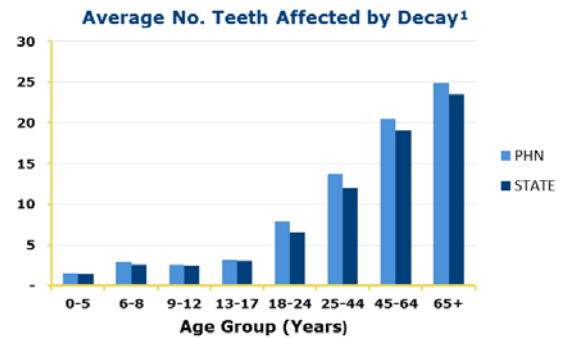


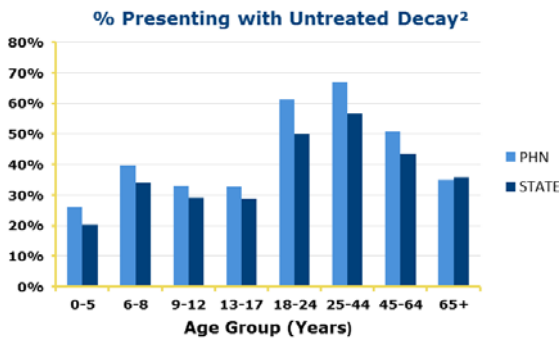
Oral health profile

Oral health status

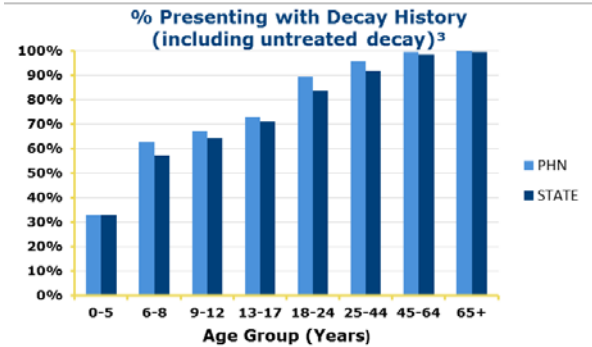
Oral health status data is collected for most clients presenting for public dental care at the initial examination before any treatment is undertaken. The data below summarises the prevalence of tooth decay for clients residing in the Murray PHN compared with the whole of Victoria. Note the data is only for clients accessing public oral health services (predominantly concession card holders) in 2014/15 and does not represent the overall general population.



Average number of decayed, missing and filled permanent and deciduous (baby) teeth [dmft + DMFT]



Percentage of individuals presenting with at least one decayed permanent or deciduous (baby) tooth [% dt + DT > 0]



Percentage of individuals presenting with at least one decayed, missing or filled permanent or deciduous (baby) tooth [% dmft + DMFT > 0]

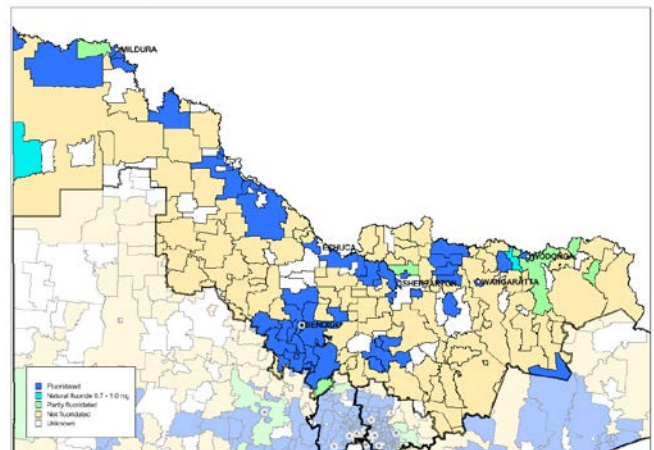
Water fluoridation

Water fluoridation helps protect teeth against decay, and is the most effective way of allowing everybody access to the benefits of fluoride. Scientific studies have shown that water fluoridation is a safe and effective way to reduce tooth decay¹. Children living in optimally fluoridated areas experience considerably less tooth decay than those in areas without optimal fluoridation.

Ninety per cent of Victorian communities now drink water with either naturally-occurring or added fluoride. Water fluoridation is an effective, inexpensive and socially equal way to reduce tooth decay in children and adults.

¹National Health and Medical Research Council. Public Statement - The Efficacy and Safety of Fluoridation

The map below provides water fluoridation levels by postcode for the Murray PHN.



