

Health Indicator Report

Early childhood teeth and gum cleaning

Background

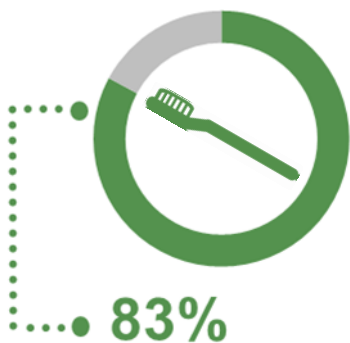
The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on teeth and gum cleaning practices for Halton children under the age of seven.

Maintaining good oral health is an important component of a child's overall health. Dentists recommend that parents begin cleaning their child's gums even before the child has teeth, and continue cleaning or assisting the child with cleaning their gums and teeth until the child is old enough to write (not print) his or her name.¹ Cleaning should occur two or more times per day, once in the morning and once at night. It is especially important that the child's mouth be cleaned before bed, to prevent bacteria and sugar in the child's mouth from causing decay overnight.²

This health indicator report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

Cleaning at bedtime

Overall Findings

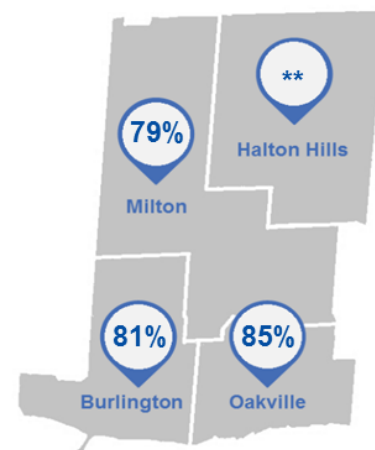


83% of Halton parents with a child under age seven reported in 2016-17 that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime.

Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime, Halton Region, 2016-17

Municipality

In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime, by municipality, Halton Region, 2016-17

Income

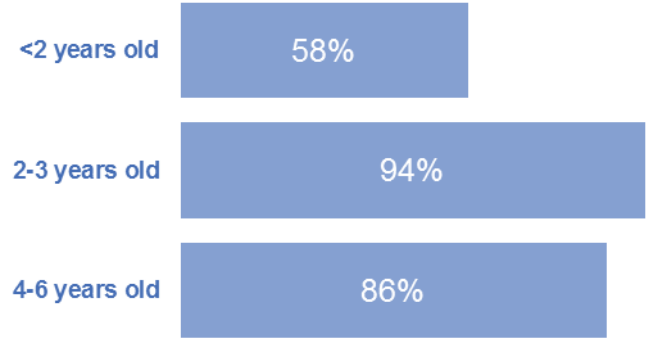
In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime, by income, Halton Region, 2016-17

Child's age

In 2016-17, parents with a child less than two years old were the least likely to report that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime. This difference was statistically significant compared to parents with a child aged 2-3 or aged 4-6.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums at bedtime, by child's age, Halton Region, 2016-17

Cleaning two or more times per day

Overall Findings

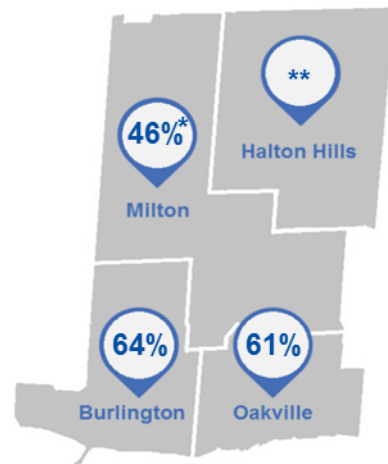
The majority of Halton parents (61%) reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day. However, 30% of parents reported that an adult only cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums once per day, and 9%* of parents said the child's teeth or gums are not usually cleaned at all.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums zero times, one time, or two or more times per day, Halton Region, 2016-17

Municipality

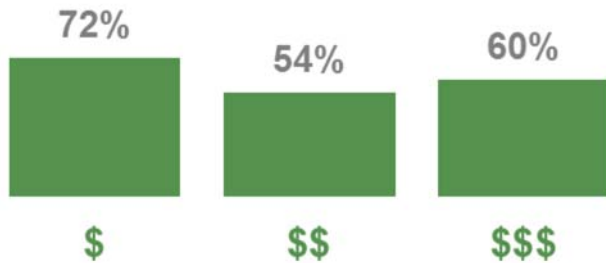
In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day, by municipality, Halton Region, 2016-17

Income

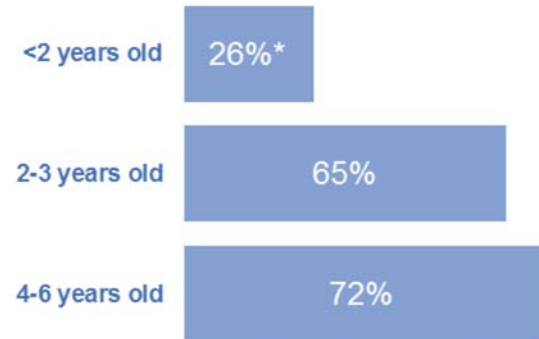
In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth two or more times per day.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day, by income, Halton Region, 2016-17

Child's age

In 2016-17, parents with a child less than two years old were the least likely to report that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day. This difference was statistically significant compared to parents with a child aged 2-3 or aged 4-6.



Percentage of parents with a child under age seven who reported that an adult usually cleans or helps clean the child's teeth or gums two or more times per day, by child's age, Halton Region, 2016-17

Data notes

For more information on RRFSS, methods, statistical significance and limitations associated with health indicator reports, please see the Data Notes and Guide available at www.halton.ca/healthstats.

Data Source: Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System, [2016-17], Halton Region Health Department and Institute for Social Research, York University.

Estimates marked with an asterisk (*) should be interpreted with caution due to high variability. Estimates marked with a double asterisk (**) are not reportable.

When a respondent had multiple children under age seven in his or her household, questions were asked about the child with the next birthday.

References

1. Canadian Dental Association. 2018. Cleaning Teeth. Accessed October 2018 from http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/oral_health/cfyt/dental_care_children/cleaning.asp
2. America's Pediatric Dentists. 2018. Baby Teeth: Tips for Parents. Accessed October 2018 from <http://mouthmonsters.mychildrensteeth.org/tips-for-parents/>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics website at halton.ca

Last Revised: October 17, 2018