1 <sup>st</sup> 105	76	32	28		
2 <sup>nd</sup> 101	70	15	8		
3 <sup>rd</sup> 160	91	32	17		
<b>Total</b>					
470	334	110	79	2	

Jackson Street screenings on 11/17/15 by Jessica Courts & Dr. John Durney

Kinder enrollment	Seen	Seen Cavities	Urgent Dental Care	Abscess	Orthodontia
4 <sup>th</sup> 106	82	22	8	2	4
5 <sup>th</sup> 102	76	10	4	2	2
6 <sup>th</sup> 93	78	15	5		8
7 <sup>th</sup> 101	83	18	8	1	10
8 <sup>th</sup> 106	42	8	7	1	4
<b>Total</b>					
508	361	73	32	6	28

Not seen students were absent or parent's said they did not want their child seen or student's chose not to come which happened mostly in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The majority of parents not wanting their children seen were presently under dental care.

Orthodontia recommendations were only done on children who saw the Dentist. Dental assistants & Dental Hygienists were not legally able to diagnose bite (orthodontia).



# SISKIYOU COUNTY DENTAL PROVIDERS

Adult Medi-Cal: Provides dental care for pregnant & post-partum women, & adults with oral health emergencies  
 Children on Medi-Cal are eligible for Denti-Cal services from birth through their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

DENTIST	TYPE OF DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX
<b>DORRIS, CA</b>			
Butte Valley Dental	Medi-Cal, Private Insurance or cash Serves all ages (surgical dentistry depending on the case)	610 West 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Dorris, CA 96023	397-8411  Fax 397-3456
<b>DUNSMUIR, CA</b>			
William Townsend DDS	Private Insurance or cash only	5420 Dunsmuir Avenue Dunsmuir, CA 96025	235-2226
<b>FORT JONES, CA</b>			
William Cunha DDS	Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry depending on the case)	11937 Main Street P.O. Box 305 Fort Jones, CA 96032	468-2406  Fax 468-4006
Anav Tribal Health Clinic	Medi-Cal, private Insurance or cash Sliding Fee Schedule for income eligible residents Serves all ages	9024 Sniktaw Lane Fort Jones, CA 96032	468-4470 ext. 307  Fax 468-4478
<b>HAPPY CAMP, CA</b>			
Happy Camp Dental Clinic	Medi-Cal, private insurance, cash (sliding scale fee) Serves all ages	64236 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue P.O. Box 1016 Happy Camp, CA 96039	493-1600 ext. 2150  Fax 493-5364
<b>MC CLOUD, CA</b>			
McCloud Healthcare Dental Clinic	Med-Cal, private Insurance or cash (sliding scale fee) Serves all ages	116 Minnesota Avenue McCloud, CA 96057	964-2040  Fax 964-2557
<b>MT. SHASTA, CA</b>			
Christopher Carney DDS	Private Insurance or cash Serves all ages (conscious sedation)	611 S. A Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	926-2415  Fax 926-2752
Kimberly Centeno DDS	Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	407 Pine Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	918-9055  Fax 918-9059
Jeff Morley DDS	Private Insurance, some Covered California Dental Plans or cash only Serves all ages (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry depending on the case)	705 S. A Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	926-5296  Fax 926-0520



