

# Oral health

## Health indicator report

### Background

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- The purpose of this health indicator report is to provide information about self-rated oral health, having natural teeth, and having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit in the last year, among adults aged 18 and over living in Halton Region.
- Maintaining good oral health is an important component of an individual's overall health. Poor oral health may contribute to other health problems, such as diabetes and respiratory diseases. Brushing, flossing, and visiting a dental care provider regularly are all steps that can be taken to maintain good oral health.<sup>1</sup>
- This Health Indicator Report uses data from the Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS).

### Key findings

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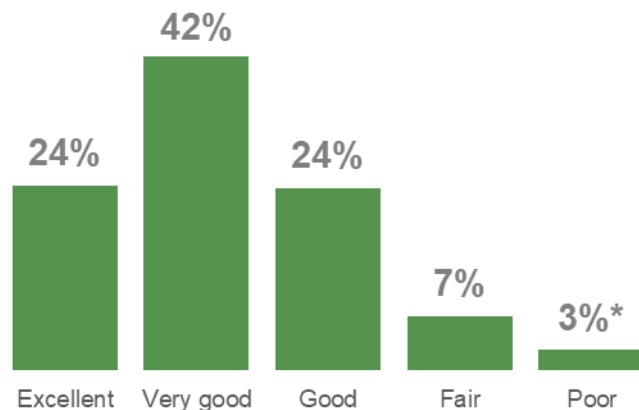
- 66% of Halton adults reported having very good or excellent oral health.
- 61% of Halton adults reported having all of their natural teeth. Adults aged 65+ were the least likely to report having all of their natural teeth.
- 72% of Halton adults reported having been to a dental care provider in the last year for a preventative visit.
- On all three indicators of oral health, adults in the lowest income group and adults who were not post-secondary graduates had less favourable outcomes.



# Self-rated oral health status

## Overall findings

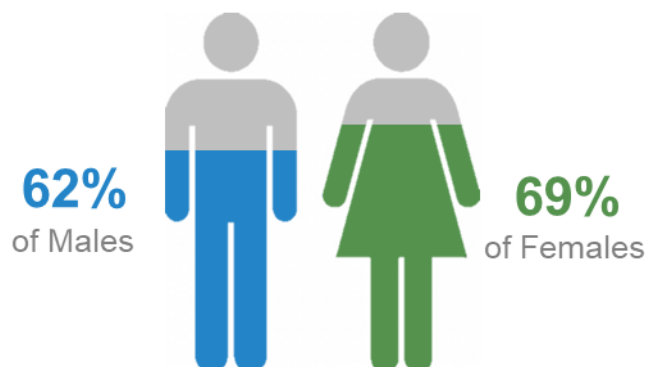
- In 2017, 24% of Halton adults reported having excellent oral health, 42% reported having very good oral health, 24% reported having good oral health, 7% reported having fair oral health, and 3%\* reported having poor oral health.



Self-perceived oral health status, adults aged 18 and over, Halton Region, 2017

## Sex

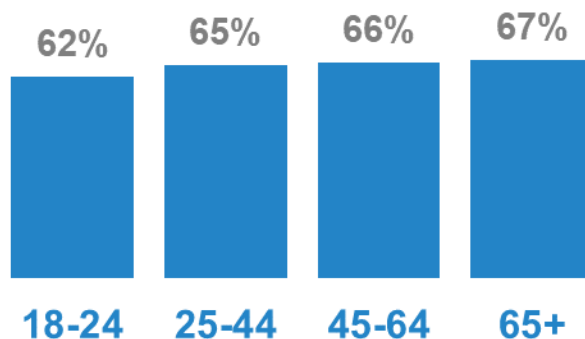
- In 2017, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of Halton adults who reported having very good or excellent oral health.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having very good or excellent oral health, by sex, Halton Region, 2017

## Age

- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by age in the percentage of Halton adults who reported having very good or excellent oral health.



