

Technical Notes

The *Report Card* grade represents the cumulative average of the scores for Virginia’s performance on each of the nine indicators compared to national scores for the same indicators. The national score could be the national rate or an established national goal, whichever is more stringent. Each indicator was scored by calculating the **percentage difference** between Virginia’s rates and national rates/goals using the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Current Virginia Rate} - \text{National Benchmark})}{\text{National Benchmark}} \times 100 = \text{Percentage Difference}$$

The percentage difference accounts for performance relative to an established reference point – in this case, a national rate or goal. It is *not* the same as the absolute difference (subtraction) of the national rate from Virginia’s rate. Each indicator’s percentage difference is assigned a grade based on a scale of 10-percentage point increments from a midpoint of ‘C.’ **One indicator that lacks a national benchmark for comparison (providers billing for fluoride varnish application) was not graded, although it is highlighted in the Report Card in order to track Virginia’s performance in the future.** The table below summarizes the indicator grading criteria:

Grade	Points	Criteria
A	4	≥20% better than national
B	3	10 to 20% better than national
C	2	0 to 10% change from national
D	1	10 to 20% worse than national
F	0	≥20% worse than national

The overall grade for Virginia is the average of the points awarded for each indicator using a standard 4-point grading scale. The table below identifies the measure; the desired trend; the current Virginia indicator estimates and national rate; the calculated **absolute and percentage difference** between the Virginia estimates and national benchmarks; points awarded (**based only on the percentage difference**); and grades:

Indicator (changed wording of each indicator)	Desired Trend	VA %	US %	Absolute Difference	% Difference	Points	Grade
1) Third grade children with tooth decay	↓	47.4	49.0	-1.6	-3.7	2	C
2) Third grade children with dental sealants on permanent molars	↑	52.0	37.6	14.4	38.3	4	A
3) Children ages 1-20 enrolled in Medicaid/FAMIS that received a preventive dental service	↑	53.2	45.4	7.8	17.2	3	B
4) Children ages 1-2 enrolled in Medicaid/FAMIS that received a preventive dental service	↑	23.7	22.2	1.5	6.8	2	C
5) Adults ages 45-64 with any teeth lost to decay or gum disease	↓	49.6	54.4	-4.8	-8.8	2	C
6) Adults age 18+ who lack dental insurance benefits	↓	37.7	38.9	-1.2	-3.1	2	C
7) Pregnant women who had a dental visit during pregnancy*	↑	43.6	49.0	-5.4	-11.0	1	D
8) Population receiving optimally fluoridated water from community water supplies	→	96.3	79.6	16.7	21.0	4	A
9) Pediatricians and pediatric nurse practitioners billing Medicaid for fluoride varnish application	↑	4.5	Not available	Not applicable	Not applicable	--	--
AVERAGE						2.5	C+

Data Sources

1) VA Source: Virginia Statewide Basic Screening Survey of Third Grade Children, 2014-2015. National Source: *Healthy People 2020* OH-1.2: Reduce the proportion of children aged 6 to 9 years with dental caries experience in their primary and permanent teeth. 2) VA Source: Virginia Statewide Basic Screening Survey of Third Grade Children, 2014-2015. National Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2011-2012. 3-4) VA Source: Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services & DentaQuest. Virginia Smiles for Children – State Fiscal Year 2015 Pediatric Dental Participation Report. National Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Annual EPSDT Participation Report – Form CMS 416 (National), Fiscal Year 2015. 5) VA Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2015. National Source: *Healthy People 2020* OH-4.1: Reduce the proportion of adults aged 45 to 64 years who have ever had a permanent tooth extracted because of dental caries or periodontal disease. 6) VA Source: Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2013. National Source: *Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2013*. 7) Virginia Department of Health, Office of Family Health Services, Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2010-2011. National Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *PRAMStat*, 2011. 8) VA Source: Virginia Department of Health, Water Fluoridation Reporting System, 2016. National Source: *Healthy People 2020* OH-13: Increase the proportion of the U.S. population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water. *Data collection occurred prior to the addition of dental benefit for pregnant women in Medicaid in 2015. 9) VA Source: Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services & DentaQuest, 2016. National Source: None available.

For a detailed description of the *Report Card* methodology, including indicator selection criteria, **indicator calculations**, the project development, and data limitations, visit the Virginia Oral Health Coalition website: <https://www.vaoralhealth.org/reportcard/methodology.htm>