John McGaughey DDS	Medi-Cal, private insurance or cash (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry depending on the case) Serves ages 5+.	326 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd. Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	926-6441  Fax 926-6441
Angela Ferrari DDS Closed Fridays	Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	301 East Alma Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	918-9522  Fax 918-9526
Rob Shoff DDS 1 Thursday/month at Dr. Ferrari's office	Orthodontics only Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	301 East Alma Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96067	223-2622  Fax 223-1307
Kevin Shearer DDS	Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	701 Pine Street Mt. Shasta, CA 96097	926-6333
<b>WEED, CA</b>			
Todd Weaver DDS	Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry depending on the case)	591 Main Street Weed, CA 96094	938-1410  Fax 938-2196
<b>YREKA, CA</b>			
Karuk Clinic	Medi-Cal, Private Insurance or cash sliding scale fee, serves all ages (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry depending on the case)	1519 S. Oregon Street Yreka, CA 96097	842-9200 Ext. 2  Fax 842-9217
Douglas Langford DDS	Private Insurance or cash only	1012 Fourth Street Yreka, CA 96097	842-4592  Fax 842-2704
Larry Meyer DDS	Private Insurance or cash only (conscious sedation & surgical dentistry, implants, wisdom teeth removal & root canals) Serves ages 3 & up	518 N. Main Street Yreka, CA 96097	842-1689  Fax 842-7487
Schalo Orthodontics	Orthodontics Private Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	213 W Miner St Ste B Yreka, CA 96097	842-5320  Fax 842-1326
Siskiyou Smile Design	Private, Group Insurance or cash only Serves all ages	544 N. Main Street Yreka, CA 96097	842-3900  Fax 842-3312
Family Smiles Dentistry	Private Insurance, Care Credit or cash only Serves ages 5 & up	444 W. Miner Street Yreka, CA 96097	842-7323  Fax 842-4320
Evergreen Dentistry	Private Insurance or cash only (conscious sedation) Serves ages 4 & up	310 Evergreen Lane Yreka, CA 96097	842-2558  Fax 842-9011
Fairchild Dental Clinic	Medi-Cal and Partnership only Only accepting ages 0-17 Currently not accepting adult patients	475 Bruce St. Suite 600 Yreka Ca, 96097	842-3507  Fax 841-2050



# General Public - Oral Health Survey

The Siskiyou County Public Health Department and the Local Oral Health Program wants to learn about oral health and dental health needs in your community. Your responses to this survey will help us better understand oral health in Siskiyou County and identify services that can improve oral health. Please take a moment to answer these questions about your oral health practices and access to services. Your responses will remain anonymous. Thank you for your time! (n=201)

1. How old are you?: Average age = 40

2. What is your gender?

<input type="radio"/> Female	81.6%
<input type="radio"/> Male	18.4%

3. What county do you live in?

<input type="radio"/> Siskiyou	99.5%
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4. What is your Zip Code?

96025 (5.3%)   96032 (3.2%)   96064 (8.4%)   96094 (26.3%)   96097 (49%)
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5. What is your approximate average household income?

<input type="radio"/> \$0.00 - \$10,000	13.5%
<input type="radio"/> \$10,001 - \$25,000	37%
<input type="radio"/> \$25,001 - \$50,000	21.5%
<input type="radio"/> \$50,001+	27.5%
<input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say	1%

6. Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please only choose one)

<input type="radio"/> White/Caucasian	80.6%
<input type="radio"/> American Indian or Alaskan Native	7%
<input type="radio"/> Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
<input type="radio"/> Black or African America	1%
<input type="radio"/> Hispanic	11%

7. Do you use tobacco products?

<input type="radio"/> Cigarettes	24.2%
<input type="radio"/> Smokeless tobacco ('chew')	2.5%
<input type="radio"/> Vape	1%
<input type="radio"/> No – I do not use tobacco products	70.9%
<input type="radio"/> Other	1.4%



8. Do you have any kind of insurance coverage that pays for some or all of your routine dental care?

<input type="radio"/> Private insurance	31.5%
<input type="radio"/> Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal/Medicaid	46%
<input type="radio"/> Indian Health Services	2%
<input type="radio"/> Covered California	0%
<input type="radio"/> Care Card	0%
<input type="radio"/> Self-Pay/Cash	0%
<input type="radio"/> HSA	0%
<input type="radio"/> No insurance	16%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/not sure	5.5%
<input type="radio"/> Other	

9. How long has it been since you last visited the dentist?

<input type="radio"/> Within the past year (0-12 months)	44.3%
<input type="radio"/> Within the last 2 years	23.4%
<input type="radio"/> Within the past 5 years	17.9%
<input type="radio"/> 5+ years ago	14.4%
<input type="radio"/> Never	0%

10. If it has been longer than 1 year, what is the main reason you have not visited the dentist in in the last year?

<input type="radio"/> Fear, apprehension, nervousness, pain, dislike going	8.5%
<input type="radio"/> Cost	34.9%
<input type="radio"/> Don't have or know a dentist	10.9%
<input type="radio"/> Cannot get to the office/clinic (too far away, no transportation, no appointment available)	30.2%
<input type="radio"/> No reason to go (no problems, no teeth)	6.2%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/not sure why	9.3%
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	0%

11. How many of your teeth have been removed because of tooth decay or gum disease? (Please do not include teeth lost for other reasons such as injury or orthodontics)