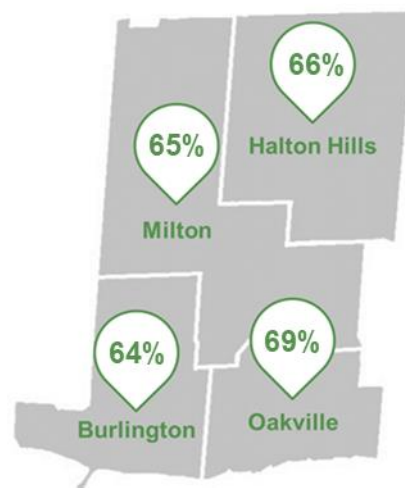
Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having very good or excellent oral health, by age, Halton Region, 2017



# Self-perceived oral health status

## Municipality

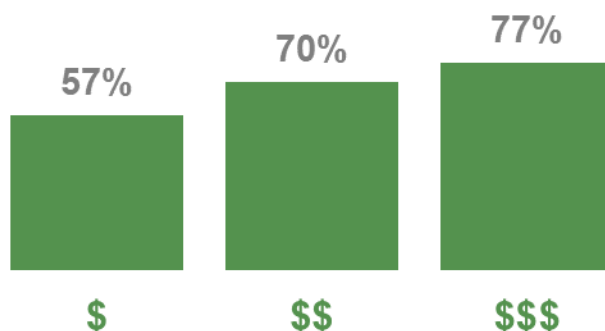
- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of adults who reported having very good or excellent oral health.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having very good or excellent oral health, by municipality, Halton Region, 2017

## Income

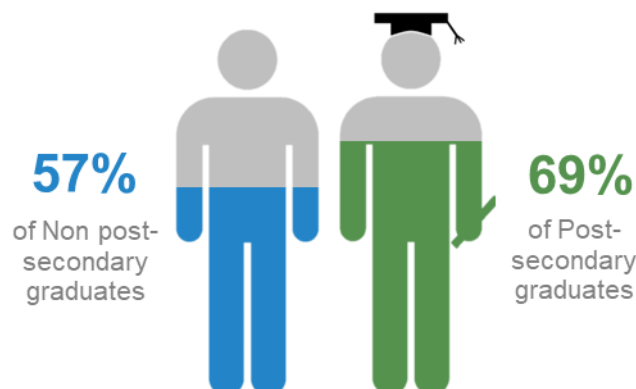
- In 2017, the percentage of adults who reported having very good or excellent oral health increased as income increased. These differences were **statistically significant** when comparing adults in the lowest income group to adults in the middle and high income groups.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having very good or excellent oral health, by income, Halton Region, 2017

## Education

- In 2017, adults aged 25 and over who were post-secondary graduates were more likely than non-post secondary graduates to report having very good or excellent oral health. This difference was **statistically significant**.



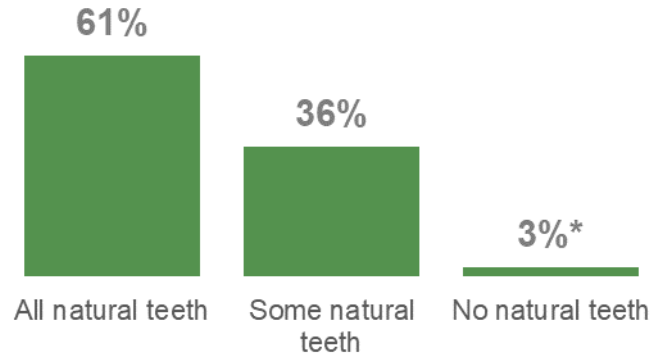
Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported having very good or excellent oral health, by education status, Halton Region, 2017



# Dentate status

## Overall findings

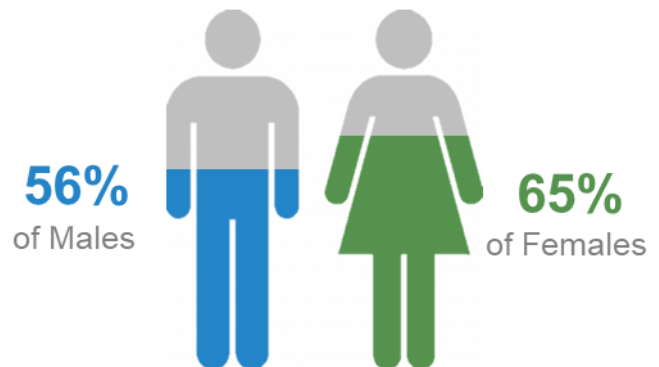
- In 2017, 61% of Halton adults aged 18 and over reported having all of their natural teeth, 36% reported having some of their natural teeth, and 3%\* reported having none of their natural teeth.



