



Ohio Healthy Students Profiles

Overview of 2023 Release

The Ohio Department of Education, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, released the fourth annual edition of the ***Ohio Healthy Students Profiles***.

The link between health and education is well documented. [Healthy People 2030](#) emphasizes that a strong educational experience creates opportunities to improve an individual's health through increased income, healthy behaviors, social and psychological benefits and healthier neighborhoods. In contrast, poor health can negatively affect educational achievement by causing poor attendance, concentration problems and learning disabilities. Students experience greater success when they feel healthy, safe, engaged in learning and supported by caring relationships. Healthy students are more likely to attend school regularly, enjoy learning and develop positive social skills.

There is a separate [profile for most public districts and schools](#) in Ohio which includes measures on health care interactions, health conditions and education indicators for the Medicaid-participating subgroup of students.

The profiles are a data resource for educators, community health partners and other stakeholders who fill a role in helping students overcome obstacles to learning. In particular, the profiles can inform the following:

- The One Needs Assessment and planning for continuous improvement;
- Targeting the usage of Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, Base Cost Student Wellness and Success Funding, and prevention education funds;
- Implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); and
- Exploring options for school-based health care partnerships.

KEY DATA POINTS AT THE STATE LEVEL

In the 2021-2022 school year, more than 682,000 students participated in Medicaid for at least three months, accounting for 41% of Ohio's K-12 public school enrollment and matching the Medicaid participation rate for the 2020-2021 school year. Current statewide measures for Medicaid-participating students can be found on page 3. For this brief, *pre-pandemic* refers to measures from the 2017-2018 school year.

Health Care Interactions

- As described by the American Academy of Family Physicians, an **annual comprehensive well-child checkup** covers a variety of standard screenings and discussion of diet, sleep, dental care and medical, surgical, family and social histories, along with a thorough examination and review of growth. In Ohio, these vital annual visits in 2021-2022 were comparable to pre-pandemic rates. Still, only about four in 10 students (41.1%) had a comprehensive well-child checkup.
- Annual **primary care physician visits** for any reason (inclusive of well-child checkups) returned to the pre-pandemic level, with seven in 10 students (70.6%) seeing a health professional in 2021-2022.
- Annual **dental visits** began to rise in the past school year (up to 42.3% in 2021-2022). However, the rate was substantially below the pre-pandemic level. High school students were much less likely to have seen a dental professional during the year (36.4%) than elementary school students (46.3%).
- Last school year, three in 10 students (31.1%) had at least one **emergency room visit**, including 34.5% of high school students. A high rate of emergency room visits in a community can reflect limited access to more traditional and preventative primary care options.



Health Conditions

- Over one-quarter (26.9%) of students had a **behavioral health condition** in 2021-2022, a substantial decrease from 2020-2021, when the rate was 32.8%. Since primary care visits were up, this decrease in behavioral health diagnoses was likely *not* due to lesser access and screening.
The behavior health grouping includes attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, adjustment disorders, anxiety, autism, delirium, impulse control disorders, mood disorders, depression, personality disorders, substance use disorder, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, self-harm and other psychological disorders.
- **Attention deficit/hyper-activity disorder** (ADHD) affected 11.3% of students in 2021-2022.
- **Depression** and **anxiety** each affected more than one in 10 high school students in 2021-2022 (10.6% and 13.2%, respectively). Both conditions were lower than in 2020-2021 and were comparable to pre-pandemic levels.
- In the 2021-2022 school year, 9.4% of students had a **serious emotional disturbance** such as bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia or self-harm.
- The percentage of students with **asthma** was 3.9% and with **diabetes** was 0.6% in 2021-2022.