<input type="radio"/> 0	52%
<input type="radio"/> 1	12%
<input type="radio"/> 2	7%
<input type="radio"/> 3	7%
<input type="radio"/> 4	4.5%
<input type="radio"/> 5	3%
<input type="radio"/> 6 or more, but not all	11%
<input type="radio"/> All	1%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/not sure	2.5%



12. How many cavities have you had in your permanent teeth?

<input type="radio"/> 0	7.5%
<input type="radio"/> 1	3%
<input type="radio"/> 2	7%
<input type="radio"/> 3	7%
<input type="radio"/> 4	11.9%
<input type="radio"/> 5	7%
<input type="radio"/> 6+	45.3%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/not sure	11.4%
<input type="radio"/> I have never gone to the dentist	0%

13. How often do you go to the dentist for routine dental care?

<input type="radio"/> Every 6 months	29.4%
<input type="radio"/> Once a year	14.4%
<input type="radio"/> Every 2 years	13.4%
<input type="radio"/> Only when I have a problem	35.8%
<input type="radio"/> I don't visit the dentist because I don't have teeth or I have dentures	2%
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	5%

14. What was the purpose of your last dental visit?

<input type="radio"/> Routine/cleaning/scheduled visit for check-up	46.8%
<input type="radio"/> To fix cavities	20.9%
<input type="radio"/> Emergency-for pain	11.9%
<input type="radio"/> Gum treatment	2.5%
<input type="radio"/> Extraction (tooth removal)	10%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know	1.5%
<input type="radio"/> Other	6.4%

15. How would you describe the condition of your teeth?

<input type="radio"/> Excellent	10.9%
<input type="radio"/> Good	27.4%
<input type="radio"/> Fair	38.3%
<input type="radio"/> Poor	23.4%
<input type="radio"/> Other	0%

16. If you are pregnant, have you had a dental visit during your pregnancy?

<input type="radio"/> Yes	4.5%
<input type="radio"/> No	14%
<input type="radio"/> I have one scheduled	0%
<input type="radio"/> Not pregnant/does not apply	81.5%



17. Do you have Children?\*

\*If you answer no, please continue to question #23

<input type="radio"/> Yes	74.6%
<input type="radio"/> No	25.4%

18. How long has it been since your child(ren) last visited the dentist or dental clinic for any reason? Please include all types of dentists such as orthodontics, oral surgeons, and all other dental specialists, as well as dental hygienists?

<input type="radio"/> 6 months or less	53.4%
<input type="radio"/> More than 6 months but not more than 1 year	15.1%
<input type="radio"/> More than 1 year ago, but not more than 3 years ago	15.1%
<input type="radio"/> More than 3 years ago	2.1%
<input type="radio"/> Have never been to the dentist	8.2%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/don't remember	6.2%

19. What was the main reason your child(ren) last visited the Dentist?

<input type="radio"/> Check-up, examination or cleaning	72.7%
<input type="radio"/> Something was wrong, pain hurting, bothering the child	12.9%
<input type="radio"/> Went for treatment of condition that the dentist discovered at an earlier check-up	5.8%
<input type="radio"/> Other: Couldn't find a dentist, couldn't get an appointment	8.6%

20. During the past 12 months, was there a time when you wanted dental care for your child(ren) but could not get it?

<input type="radio"/> Yes	42.4%
<input type="radio"/> No	53.5%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know/don't remember	4.2%

21. What was the main reason your child(ren) could not get the dental care you wanted for him/her?

<input type="radio"/> Cost	9.3%
<input type="radio"/> No insurance	7%
<input type="radio"/> Dentist did not accept Medi-cal/Denti-Cal/insurance	36%
<input type="radio"/> No way to get there	1.2%
<input type="radio"/> Dental problem not serious enough	2.3%
<input type="radio"/> Difficultly getting an appointment	18.6%
<input type="radio"/> No dentist available/didn't know where to go	8.1%
<input type="radio"/> Appointment times were not convenient	1.2%
<input type="radio"/> Speak a difference language	1.2%
<input type="radio"/> Don't like/trust/believe in dentists	1.2%
<input type="radio"/> Other: _____	13.9%



22. During the past 6 months, did your child(ren) have a toothache more than once or complain of pain when biting or chewing?

