

Health Indicator Report

Early childhood dental visits

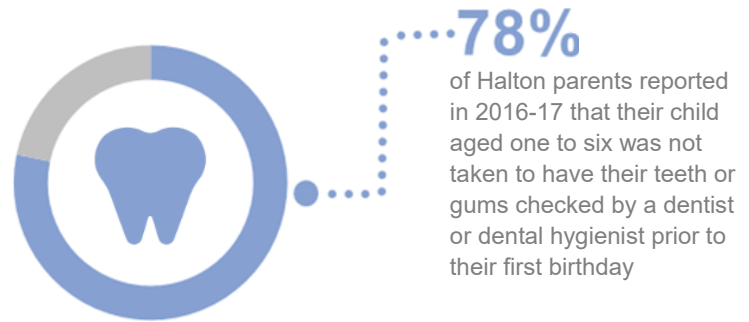
Background

The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information on the first visit to a dentist or dental hygienist among Halton children aged one to six.

Maintaining good oral health is an important component of a child's overall health. The Canadian Dental Association recommends that infants be assessed by a dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth or by one year of age.¹ This helps to ensure that children visit a dentist before they develop any problems with their teeth.²

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

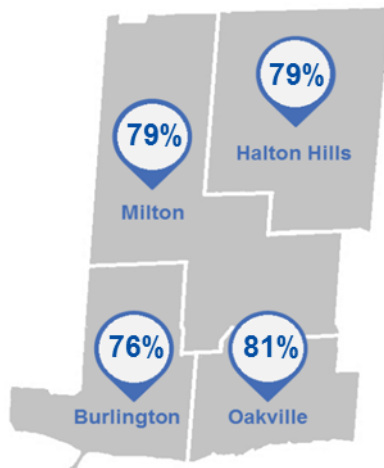
Overall Findings



Percentage of parents who report that their child aged one to six was not taken to have their teeth checked prior to their first birthday, Halton Region, 2016-17

Municipality

In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of Halton parents who reported that their child aged one to six was not taken to have their teeth or gums checked by a dentist or dental hygienist prior to their first birthday.



Percentage of parents who report that their child aged one to six was not taken to have their teeth checked prior to their first birthday, by municipality, Halton Region, 2016-17

Income

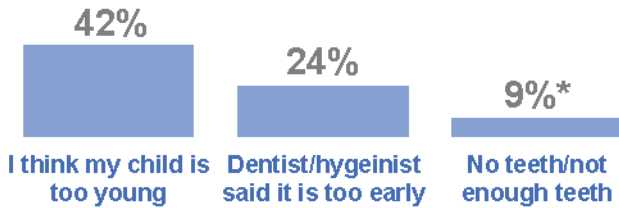
In 2016-17, there were no statistically significant differences by income in the percentage of Halton parents who reported that their child aged one to six was not taken to have their teeth or gums checked by a dentist or dental hygienist prior to their first birthday.



Percentage of parents who report that their child aged one to six was not taken to have their teeth checked prior to their first birthday, by income, Halton Region, 2016-17

Reasons for not visiting dentist

The most common reason cited in 2016-17 by Halton parents with a child who did not visit a dentist or dental hygienist prior to their first birthday was because the parent thought the child was too young. Other common reasons were that the dentist/hygienist said it was too early, or the child did not have any/enough teeth.



Reasons cited by parents with a child aged one to six who was not taken to have their teeth checked prior to their first birthday, Halton Region, 2016-17

Other responses (26%) include thinking baby teeth are unimportant, a doctor or nurse saying it was too early, the visit being too expensive, not thinking about it, or lack of time to make the visit.

Experience of cavity or decay

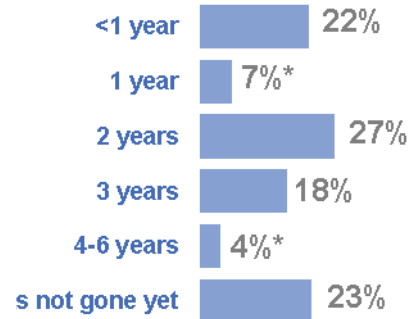
In 2016-17, 31% of Halton parents reported that a dentist or dental hygienist had told them their child aged one to six had a cavity, tooth decay, or required a filling.



Experience of cavities or tooth decay among children aged one to six, Halton Region, 2016-17

Age at first dental visit

Among Halton parents with a child aged one to six, two years old was the most common age at which to take the child to the dentist or dental hygienist for the first time to have their teeth or gums checked.



Age at child's first dental visit among children aged one to six, 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 halton.ca/.

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.

References

1. Canadian Dental Association. 2012. CDA Position on First Visit to Dentist. Accessed June 2018 from https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/about/position_statements/firstvisit/
2. Canadian Dental Association. 2018. Your Child's First Visit. Accessed June 2018 from http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/oral_health/cfy/dental_care_children/first_visit.asp

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