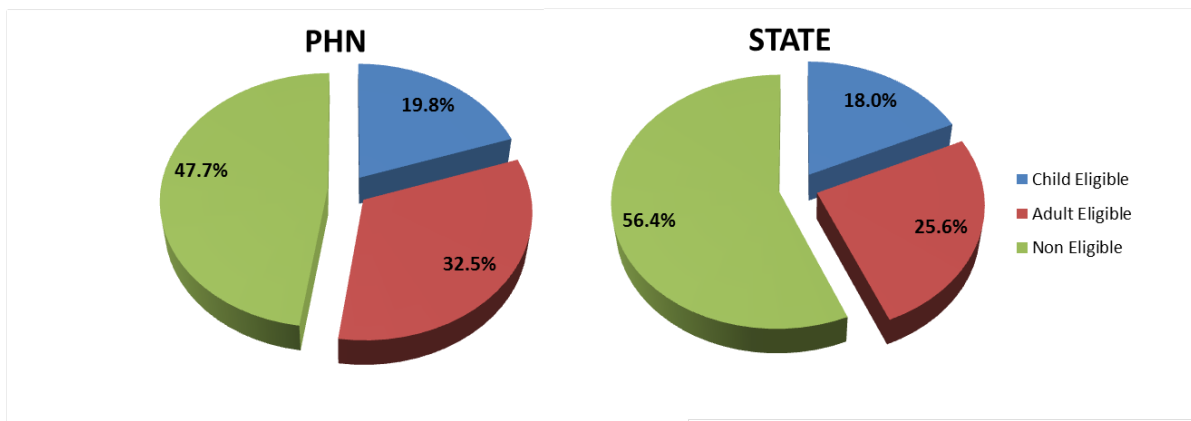
Data source: Environmental Health Unit - Dept. of Health and Human Services

Eligible population

Eligibility for public oral health services includes all children aged 0 – 12 years and young people/adults 13 years and above who are health care or pensioner concession card holders or dependents of concession card holders.

It is estimated there are just on 275,000 people (104,000 children; 171,000 adults) residing in the Murray PHN eligible for public oral health services. This represents about 52% of the total PHN population.

Over a two year period, 30% of the eligible population in the Murray PHN access care at a public dental clinic.



Access to public oral health services

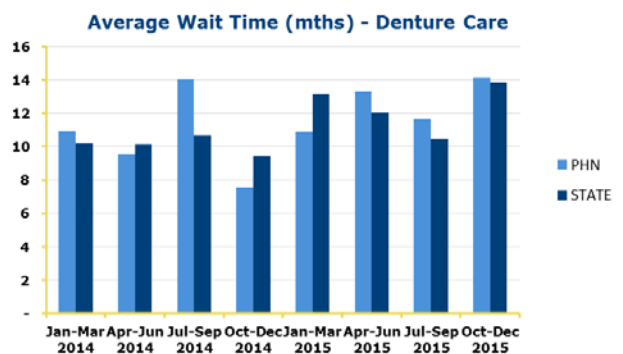
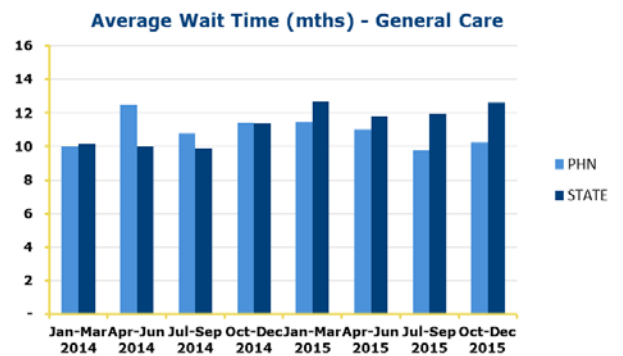
Eligible people seeking urgent care are assessed using the Emergency Demand Management Strategy and provided emergency care within an appropriate time frame. Those requiring non urgent care, that may follow emergency treatment, can choose to be placed on the appropriate non-urgent care waiting list. There are two waiting lists for non-urgent public dental care:

- General Waiting List
- Denture Waiting List

Note – people who have priority access* to dental care are offered the next available appointment and are not placed on a waiting list.

