

Infant Oral Health in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Region: 2014/15

Data on infant oral health care were collected on infants aged two weeks of age and older were collected for infants born between January 12th, 2014 and December 31st, 2015.

Where noted, data has been combined over multiple calendar years (e.g., data collected for infants born between January 12, 2014 and December 31st, 2015 may be represented by one time point for 2014 & 2015 combined).

Analysis

All measures have been weighted to account for differences in the age range of all mothers who gave birth, and those who participated in the survey. Therefore, sampling and non-response weights were calculated by maternal age group (under 20 years old, 20 to 29 years old, and 30 years or older), year, and contact point (i.e., 2 weeks, 6 months, etc.). Where possible, percentages are presented annually.

A statistic interpreted as ‘significantly different’ from another is an estimate found to be statistically meaningful; the difference is unlikely due to chance. Error bars noted in figures within this report illustrate 95% confidence intervals. If there is no overlap in range between two estimates, the difference can be described as statistically significant. Confidence intervals (CI) and variances were estimated using the exact method in STATA IC/14.2 (2014) for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) and Ontario.

Cleaning a baby’s mouth at two weeks of infant age

Over one third (37.8%; 95% CI: 34.8, 40.9) of infants’ mothers reported they cleaned their baby’s mouths at two weeks of infant age among infants born in 2014 and 2015 combined. Significantly higher percentages of infants born to mothers aged 20 years or younger or 20 to 29 years had their mouths cleaned at two weeks of infant age compared to infants born to mothers aged 30 years or older (Table 2). Significantly higher percentages of infants born to mothers with less than a high school education or who had completed high school had their mouths cleaned compared to infants born to mothers with a trade, college, and university education or higher (Table 2). Significantly higher percentages of infants in households with incomes less than \$40,000 a year had their mouths cleaned compared to infants in households with incomes of \$80,000 or more (Table 3).

Table 1. Percentage of Infants Whose Mouths Were Being Cleaned at Two Weeks of Infant Age, by Mother’s Age, 2014-2015 Combined

Mother’s Age	January 2014 - December 2015
Under 20 years	51.1 ‡ (36.5, 65.5)
20 to 29 years	41.4 ‡ (37.2, 45.6)
30 years or older	31.0 (26.6, 35.6)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from infants born to mothers aged 30 years or older

Table 2. Percentage of Infants Whose Mouths Were Being Cleaned at Two Weeks of Infant Age, by Mother’s Highest Level of Education Completed, 2014-2015 Combined

Highest Level of Education Completed	January 2014 - December 2015
Less than high school	46.1 ‡ (40.8, 51.5)
Completed high school	34.6 (29.3, 40.3)
Some college or higher	31.1 (26.3, 36.4)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from infants born to mothers with some college education or higher

Table 3. Percentage of Infants Whose Mouths Were Being Cleaned at Two Weeks of Infant Age, by Household Income Range, 2014-2015 Combined

Household Income Range	January 2014 - December 2015
Less than \$40,000	46.1 ‡ (40.8, 51.5)
\$40,000 to \$79,999	34.6 (29.3, 40.3)
\$80,000 or more	31.1 (26.3, 36.4)

‡ Estimate is significantly different from infants born to households with annual incomes of \$80,000 or more

Cleaning baby’s teeth

The majority of infants with teeth had their teeth cleaned at six months, 12 months, and 24 months of infant age (Figure 1 & Table 4). A significantly higher percentage of infants were having their teeth cleaned at 12 months of age (about 9 of every ten infants) than at six months of age (about 8 of every ten infants) and 24 months of age (about 7 of every ten infants).

Figure 1. Percentage of Infants Whose Teeth Were Being Cleaned by Infants’ Age in Months, 2014-2015 Combined

