

ALASKA – Oral Health Assessment, 2004 (3rd grade children)

Survey results listing the mean, confidence intervals and number of children in each category from the project for state totals, racial/ethnic groups and Medicaid enrolled children were as follows (2004/2005 school year – 3rd grade children):

Caries Experience:

		<u>National (NHANES 1988-94)</u>
Total (n=1,206)	65.1% (62.3, 67.8)	52%
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=283)	87.3% (82.8, 90.9)	90% (1999 – IHS)
White (n=580)	54.7% (50.5, 58.7)	51%
Asian (n=93)	84.9% (76.0, 91.5)	
Black/African American (n=54)	53.7% (39.6, 67.4)	50%
Hispanic/Latino (n=51)	51.0% (36.6, 65.2)	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (n=21)	85.7% (63.7, 97.0)	79% (1999 – Hawaii)
Medicaid/Denali KidCare (n=336)	76.2% (74.7, 78.9)	
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=128)	91.4% (85.1, 95.6)	
White (n=99)	63.6% (53.4, 73.1)	

Untreated Caries:

		<u>National (NHANES 1988-94)</u>
Total (n=1,205)	28.0% (25.3, 30.7)	29%
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=283)	43.5% (37.6, 49.5)	69% (1999 – IHS)
White (n=580)	18.6% (15.6, 22.1)	26%
Asian (n=93)	49.5% (38.9, 60.0)	
Black/African American (n=54)	29.6% (18.0, 43.6)	36%
Hispanic/Latino (n=50)	30.0% (17.9, 44.6)	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (n=21)	52.4% (29.8, 74.3)	39% (1999 – Hawaii)
Medicaid/Denali KidCare (n=336)	34.2% (33.1, 36.2)	
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=128)	50.8% (41.8, 59.7)	
White (n=99)	15.2% (8.7, 23.8)	

Dental Sealants Present:

		<u>National (NHANES 1988-94)</u>
Total (n=1,206)	52.4% (49.5, 55.3)	23%
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=283)	67.8% (62.1, 73.3)	55% (1999 – IHS)
White (n=580)	51.0% (46.9, 55.2)	26%
Asian (n=93)	39.8% (29.8, 50.5)	
Black/African American (n=54)	29.6% (18.0, 43.6)	11%
Hispanic/Latino (n=50)	42.0% (28.2, 56.8)	
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (n=21)	33.3% (14.6, 57.0)	20% (1999-Hawaii)
Medicaid/Denali KidCare (n=336)	57.4% (56.4, 59.1)	
American Indian/Alaska Native (n=128)	66.4% (57.5, 74.5)	
White (n=99)	44.4% (45.2, 65.5)	

Survey results reflect racial/ethnic variation in caries experience and untreated caries. The survey results also variation in caries based on socioeconomic status (with Medicaid eligibility indicating children from families with lower incomes). High caries rates in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children has been noted previously in other surveys (e.g., 1991 and 1999 Indian Health Service dental screenings of American Indian/Alaska Natives). The small number of children in the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander results in wide confidence intervals, however the results on caries experience and untreated caries warrants further investigation of this racial/ethnic groups in future assessments and some attention to prioritizing dental access strategies and dental sealant programs towards this racial/ethnic group along with other racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., Asian rates of dental decay were similar to Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander).

The survey indicates the state sealant utilization exceeds 50% (meeting the 2010 target as listed in Healthy People 2010). Survey results indicate higher dental sealant utilization in AI/AN children even for those whose parents indicate are enrolled in the Medicaid/Denali KidCare program. Survey results indicate priorities for dental sealant programs should include outreach to Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander racial/ethnic groups and to White children enrolled in the Medicaid/Denali KidCare Program.