<input type="radio"/> Yes	23.6%
<input type="radio"/> No	71.4%
<input type="radio"/> Don't know	5%

23. Do you have any additional comments, questions or concerns about the oral health needs or issues in Siskiyou County?

- "I can't imagine how anyone has any teeth in this county. My children and I have the tribe, but even that is hit and miss and I don't have any insurance to see anyone else. SC is severely lacking in dental services for poor families and dental health is a cornerstone to a good life."
- "It's hard to find a dentist that accepts Medi-Cal for adults."
- "Sedation dentistry is not available in Siskiyou County."
- "Dentist here is too full and busy all the time so it's hard to get appointment when needed."
- "There is a lack of providers that accept Denti-Cal and do root canals."
- "This county needs more access to dental care, especially emergency care."
- "Many local residents are unable to afford dental care for themselves and their children, even when employed. Many children in local classrooms have poor dental health routines and hygiene because of a lack of adult role modeling, often due to expense. This creates a tragic cycle within many families."
- "Pediatric specialist would be nice I travel to Oregon for my children's dental work."
- "The lack of availability to see a dentist(for Medi-Cal patients) in a timely manner is the only reason I have had 85% of my teeth removed, because they decayed to the point of not being save able by the time I was able to see the dentist."
- "Lack of dentists who work with children or who accept MediCal really is an issue for our kids in this county. Accessibility in the outlying areas is a real problem for those who have no or limited transportation to get to Yreka...Dental screenings done at schools are nice - but what does the family do when they get the note home saying their child needs dental work and they do not have or can't access a dentist. For some families, just the cost of new toothbrushes and toothpaste may not fit in the budget."
- "We need all the help we can get. The ones we have are booked out over 1 year."
- "No available specialist for children with severe dental issues to be seen by. Out of area specialist are booked out and not scheduling."
- "I do know a lot of the children at my son's school don't get dental care because they cannot afford it. I also think a lot of people don't make it important in their life."
- "It would be nice to have an oral surgeon in the area."
- "If young children may need anesthesia for cavity, referrals are to out of town dentists. We need providers closer to home."





## Dental Providers - Oral Health Survey

Please complete this brief survey to help Siskiyou County Public Health Department and the Local Oral Health Program to better understand the dental health services available in Siskiyou County, as well as your perspective on the oral health of Siskiyou County residents. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us plan for activities and interventions to improve overall oral health in our communities. Thank you!

1. Date:\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Name of Dental Practice/Clinic:\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Please select your profession or training level. Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> Dentist	5
<input type="radio"/> Registered Dental Hygienist	1
<input type="radio"/> Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice	0
<input type="radio"/> Registered Dental Hygienist in Extended Functions	0
<input type="radio"/> Dental Assistant	2
<input type="radio"/> Registered Dental Assistant	0
<input type="radio"/> Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions	1
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): Clinic Manager	4

4. How many years have you worked in your current profession? Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> 0-4 years	3
<input type="radio"/> 5-9 years	4
<input type="radio"/> 10-14 years	2
<input type="radio"/> 15-19 years	0
<input type="radio"/> 20+ years	4

5. What languages are spoken to communicate with patients in the practice(s) where you work? (e.g. you or other staff who can speak these languages)? Please select all that apply.

<input type="radio"/> English	13
<input type="radio"/> Spanish	3
<input type="radio"/> Hmong	0
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): _____	0

6. What populations are you trained and equipped to see in your practice(s)? Please select all that apply.

<input type="radio"/> Children under 2 years	8
<input type="radio"/> Children 2 years and older	11
<input type="radio"/> Teens	13
<input type="radio"/> Adults	13
<input type="radio"/> Older Adults (ages 65 and older)	13
<input type="radio"/> Special needs/disability	8



<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): _____	
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7. Do you currently have any hospital rights or affiliations in Siskiyou County in order to sedate patients and perform extractions and surgeries? Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> Yes	1
<input type="radio"/> No	10
<input type="radio"/> Not applicable	2

8. In the past 12 months, have you worked with any schools in Siskiyou County to provide dental screenings and/or dental sealants to student's onsite? Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> Yes	3
<input type="radio"/> No	9
<input type="radio"/> Not applicable/ Prefer not to answer	1

9. Does your dental practice(s) accept Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal insurance? Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> Yes	10
<input type="radio"/> No	3

10. If your practice(s) accepts Medi-Cal/Denti-Cal patients, please estimate what percentage of your practice's patients have this type of insurance. Please select one answer.

<input type="radio"/> 0- 10%	0
<input type="radio"/> 11- 25% (or up to one quarter)	0
<input type="radio"/> 26-33% (or up to one-third)	0
<input type="radio"/> 34-50% (or up to one-half)	0
<input type="radio"/> 51- 75% (or up to three-quarters)	4
<input type="radio"/> 76% - 100% (all or almost all patients are on Medi-Cal)	6
<input type="radio"/> Not applicable	1

How often do you have patients who do not show up for their appointments?

<input type="radio"/> Very frequently	1
<input type="radio"/> Frequently	7
<input type="radio"/> Occasionally	4
<input type="radio"/> Rarely	1
<input type="radio"/> Very rarely	0
<input type="radio"/> Never	0

11. How would you describe the oral health status of your patients? (Not as a result of your care, but when they come to see you)

<input type="radio"/> Excellent oral health	1
<input type="radio"/> Good oral health	2
<input type="radio"/> Fair oral health	3



<input type="radio"/> Poor oral health	6
<input type="radio"/> Severely poor oral health	0
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): All of the above	1

12. In your opinion, are there specific groups that tend to have poorer oral health and should be considered a priority for services or education? Please select up to 5.

<input type="checkbox"/> 0- 2 years old (Infants/Toddlers)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 years old (preschoolers)	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-11 years old (grade-school)	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 -17 years old (Adolescents and teens)	7
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (ages 18 – 64)	5
<input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults (ages 65 and older)	2
<input type="checkbox"/> Smokers or other tobacco users	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with special needs (physical or developmental disability)	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Low income (including those who have Medi-Cal or no dental insurance)	10
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know /Prefer not to Answer	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>American Indians/Alaskan Natives</u>	1

13. Do you currently provide Fluoride treatments to patients?

<input type="radio"/> Yes	13
<input type="radio"/> No	0
<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify): _____	0

14. If yes, what age group receives the Fluoride treatments?

<input type="checkbox"/> 0-2 years old (Infants/Toddlers)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 years old (preschoolers)	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 6-11 years old (grade-school)	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 -17 years old (Adolescents and teens)	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 18-64 (Adults)	3
<input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults (ages 65 and older)	0
<input type="checkbox"/> All patients	5
<input type="checkbox"/> We do not apply or use any fluoride treatments	0
<input type="checkbox"/> We do not apply or use any fluoride treatments but would like to in the future	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): <u>Adults by request</u>	2



