

WIC & Oral Health

2025-2026 Iowa Oral Health Survey



I-Smile is a statewide program that helps connect families with dental, medical, and community resources. I-Smile provides preventive dental services at WIC clinics across Iowa to prevent tooth decay and teach healthy oral hygiene habits.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic illness among children and can affect learning, speaking, and eating. From October 2025 through February 2026, an oral health survey used I-Smile program data from screenings of WIC-enrolled children ages 1 through 4 years old to assess their oral health status, access to care, and needs. Key findings are summarized below.

11% of WIC-enrolled children ages 1-4 had **history of tooth decay**

This includes children with untreated decay (8%) and/or filled teeth (4%)

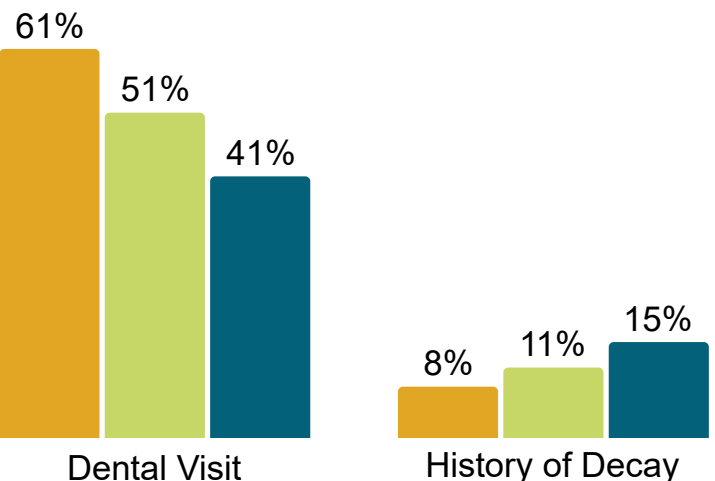


Recommendation:
First dental visit by age 1



Actual:
Only **28%** of WIC-enrolled 1-year-olds had ever had a dental visit

Urban Micropolitan Rural



Children screened in **rural** counties were:

- Less likely to have had a dental visit
- More likely to have tooth decay



Hispanic children were 2x more likely to have tooth decay than non-Hispanic children