Table 28. Untreated dental caries, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2015–2018

Excel version (with more data years and standard errors when available): https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2019.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	2011–2014	2015–2018	1988–1994	1999–2002	2011–2014	2015–2018
	Percent of persons with untreated dental caries							
Total[2]...................................	24.3	22.5	18.6	13.2	29.5	26.0	31.6	25.9
Sex								
Male....................................	23.6	23.7	19.7	13.9	32.8	27.0	32.8	28.4
Female	25.0	21.3	17.4	12.5	26.4	24.9	30.3	23.5
Race and Hispanic origin								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only...........................	19.4	18.5	16.7	11.9	24.8	20.7	27.1	22.6
Black or African American only........	33.9	29.2	23.4	15.7	49.2	43.4	46.1	39.6
Asian only	- - -	- - -	15.4	15.1	- - -	- - -	20.5	14.7
Hispanic or Latino	- - -	- - -	21.7	14.1	- - -	- - -	37.8	29.4
Mexican origin	37.9	33.9	23.8	14.0	40.0	35.6	40.0	30.0
Percent of poverty level[3]								
Below 100%	39.0	31.9	24.7	18.7	47.8	42.4	47.0	41.3
100%–199%	29.6	29.7	22.3	16.9	43.7	36.7	40.8	34.2
200%–399%	16.6	18.0	16.0	12.6	24.5	24.9	28.1	25.3
400% or more	*10.4	8.9	9.1	5.2	12.5	9.8	14.8	10.4
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	24.5	19.0	42.9	36.9	47.4	41.4
100% or more of poverty level	17.3	16.5	14.8	11.0	22.7	18.5	23.0	20.0
Black or African American only:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	37.4	36.7	27.5	19.2	60.0	55.3	56.0	48.1
100% or more of poverty level	31.2	25.0	19.3	13.8	44.8	37.6	41.3	36.0
Asian only:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	- - -	- - -	*24.2	*	- - -	- - -	24.6	*
100% or more of poverty level	- - -	- - -	13.6	12.8	- - -	- - -	19.9	13.9
Hispanic or Latino:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	- - -	- - -	23.6	18.0	- - -	- - -	43.4	41.3
100% or more of poverty level	- - -	- - -	19.7	12.0	- - -	- - -	33.3	23.6
Mexican origin:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	47.5	40.2	23.1	16.6	52.7	42.2	44.4	42.9
100% or more of poverty level	28.0	27.0	23.7	12.6	31.2	32.5	35.8	24.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 28. Untreated dental caries, by selected characteristics: United States, selected years 1988–1994 through 2015–2018—Con.

[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	2011–2014	2015–2018	1988–1994	1999–2002	2011–2014	2015–2018
	Percent of persons with untreated dental caries							
Total[2].....................................	25.4	20.1	27.2	25.3	27.1	18.4	21.8	20.2
Sex								
Male......................................	28.5	24.0	31.8	28.1	31.2	21.8	24.7	22.8
Female	22.6	16.5	22.9	22.6	24.1	15.7	19.4	18.0
Race and Hispanic origin								
Not Hispanic or Latino:								
White only............................	21.7	15.6	23.4	22.5	24.6	16.0	18.6	16.9
Black or African American only........	46.2	39.8	45.4	40.8	51.2	38.6	40.7	39.3
Asian only	- - -	- - -	17.4	13.9	- - -	- - -	27.6	28.5
Hispanic or Latino	- - -	- - -	35.9	28.5	- - -	- - -	34.4	30.8
Mexican origin	41.4	34.3	40.8	32.3	46.3	37.9	46.3	34.2
Percent of poverty level[3]								
Below 100%	49.5	39.3	54.2	52.1	46.8	30.5	44.0	40.2
100%–199%	42.5	35.9	45.0	38.1	37.6	25.3	36.8	33.2
200%–399%..........................	25.0	24.8	29.2	29.3	24.1	15.6	18.3	17.4
400% or more	13.0	9.6	12.6	11.2	15.6	11.1	*9.5	11.5
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	52.2	*	38.5	*27.1	46.7	*
100% or more of poverty level	19.7	14.2	20.9	19.5	23.9	15.4	17.2	16.1
Black or African American only:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	62.9	52.5	71.7	58.2	56.3	40.1	52.9	57.2
100% or more of poverty level	41.2	37.7	37.9	36.2	47.8	40.3	38.6	33.9
Asian only:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	- - -	- - -	*26.2	28.8	- - -	- - -	*	*
100% or more of poverty level	- - -	- - -	15.4	12.1	- - -	- - -	26.7	21.5
Hispanic or Latino:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	- - -	- - -	45.6	46.7	- - -	- - -	39.0	36.6
100% or more of poverty level	- - -	- - -	33.6	23.9	- - -	- - -	33.1	27.4
Mexican origin:								
Below 100% of poverty level........	52.7	49.0	49.9	52.8	62.8	46.8	58.7	*
100% or more of poverty level	34.5	31.1	38.5	27.7	35.4	36.2	42.3	*

- - - Data not available.

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Starting with 2013–2016 data, the reliability of survey percentage estimates is assessed using new multistep National Center for Health Statistics data presentation standards for proportions. Before 2013–2016 data, the reliability of estimates for earlier years was evaluated based on relative standard errors (RSEs). 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).

[1]Persons of Hispanic or 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 conform to the 1997 standards. Starting with 1999 data, race-specific estimates are for persons who reported only one racial group. Before 1999, estimates were tabulated according to the 1977 standards. Estimates for single-race categories before 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.

[2]Includes persons of all other races and Hispanic origins not shown separately, and those with unknown percentage of poverty level.

[3]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 percentage of poverty level are excluded (9% in 2015–2018). See Appendix II, Family income; Poverty.

NOTES: Untreated dental caries is defined as 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) is not included. The presence of caries is evaluated in primary and permanent teeth for persons aged 5 years and over. Third molars are not included. Persons without at least one natural tooth (primary or permanent) are classified as edentulous (without any teeth) and are excluded. The majority of edentulous persons are aged 65 and over. Estimates of edentulism among persons aged 65 and over are 33% in 1988–1994, 23% in 2005–2008, and 14% in 2015–2018. Over time, changes have occurred 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 and data for additional years are available in the Excel spreadsheet version of this table on the *Health, United States* website at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/index.htm.

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