15. If you serve children, what percent of your patients do you see that have untreated caries and tooth decay?

**53%**

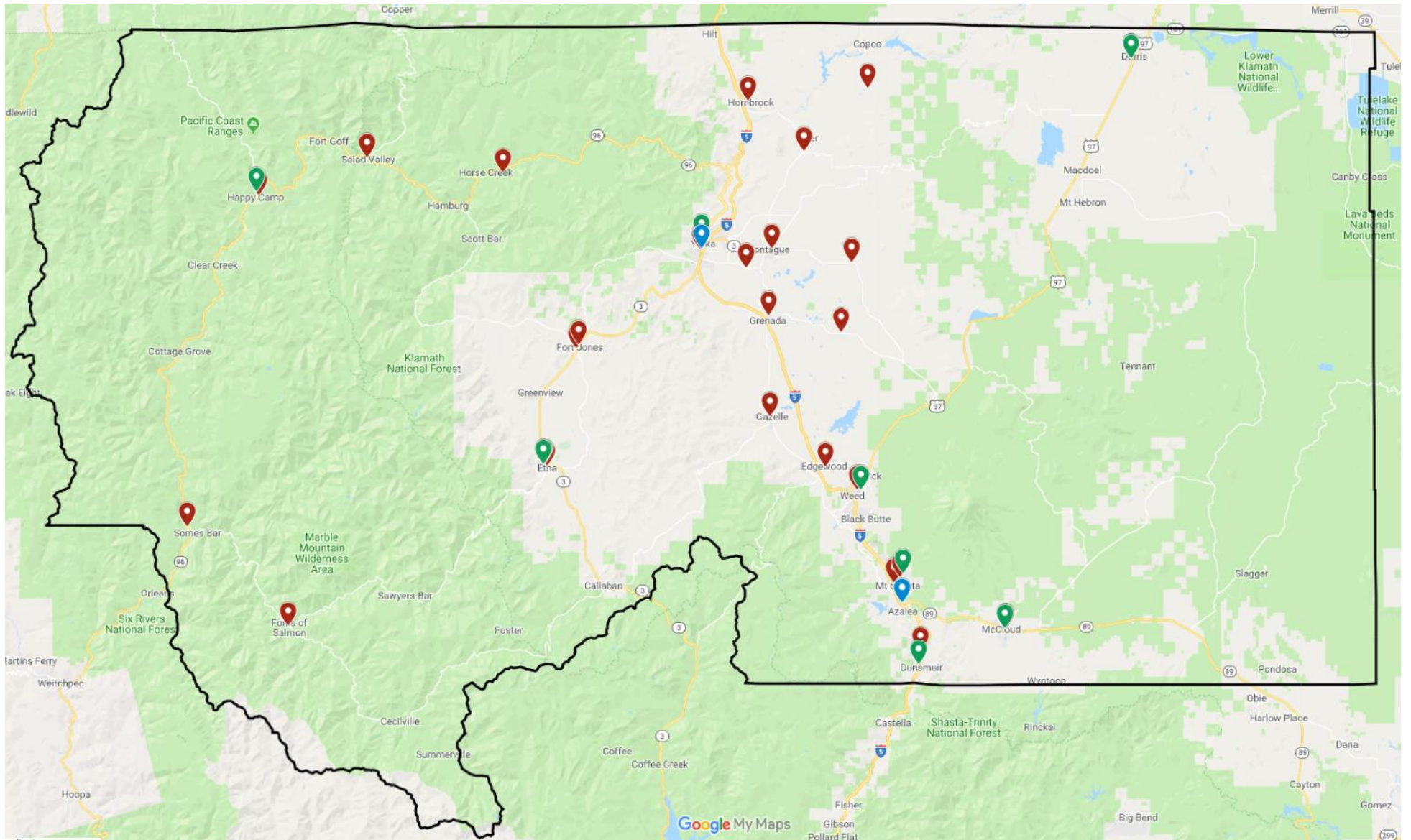
16. If you serve adults, what percent of your patients do you see that have untreated caries and tooth decay?




**59%**

17. Based on what you see as a dental provider in Siskiyou County, can you please describe what you think the oral health status is for Siskiyou County? What are common themes you see with your patients? What are some of the barriers to a person receiving dental care? Any comments or concerns?

- “We have a large group of patients that are low income. Most of these patients need extensive care. Sometimes we have to refer out. One of the biggest challenges for patients is getting to these referrals. We recently purchased a van to transport patients to referrals which has helped, but it can take a while for a ride to be scheduled. If it is a urgent need, patients struggle.”
- “It’s a mixed bag. Overall pretty good. Low income patients, people with drug issues are very challenged...I would strive to develop a good educational program for low income parents with young children. I would include fluoride in the general water supply!”
- “Patients not properly educated regarding dental hygiene/good oral health habits; lack of fluoride in the water system and lack of benefit of fluoride education; patient non-compliance with treatment plans; high patient "no show" rates, patient lack of accountability.”
- “Oral Health Status is poor, It runs in the family, parents poor oral condition hand down to children. Food / Drink selection is very poor too.”
- “Not enough dental providers to treat, educate and provide prevention measures to the community. Patients have a lack of understanding how to help decrease decay.”
- “What I see in Siskiyou County is a lack of a father and mother teaching their children how to brush their teeth. Barriers for a person receiving dental care are a lack of desire. They seem to come only when there is a tooth ache. Also there is a lack of dentist in this area. There are too many patients and not enough dentist.”
- “The oral health status is poor. Need to better oral hygiene training before the caries control.”
- “Barrier includes money for financing the suggestions that we make to patients whether it be for referrals, specialized equipment (power toothbrushes, waterpiks, etc), and accessibility to services since there aren't many offices and long wait lists to get in. Overall health status is poor, much room for improvement. Common themes among patients, is that preventive dental care isn't a very high priority. Emergency care is more so practiced- when it hurts go to the ER or dental office.”
- “Many children don't receive regular dental care. Education of the parents is important. Cost is often the barrier to receiving dental care for both adults and children.”

# Schools in Siskiyou County



 K-6, K-8
 High School
 Charter School