

Ohio Healthy Student Profiles 2024



April 2024



**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Ohio Healthy Students Profiles

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce prioritizes student wellness in Ohio's schools, and the Ohio Health Students Profiles support that effort. The Ohio Healthy Student Profile shares [profiles for most public districts and schools](#), including measures on health care interactions, health conditions, and education indicators for the Medicaid-participating subgroup of students. The Ohio Healthy Student Profile highlights include the following:

- In the 2022-2023 school year, more than 703,000 students participated in Medicaid for at least three months, accounting for 42% of K-12 public school enrollment and an increase of about 20,500 students from the previous school year.
- The annual rate for **primary care physician visits** saw continued improvement, reaching 75% of all Medicaid-participating students.
- Over 220,000 Medicaid-participating students in Ohio (31.3%) had a diagnosed **behavioral health condition** in 2022-2023.
- Medicaid-participating students had **English language arts** (46.2%) and **mathematics** (36.9%) proficiency levels that were over 25 percentage points below their peers.

Educators, community health partners, and other stakeholders who help students overcome obstacles to learning can use the profiles as a tool for awareness and planning.

OVERVIEW OF 2024 RELEASE

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, released the fifth 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 an individualized [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 and Student Wellness and Success Funding](#);
- Implementation of [prevention education](#); and
- Exploring options for [school-based health care](#) partnerships.

KEY DATA POINTS AT THE STATE LEVEL

In the 2022-2023 school year, more than 703,000 students participated in Medicaid for at least three months, accounting for 42% of Ohio's K-12 public school enrollment and up by about 20,500 students from the previous 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. About four in ten Medicaid-participating students (42.7%) had a well-child checkup in 2022-2023, a comparable rate to last year and pre-pandemic.
- The annual rate for **primary care physician visits** saw continued improvement, reaching 75% of all Medicaid-participating students in 2022-2023. This is over a four-point increase from last year when 70.6% saw a health care practitioner (for any reason, including well visits) and even higher than statewide rates just before the pandemic.
- Due to lag in dental claims data, the school year 2022-2023 **dental care visitation** rates will not be available until later this year.
- In 2022-2023, about three in ten Medicaid-participating students (29.2%) had at least one **trip to the emergency room**. A high rate of emergency room visits in a community can reflect limited access to primary care options.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

Due to improvements in the analysis of claims information, the overall rate of Medicaid-participating students with a behavioral health condition cannot be directly compared to past rates.

- Over 220,000 Medicaid-participating students in Ohio (31.3%) had a diagnosed **behavioral health condition** in 2022-2023.

The behavioral health grouping includes attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, adjustment disorders, anxiety, antisocial behavior, Asperger’s Syndrome, autism, dementia, eating disorder, impulse control disorders, mood disorders, depression, personality disorders, substance use disorder, bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, self-harm, or other psychological disorders.

- In 2022-2023, 14.2% of Medicaid-participating students had a **serious emotional disturbance** (SED)—a subset of conditions including bipolar disorder, conduct disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, or self-harm.
- **Attention deficit/hyper-activity disorder** (ADHD) affected 13.8% of Medicaid-participating students in 2022-2023, up 2.5 percentage points from the previous school year.
- In 2022-2023, 9.3% of Medicaid-participating students suffered from **anxiety**, and 7.9% experienced **depression**. Both of these conditions were markedly higher for high schoolers than other grade bands.
- Among the lower incidence conditions, the percentage of Medicaid-participating students with **autism** was 2.3%, **asthma** was 4.2%, **diabetes** was 0.6%, and **substance use disorder** was 0.8%.

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 have shown signs of academic recovery over the past three school years. As might be anticipated, the gaps between Medicaid-participating students and their peers resemble the gaps between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students.
- Among students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2022, one in five Medicaid-participating students (20.6%) were assessed as **demonstrating readiness for their kindergarten year** on Ohio’s [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Revised](#), which covers the areas of language and literacy, mathematics, social foundations, and physical well-being and motor development. In comparison, nearly half (47.4%) of their non-Medicaid peers were assessed to be at the *demonstrating readiness* level.