Dentate status, adults aged 18 and over, Halton Region, 2017

## Sex

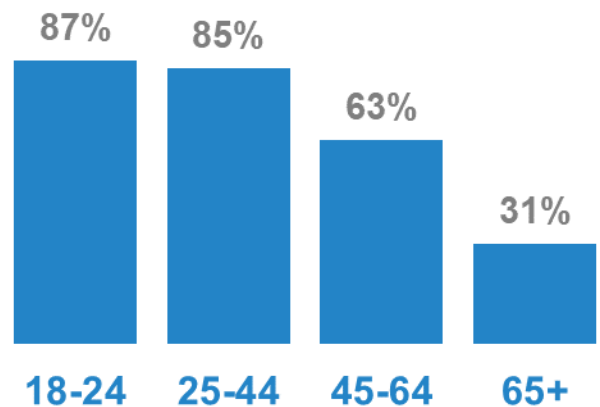
- In 2017, 56% of Halton males and 65% of Halton females reported having all of their natural teeth. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having all of their natural teeth, by sex, Halton Region, 2017

## Age

- In 2017, the percentage of Halton adults who reported having all of their natural teeth decreased with age. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults aged 18-24 and adults aged 25-44 to adults aged 45-64 or to adults aged 65+, and when comparing adults aged 45-64 to 65+.



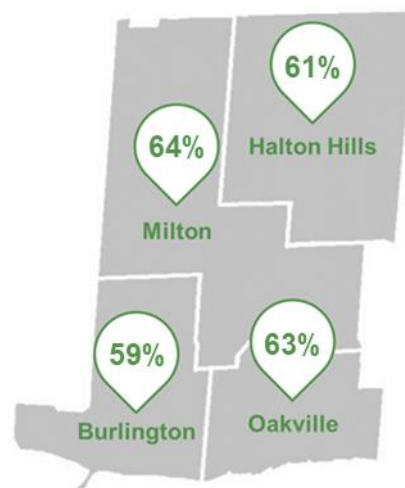
Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having all of their natural teeth, by age, Halton Region, 2017



# Dentate status

## Municipality

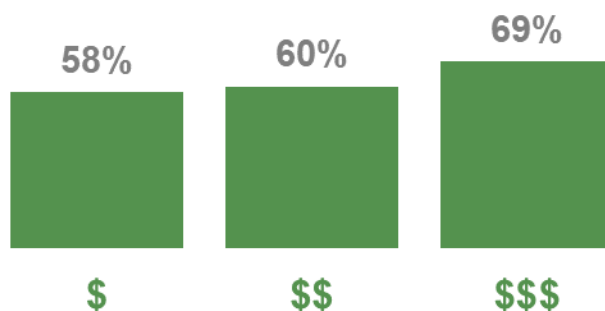
- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by municipality in the percentage of adults who reported having all of their natural teeth.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having all of their natural teeth, by municipality, Halton Region, 2017

## Income

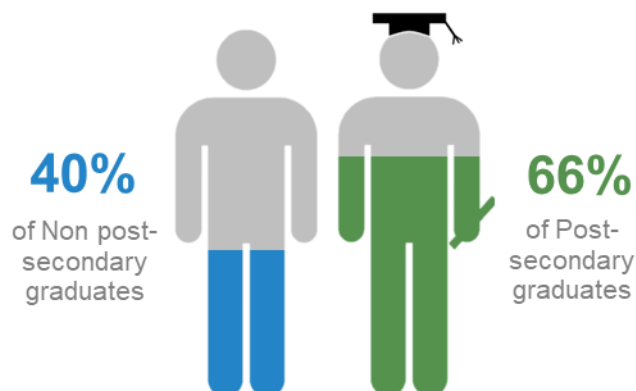
- In 2017, the percentage of Halton adults who reported having all of their natural teeth increased with increasing income, but these differences were not statistically significant.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having all of their natural teeth, by income, Halton Region, 2017

## Education

- In 2017, adults aged 25 and over who were post-secondary graduates were more likely than non-post secondary graduates to report having all of their natural teeth. This difference was **statistically significant**.



