

Equity

Health equity is attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally, focusing on societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, recognizing and rectifying historical injustices, addressing contemporary injustices, eliminating health and healthcare disparities, and assuring structural and personal conditions are in place to support optimal health.

Health impacts

Connections exist between oral health and overall health. For example, mental health conditions, such as addiction, anxiety and depression, can negatively impact oral health, and poor oral health can exacerbate physical health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and birth complications.

What shapes our oral health?

Community conditions

- Transportation access
- Healthy food access
- Community water fluoridation
- High-quality affordable housing
- Poverty
- Trauma and toxic stress
- Educational attainment
- Broadband access

Health behaviors

- Tobacco use
- Excessive alcohol consumption
- Illicit drug use
- Nutrition, including sugar-sweetened beverage consumption
- Oral hygiene

Access to quality care

- Insurance and affordability
- Workforce capacity and availability
- Timely and efficient care
- Effective and high-quality care including culturally-competent and linguistically appropriate care
- Education and health literacy

How will we know if oral health is improving in Ohio?

Dental care outcomes

- Increased dental visits
- Increased preventive care
- Reduced unmet need

Oral health outcomes

- Reduced tooth decay
- Reduced periodontal disease
- Increased early detection of oral and pharyngeal cancers

Long-range impact

Ohio has an oral health care system that is available, accessible, and affordable for all Ohioans

Vision

Optimal oral health for all Ohioans across the lifespan

Strategies

Strategies will be developed through collaborative planning of the State Oral Health Advisory Committee and informed by consumer and provider experience, data, and evidence-based practice and policymaking.