Education and Staff Indicators

- As with students overall, Medicaid-participating students experienced a decline in academic performance and an increase in chronic absenteeism during the COVID-19 pandemic. Education indicators showed signs of academic recovery across the state in 2021-2022, but the gaps between some student groups widened.
- Medicaid-participating students had **English language arts** (44.1%) and **mathematics** (33.7%) proficiency levels that were 26 to 28 percentage points below their peers not participating in Medicaid.
- Medicaid-participating students in the 2021 cohort had an **on-time graduation** rate (76.6%), trailing their peers by about 16 percentage points.
- In 2021-2022, 43.7% of Medicaid-participating students were **chronically absent**, or missing 10% or more of instructional time for any reason. While chronic absenteeism was up across Ohio, the rate for Medicaid-participating students was double that of their peers (20.9%).
- Medicaid-participating students had 35.9 **disciplinary actions** per 100 students in 2021-2022, noting that a single student can be responsible for multiple incidents.
- Statewide in 2021-2022, there were 9,033 **health professionals** (nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers) employed in Ohio public schools, for a ratio of 5.4 per 1000 students. The number of health staff increased by nearly 400 FTE since 2020-2021.



STATEWIDE PROFILE, 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

HEALTH AND EDUCATION MEASURES FOR MEDICAID-PARTICIPATING STUDENTS

Measure Type	Measure	K-12 Count	K-12 Rate	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
	Medicaid-Participating Students	682,712	-	321,182	159,632	201,898
Interaction	Comprehensive Well-Child Checkup	280,430	41.1%	42.2%	43.2%	37.6%
Interaction	Primary Care Physician (PCP) Visit	481,926	70.6%	70.9%	70.2%	70.4%
Interaction	PCP Visit <i>within 2 years</i>	567,002	83.1%	83.6%	82.6%	82.5%
Interaction	Dental Care Visit	288,506	42.3%	46.3%	41.4%	36.4%
Interaction	Dental Care Visit <i>within 2 years</i>	380,755	55.8%	59.7%	54.6%	50.5%
Interaction	Trip to Emergency Room	212,293	31.1%	30.1%	28.9%	34.5%
Interaction	Overnight Stay at Hospital	11,691	1.7%	0.9%	1.6%	3.1%
Condition	Asthma	26,533	3.9%	4.4%	3.7%	3.2%
Condition	Diabetes	4,003	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	1.0%
Condition	Any Behavioral Health Condition	183,477	26.9%	22.7%	29.7%	31.2%
Condition	Serious Emotional Disturbance	64,016	9.4%	6.6%	10.5%	13.0%
Condition	Autism	10,862	1.6%	1.8%	1.4%	1.4%
Condition	Depression (Any Type)	34,555	5.1%	1.0%	6.3%	10.6%
Condition	Major Depression	20,309	3.0%	0.4%	3.6%	6.6%
Condition	Anxiety	58,022	8.5%	4.9%	9.8%	13.2%
Condition	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	77,200	11.3%	12.1%	12.7%	8.9%
Condition	Substance Use Disorder	4,364	0.6%	<0.1%	0.4%	1.8%
Education	Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness	11,796	22.9%			
Education	Proficient in English Language Arts	159,209	44.1%			
Education	Proficient in Mathematics	136,749	33.7%			
Education	Graduating On-Time (2021 cohort)	46,694	76.6%			
Education	Chronically Absent	279,020	43.7%			
Education	Disciplinary Incidents (per 100 students)	230,332	35.9			
Staff	School Counselors (per 1000 students)	4,184	2.5			
Staff	School Nurses	2,121	1.3			
Staff	School Psychologists	2,029	1.2			
Staff	School Social Workers	699	0.4			

Health Care Interactions refer to the number and percentage of Medicaid-participating students who had at least one such interaction during the 2021-2022 school year, unless otherwise noted as covering two years.

Health Conditions refer to the number and percentage of Medicaid-participating students who had an active diagnosis with the particular type of condition during the 2021-2022 school year.

Education Indicators refer to the number and percentage of Medicaid-participating students described by each measure for the 2021-2022 school year. The denominators vary by education indicator.

Health Staff refer to the number of health-related personnel, by job assignment type, employed in Ohio public districts and schools in the 2021-2022 school year. Ratios are based on overall student enrollment.