

Table 28. Untreated dental caries, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2013–2016

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2018.htm#Table_028.

[Data are based on dental examinations of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Sex, race and Hispanic origin, ¹ and percent of poverty level	5–19 years				20–44 years			
	1988–1994	1999–2002	2005–2008	2013–2016	1988–1994	1999–2002	2005–2008	2013–2016
Percent of persons with untreated dental caries								
Total ²	24.3	22.5	16.6	16.9	29.5	26.0	25.1	31.6
Sex								
Male	23.6	23.7	17.6	17.4	32.8	27.0	28.4	33.4
Female	25.0	21.3	15.5	16.4	26.4	24.9	21.8	29.9
Race and Hispanic origin								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only	19.4	18.5	13.3	16.1	24.8	20.7	21.1	27.5
Black or African American only	33.9	29.2	22.6	21.0	49.2	43.4	36.7	46.0
Asian only	---	---	---	13.7	---	---	---	17.9
Hispanic or Latino								
Mexican origin	37.9	33.9	22.4	19.3	40.0	35.6	35.1	40.1
Percent of poverty level ³								
Below 100%	39.0	31.9	25.4	22.8	47.8	42.4	39.8	49.5
100%–199%	29.6	29.7	19.3	20.4	43.7	36.7	37.7	39.4
200%–399%	16.6	18.0	14.7	14.8	24.5	24.9	22.3	29.2
400% or more	*10.4	8.9	9.3	9.8	12.5	9.8	12.4	15.1
Race and Hispanic origin, and percent of poverty level ³								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	33.8	28.0	25.0	25.5	42.9	36.9	37.7	49.9
100% or more of poverty level	17.3	16.5	11.6	14.7	22.7	18.5	18.6	24.1
Black or African American only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	37.4	36.7	27.3	24.2	60.0	55.3	48.7	58.6
100% or more of poverty level	31.2	25.0	19.5	18.2	44.8	37.6	33.8	40.2
Asian only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	---	---	---	22.1	---	---	---	*
100% or more of poverty level	---	---	---	12.0	---	---	---	17.4
Hispanic or Latino:								
Below 100% of poverty level	---	---	---	20.4	---	---	---	48.4
100% or more of poverty level	---	---	---	16.3	---	---	---	32.2
Mexican origin:								
Below 100% of poverty level	47.5	40.2	25.9	19.0	52.7	42.2	42.1	50.3
100% or more of poverty level	28.0	27.0	20.5	19.9	31.2	32.5	31.0	34.4

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[Data are based on dental examinations of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

Sex, race and Hispanic origin, ¹ and percent of poverty level	45–64 years				65 years and over			
	1988–1994	1999–2002	2005–2008	2013–2016	1988–1994	1999–2002	2005–2008	2013–2016
Percent of persons with untreated dental caries								
Total ²	25.4	20.1	21.6	27.5	27.1	18.4	19.9	22.7
Sex								
Male	28.5	24.0	25.4	30.5	31.2	21.8	25.1	25.6
Female	22.6	16.5	18.0	24.5	24.1	15.7	15.6	20.3
Race and Hispanic origin								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only	21.7	15.6	17.1	23.8	24.6	16.0	17.8	19.7
Black or African American only	46.2	39.8	44.4	44.4	51.2	38.6	35.8	40.3
Asian only	---	---	---	18.2	---	---	---	29.4
Hispanic or Latino								
Mexican origin	41.4	34.3	35.4	38.8	46.3	37.9	36.4	42.8
Percent of poverty level: ³								
Below 100%	49.5	39.3	47.6	54.3	46.8	30.5	41.3	43.7
100%–199%	42.5	35.9	37.7	47.9	37.6	25.3	22.5	36.3
200%–399%	25.0	24.8	27.6	30.2	24.1	15.6	16.6	20.6
400% or more	13.0	9.6	10.0	13.1	15.6	11.1	13.1	10.1
Race and Hispanic origin, and percent of poverty level ³								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	47.6	31.2	45.4	*	38.5	*27.1	*35.6	*
100% or more of poverty level	19.7	14.2	15.4	21.6	23.9	15.4	16.1	18.3
Black or African American only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	62.9	52.5	61.0	67.2	56.3	40.1	55.7	*
100% or more of poverty level	41.2	37.7	41.4	39.4	47.8	40.3	30.6	35.4
Asian only:								
Below 100% of poverty level	---	---	---	*	---	---	---	*
100% or more of poverty level	---	---	---	16.2	---	---	---	22.8
Hispanic or Latino:								
Below 100% of poverty level	---	---	---	53.2	---	---	---	44.8
100% or more of poverty level	---	---	---	30.3	---	---	---	34.7
Mexican origin:								
Below 100% of poverty level	52.7	49.0	51.6	54.0	62.8	46.8	56.3	*
100% or more of poverty level	34.5	31.1	30.9	35.8	35.4	36.2	26.2	37.2

Table 28. Untreated dental caries, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2013–2016

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[Data are based on dental examinations of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

--- Data not available.

*Starting with 2013–2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates was assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Prior to 2013–2016 data, the reliability of estimates for earlier years was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSE). Data preceded by an asterisk have an RSE of 20%–30%. Data not shown have an RSE greater than 30%. For more information, see Appendix II, Data presentation standards for proportions; Relative standard error (RSE).

¹Persons of Hispanic and Mexican origin may be of any race. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are tabulated according to the 1997 *Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* and are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. The non-Hispanic race categories shown in the table conform to the 1997 Standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Prior to data year 1999, estimates were tabulated according to the 1977 Standards. Estimates for single-race categories prior to 1999 included persons who reported one race, or if they reported more than one race, identified one race as best representing their race. See Appendix II, Hispanic origin; Race.

²Includes persons of all races and Hispanic origins, not just those shown separately, and those with unknown percent of poverty level.

³Percent of poverty level was calculated by dividing family income by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty guideline specific to family size, as well as the appropriate year, and state. Persons with unknown percent of poverty level are excluded (7% in 2013–2016). See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty.

NOTES: Untreated dental caries refers to decay on the crown or enamel surface of a tooth (i.e., coronal caries) that has not been treated or filled. Decay in the root (i.e., root caries) was not included. The presence of caries was evaluated in primary and permanent teeth for persons aged 5 and over. The third molars were not included. Persons without at least one natural tooth (primary or permanent) were classified as edentulous (without any teeth) and were excluded. The majority of edentulous persons were aged 65 and over. Estimates of edentulism among persons aged 65 and over were 33% in 1988–1994, 23% in 2005–2008, and 15% in 2013–2016. Over time, there have been changes in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey oral health examination process, ages examined, and methodology. For more information on the methodology changes, see Appendix II, Dental caries. Standard errors are available in the spreadsheet version of this table. Data for additional years are available. See the Excel spreadsheet on the *Health, United States* website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm>.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. See Appendix I, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES).