

Healthy Students Profiles for 2023-2024 School Year



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**Department of
Education &
Workforce**

Ohio Healthy Students Profiles

Summary

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce recognizes that student wellness is crucial for students to reach their full academic potential. As an interagency data project supporting that effort, the **Ohio Healthy Students Profiles** presents a [custom set of measures at the district and school level](#) on health care interactions, health conditions, and education indicators for Medicaid-participating students. 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 2025 Release

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, released the sixth annual edition of the **Ohio Healthy Students Profiles**. The Departments recognize that a strong educational experience helps create opportunities that can improve an individual's health, including increased income, healthy behaviors, social and psychological benefits, and healthier neighborhoods, as shown in [Healthy People 2030](#). Healthy students are more likely to attend school regularly, engage in learning, and experience success.

Most public districts and schools in Ohio have a [custom profile](#) 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 2023-2024 school year, about 707,000 students participated in Medicaid for at least three months, accounting for 43% of Ohio's K-12 public school enrollment. The current statewide measures for Medicaid-participating students can be found on page four. At the state level, this year's profile points to both improvements and potential needs.

Health Care Interactions

- In 2023-2024, 43.2% of Medicaid-participating students had an **annual comprehensive well-child checkup**¹, a comparable rate to the previous year. Over 400,000 students missed this important annual checkup.
- The annual rate for **primary care physician visits** (for any reason) among Medicaid-participating students fell in 2023-2024, following multiple years of improvement. The statewide rate of 71.1% was nearly a four-point decrease from the previous year (75.0%). However, the analogous two-year rate remained strong, with nearly 85.7% of current students having visited a medical professional at least once over a two-year span.
- The annual **dental care visitation** rate for the 2023-2024 school year was 41.8%, just slightly below the last available comparison point in 2021-2022 (42.3%); only about one-third of high schoolers (34.9%) saw a dentist during the year.
- In 2023-2024, about three in ten Medicaid-participating students (31.6%) had at least one **trip to the emergency room**, an uptick from the previous year (29.2%). A high rate of emergency room visits in a community can reflect limited access to primary care options.

Health Conditions

- Over 213,000 Medicaid-participating students in Ohio (30.9%) had a diagnosed **behavioral health condition** in 2023-2024, including 37.1% of high schoolers.²
- In 2023-2024, over 92,000 Medicaid-participating students (13.1%) 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 about 13.7% of Medicaid-participating students in 2023-2024, representing over 96,000 children.
- In 2023-2024, **depression** and **anxiety** diagnoses were each below 10% for Medicaid-participating students, yet still impacted 51,000 and 66,00 students, respectively. Both conditions were markedly higher for high schoolers (above 15%) than other grade levels.
- The percentage of Medicaid-participating students with **asthma** held steady at 4.2%.
- Lower incidence conditions for students included **autism** (2.5%), **substance use disorder** (1.0%), and **diabetes** (0.7%).

¹ Per the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#), an annual comprehensive well-child checkup includes information about birth history, prior screenings, diet, sleep, dental care and medical, surgical, family, and social histories. The visit also includes a head-to-toe examination, review of growth and development, immunization status review and updates when appropriate, developmental surveillance and screenings, and age-appropriate anticipatory guidance.

² 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.

Education and Staff Indicators

- Among students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2023, one in five Medicaid-participating students (21.2%) 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 of all non-Medicaid students (49.7%) demonstrated readiness for kindergarten.
- The statewide proficiency rate across grade levels in **English language arts** (46.0%) and **mathematics** (36.9%) remained virtually unchanged from the previous school year for Medicaid-participating students. For both ELA and math, non-Medicaid students achieved proficiency at rates more than 25 points higher.
- The **on-time graduation** rate for Medicaid-participating students in the 2023 graduation cohort (78.9%) was up slightly from the 2022 cohort (77.7%) but remains more than 14 points below the graduation rate for their non-Medicaid peers.
- In 2023-2024, nearly 37.7% of all Medicaid-participating students were **chronically absent**, or missing 10% or more of their possible attendance time. Among non-Medicaid students, chronic absenteeism was 16.5%.
- There were 41 **disciplinary actions** per 100 Medicaid-participating students in 2023-2024. This rate is three times that of non-Medicaid students at 13.2. (Note that a single student can be responsible for multiple incidents.)
- Statewide, there were 9,495 **full-time equivalent (FTE) health professionals** employed in Ohio public schools, for a ratio of 5.7 per 1,000 students. The number of health staff increased by 212 FTE from the previous year—including 98 school social workers, 72 school psychologists, and 37 school counselors, along with small increase in school nurses. Since 2020-2021, the state has added over 800 FTE in school health professionals.

Statewide Profile, 2023-2024 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
Health Care Interactions	Medicaid-Participating Students	707,065	-	332,958	160,492	213,615
	Comprehensive Well-Child Checkup	305,448	43.2%	44.6%	45.5%	39.3%
	Primary Care Physician (PCP) Visit	502,684	71.1%	72.9%	70.5%	68.8%
	PCP Visit within 2 years	606,234	85.7%	87.5%	85.1%	83.5%
	Dental Care Visit	295,292	41.8%	46.7%	40.7%	34.9%
	Dental Care Visit <i>within 2 years</i>	400,978	56.7%	62.1%	55.3%	49.3%
	Trip to Emergency Room	223,353	31.6%	31.7%	29.6%	32.9%
	Overnight Stay at Hospital	12,326	1.7%	1.0%	1.8%	2.9%
Health Conditions	Asthma	29,795	4.2%	5.0%	3.9%	3.2%
	Diabetes	4,757	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	1.2%
	Any Behavioral Health Condition	218,573	30.9%	25.5%	33.9%	37.1%
	Serious Emotional Disturbance	92,366	13.1%	8.7%	14.5%	18.7%
	Autism	17,903	2.5%	3.1%	2.1%	1.9%
	Depression (Any type)	51,096	7.2%	1.3%	8.6%	15.4%
	Major Depression	38,113	5.4%	0.8%	6.2%	11.9%
	Anxiety	66,331	9.4%	5.0%	10.9%	15.1%
	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity	96,632	13.7%	14.0%	15.7%	11.6%
	Substance Use Disorder	7,033	1.0%	0.1%	0.6%	2.8%
Education Indicators	Kindergarten Ready	10,942	21.2%			
	Proficient in English Language Arts	169,719	46.0%			
	Proficient in Mathematics	152,896	36.9%			
	Graduating On-Time (2023 cohort)	40,480	78.9%			
	Chronically Absent	249,756	37.7%			
	Disciplinary Incidents (per 100 students)	274,303	41.2			
Health Staff in School	School Counselors (per 1,000 students)	4,342	2.6			
	School Nurses	2,115	1.3			
	School Psychologists	2,142	1.3			
	School Social Workers	896	0.5			

Health Care Interactions refer to Medicaid-participating students who had at least one such interaction during the 2023-2024 school year, unless otherwise noted as covering two years.

Health Conditions refer Medicaid-participating students who had an active diagnosis with the particular type of condition during the 2023-2024 school year.

Education Indicators refer to Medicaid-participating students described by each measure for the 2023-2024 school year. The denominators vary by education indicator.

Health Staff refer to health-related personnel, by job assignment type, employed in Ohio public districts and schools in the 2023-2024 school year. Ratios are based on overall student enrollment.