- Medicaid-participating students had **English language arts** (46.2%) and **mathematics** (36.9%) proficiency levels in 2022-2023 that were over 25 percentage points below their peers.
- Medicaid-participating students in the 2022 graduation cohort had an **on-time graduation** rate (77.7%) that trailed their peers by 15 points.
- In 2022-2023, 38.6% of Medicaid-participating students were **chronically absent**, or missing 10% or more of instructional time for any reason—a rate that was double that of their peers (18.2%).
- Medicaid-participating students had 39.8 **disciplinary actions** per 100 Medicaid-participating students in 2022-2023, noting that a single student can be responsible for multiple incidents. Similar to chronic absenteeism, this rate was well more than twice that of their non-Medicaid peers (14.6 actions per 100 students).
- Statewide there were 9,283 **health professionals** (nurses, psychologists, counselors and social workers by FTE) employed in Ohio public schools, for a ratio of 5.6 per 1,000 students. The number of health staff increased by 250 FTE from the previous year and by over 600 FTE since 2020-2021.

See DEW's [Student Recovery Dashboards](#) for district and building level trends across education measures.

STATEWIDE PROFILE, 2022-2023 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	703,214	-	329,322	162,346	211,546
Interaction	Comprehensive Well-Child Checkup	300,009	42.7%	44.0%	45.0%	38.8%
Interaction	Primary Care Physician (PCP) Visit	527,412	75.0%	76.7%	74.1%	73.0%
Interaction	PCP Visit within 2 years	610,747	86.9%	88.1%	86.1%	85.5%
Interaction	Dental Care Visit*	*	*	*	*	*
Interaction	Dental Care Visit <i>within 2 years</i> *	*	*	*	*	*
Interaction	Trip to Emergency Room	205,015	29.2%	28.6%	27.1%	31.5%
Interaction	Overnight Stay at Hospital	12,812	1.8%	1.1%	1.6%	3.1%
Condition	Asthma	29,788	4.2%	5.0%	3.9%	3.3%
Condition	Diabetes	4,207	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	1.1%
Condition	Any Behavioral Health Condition	220,107	31.3%	25.4%	34.6%	38.0%
Condition	Serious Emotional Disturbance	99,514	14.2%	9.2%	15.8%	20.6%
Condition	Autism	15,906	2.3%	2.7%	2.0%	1.9%
Condition	Depression (Any type)	55,259	7.9%	1.4%	9.4%	16.6%
Condition	Major Depression	43,640	6.2%	1.0%	7.2%	13.6%
Condition	Anxiety	65,550	9.3%	4.9%	10.7%	15.2%
Condition	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	96,804	13.8%	13.9%	15.8%	12.0%
Condition	Substance Use Disorder	5,451	0.8%	< 0.1%	0.4%	2.2%
Education	Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness	10,338	20.6%			
Education	Proficient in English Language Arts	171,777	46.2%			
Education	Proficient in Mathematics	154,089	36.9%			
Education	Graduating On-Time (2022 cohort)	38,609	77.7%			
Education	Chronically Absent	254,130	38.6%			
Education	Disciplinary Incidents (per 100 students)	263,003	39.8			
Staff	School Counselors (per 1,000 students)	4,305	2.6			
Staff	School Nurses	2,111	1.3			
Staff	School Psychologists	2,070	1.2			
Staff	School Social Workers	798	0.5			

Health Care Interactions refer to the number and percentage of Medicaid-participating students who had at least one such interaction during the 2022-2023 school year, unless otherwise noted as covering two years.

*Data on dental care claims were not complete at the time of this reporting. The statewide profile will be updated with these data points when available.

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 2022-2023 school year.

Education Indicators refer to the number and percentage of Medicaid-participating students described by each measure for the 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 school year. Ratios are based on overall student enrollment.