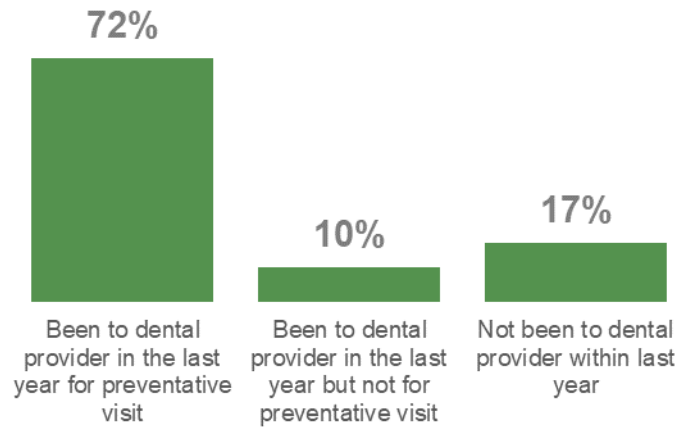
Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported having all of their natural teeth, by education, Halton Region, 2017



# Preventative visits to dental care provider

## Overall findings

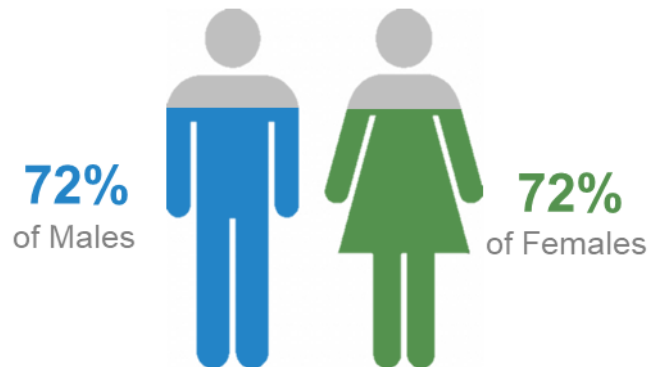
- In 2017, 72% of Halton adults aged 18 and over reported having been to a dental care provider within the last year for a preventative visit. 10% had been to a dental care provider within the last year, but not for a preventative visit.
- An additional 17% of Halton adults had not visited a dental provider within the last year.



History of visits to dental care providers, adults aged 18 and over, Halton Region, 2017

## Sex

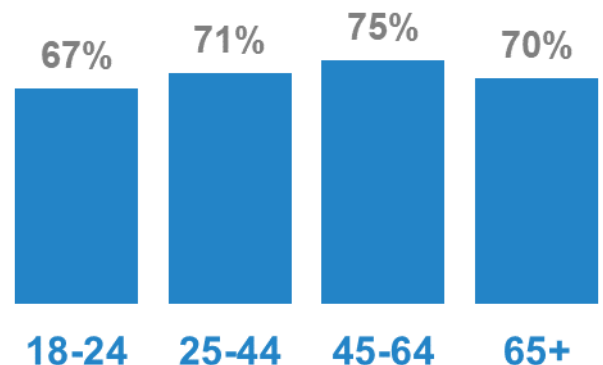
- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by sex in the percentage of adults who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year, by sex, Halton Region, 2017

## Age

- In 2017, there were no statistically significant differences by age in the percentage of adults who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year.