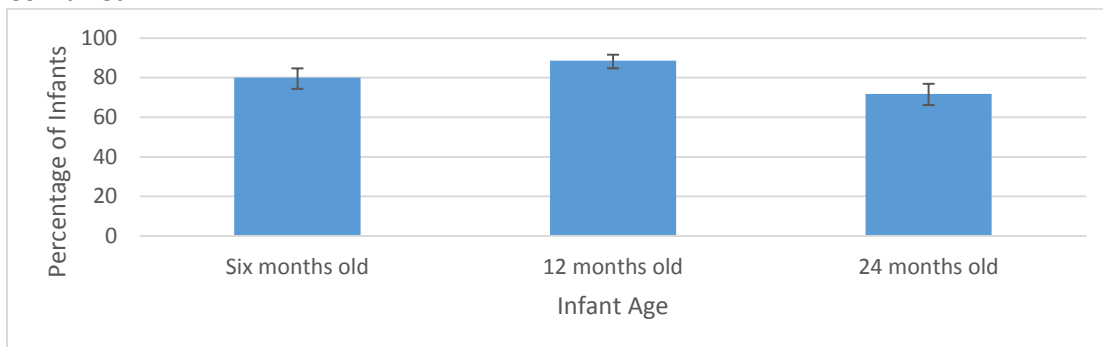


Table 4. Percentage of Infants Whose Teeth Were Being Cleaned by Infants' Age in Months, 2014-2015 Combined

Infant Age	January 2014 - December 2015
Six months	80.1 (74.4, 84.7)
12 months	88.6 (84.8, 91.6)
24 months	71.9 (66.2, 76.9)

E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Baby's first visit to the dentist

One in four infants' mothers planned to visit the dentist for their baby's first visit to the dentist at 24 months (2 years) of infant age (Figure 2 & Table 5). About one in ten infants had seen the dentist or planned to visit the dentist by 12 months of infant age. Approximately one in ten mothers' of infants were not sure when they would visit the dentist, or would visit the dentist when their baby had some or more teeth.

Figure 2. Percentage of Infants By Infant Age in Months When Infants Visited the Dentist or Their Mothers Planned to Visit the Dentist, 2014-2015 Combined

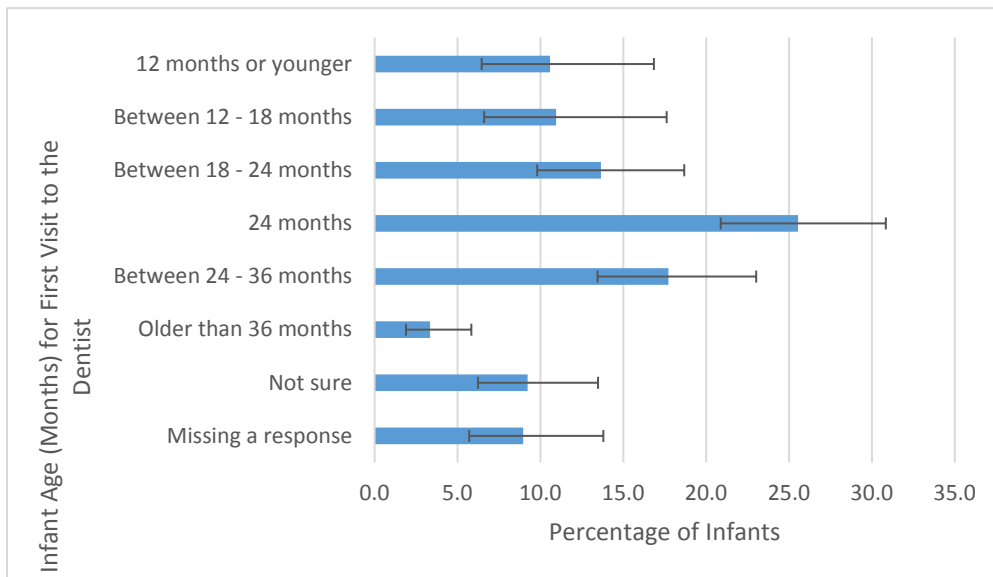


Table 5. Percentage of Infants By Infant Age in Months When Infants Visited the Dentist or Their Mothers Planned to Visit the Dentist, 2014-2015 Combined

Infant Age	January 2014 - December 2015
12 months or younger	10.6 ^E (6.5, 16.9)
Between 12 and 18 months	11.0 ^E (6.6, 17.6)
Between 18 and 24 months	13.7 (9.8, 18.7)
24 months	25.5 (20.9, 30.8)
Between 24 and 36 months	17.7 (13.5, 23.0)
Older than 36 months	3.3 ^E (1.9, 5.8)
Mother is unsure when infant will be taken to the dentist	9.2 ^E (6.2, 13.5)
Missing a response	9.0 ^E (5.7, 13.8)

^E Interpret with caution; the estimate is associated with high sampling variability

Baby drinks fluids in between meals

About 17.0% (95% CI: 12.8, 22.1) of infants born in 2015 drank fluids in between meals at 24 months of infant age.