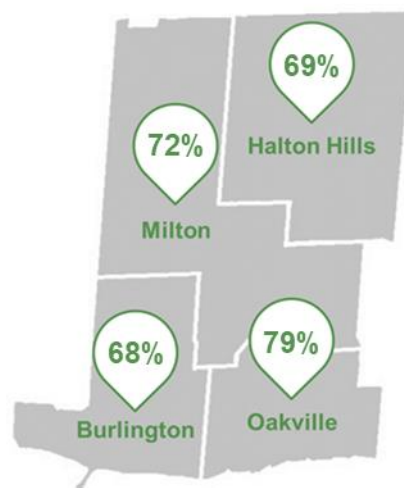
Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year, by age, Halton Region, 2017



# Preventative visits to dental care provider

## Municipality

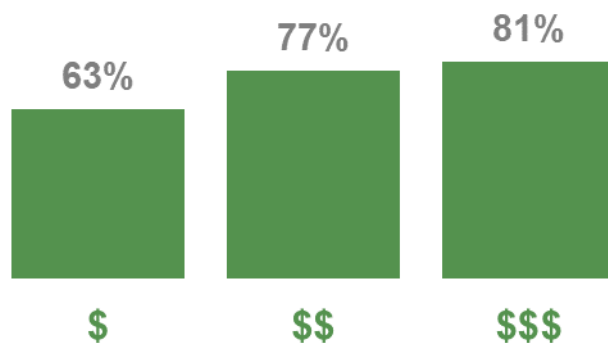
- In 2017, adults living in Oakville were the most likely to report having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing Oakville to Burlington.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year, by municipality, Halton Region, 2017

## Income

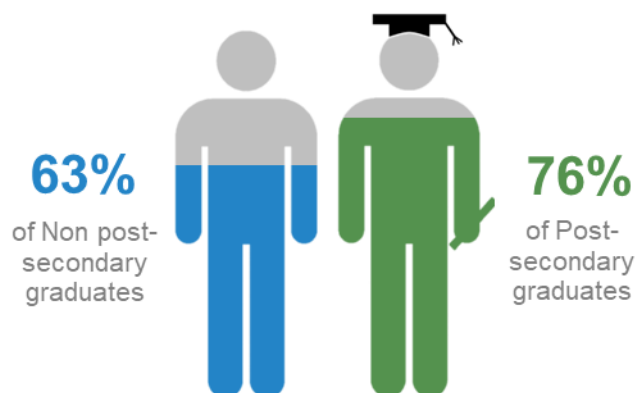
- In 2017, the percentage of Halton adults who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year increased as income increased. This difference was **statistically significant** when comparing adults in the lowest income group to adults in the middle and high income groups.



Percentage of adults aged 18 and over who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year, by income, Halton Region, 2017

## Education

- In 2017, adults aged 25 and over who were post-secondary graduates were more likely than non-post secondary graduates to report having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year. This difference was **statistically significant**.



Percentage of adults aged 25 and over who reported having been to a dental care provider for a preventative visit within the last year, by education status, Halton Region, 2017

# About RRFSS

- The Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System (RRFSS) is an on-going telephone survey (land line and cell phone) used to collect information on attitudes, behaviours, knowledge and awareness of issues related to health in Halton. RRFSS is conducted by the Institute of Social Research and York University.
- Each year, a random sample of approximately 1,200 adults aged 18 and over are surveyed in Halton Region.
- In 2016, RRFSS underwent changes in sampling and analysis methodology. Therefore, it is not recommended to compare data from the 2016 onwards to past years of RRFSS data.
- For more information on RRFSS methodology, limitations and statistical terms see the RRFSS Data Notes and Data Interpretation Guide at [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

# Data notes

## Definitions:

**A preventative visit** is a visit to a dental professional for the purposes of a regular cleaning or check-up. **A non-preventative visit** is a visit to a dental professional for reasons such as a filling, surgery, or other dental procedure. **Dental care provider** refers to dentists and other dental health care providers.

**Data Source:** Rapid Risk Factor Surveillance System [2017], 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. Health Canada. 2019. Health Fact Sheets — Dental Care, 2018 from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/82-625-x/2019001/article/00010-eng.pdf?st=fYgq0X1>

For more health indicator and health status reports, visit the Halton Health Statistics webpage at [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

*Last updated: November 2019*