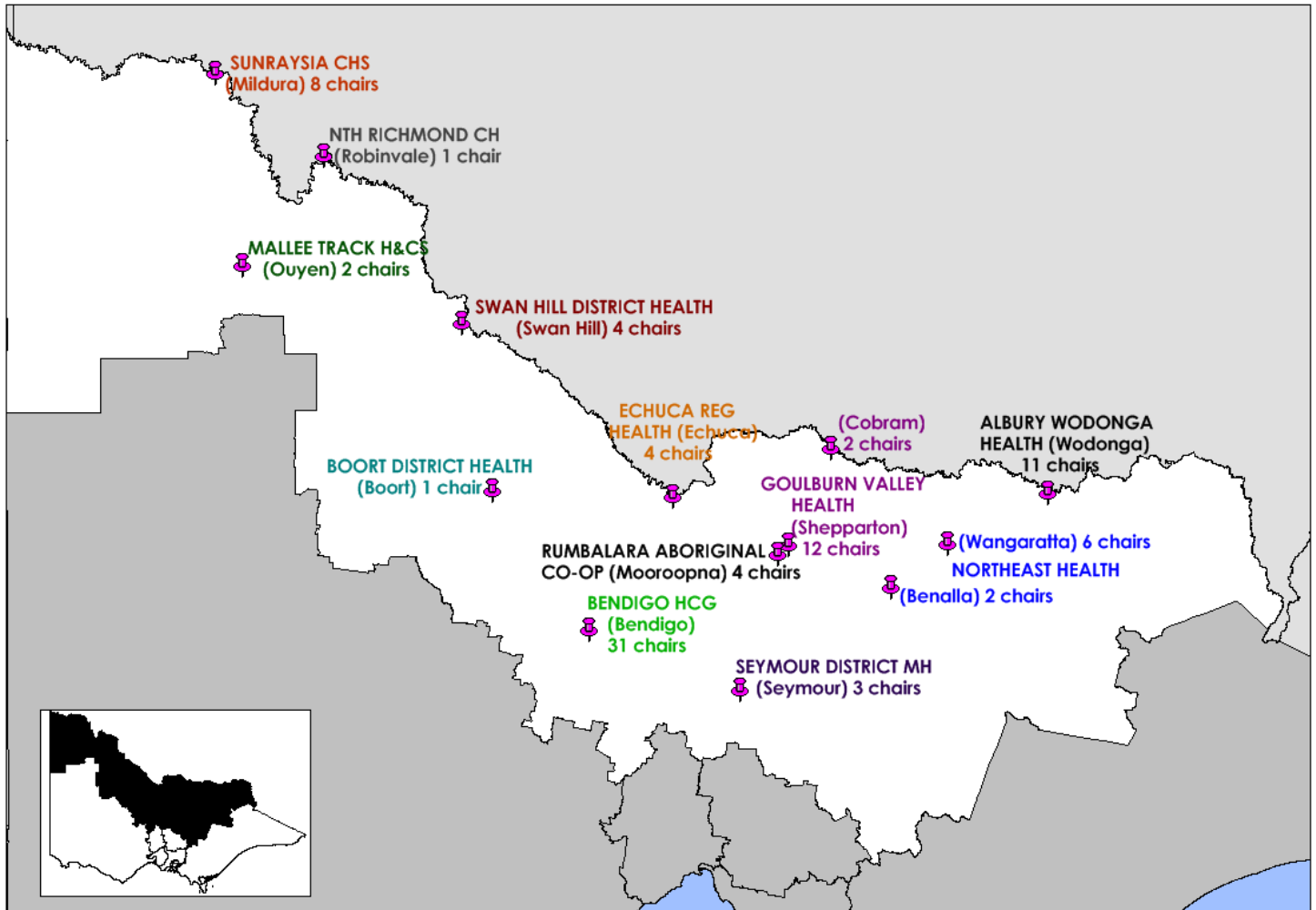
*Includes all children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, homeless people, pregnant women, refugee and asylum seekers and registered clients of mental health and disability services.

The data opposite summarises the average waiting time for those offered care in each quarter for all agencies within the Murray PHN compared with the statewide average wait times. Wait time is measured from the date of placement on the wait list to the date of offer of care.



Public dental clinics

For public oral health services within the Murray Primary Health Network (PHN), there are a total of 92 chairs across 15 clinics managed by 12 agencies. The map below provides the location and number of chairs for each public dental clinic within the Murray PHN.



Oral health promotion initiatives

Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) also provides oral health promotion programs across your Primary Health Network.

Healthy Families Healthy Smiles supports health and early childhood professionals, working with children aged 0-3 years and pregnant women, to embed oral health promotion into their everyday practice. A range of training and professional development packages are available to support midwives, maternal and child health nurses, early childhood professionals, GPs, practice nurses, Aboriginal health services, dietitians and pharmacists.

The **Smiles4Miles** program is another initiative that aims to improve the oral health of children and their families in high risk areas across Victoria. Early childhood services such as kindergartens and day care centres play an important role in promoting young children's oral health.

Smiles 4 Miles assists early childhood services to encourage and promote good oral health habits and healthy eating among children in their care.

In the Murray PHN, there are almost 200 early childhood services participating in Smiles 4 Miles reaching approximately 10,500 children. Albury Wodonga Health, Bendigo Health, Cobaw Community Health, East Wimmera Health Service, Echuca Regional Health, Goulburn Valley Health, Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership, Mallee Track Health and Community Services, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Northern District Community Health Service, Numurkah District Health Service and Swan Hill District Health are funded to coordinate this activity.

For more information about health promotion activity in your catchment or to discuss opportunities to work together, e-mail health.promotion@dhsv.org.au or visit www.dhsv.org.au/oral-health-programs

LGA oral health profiles

Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV) in partnership with the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has also developed oral health profiles for local government to promote oral health in their community.

Statistical profiles of each LGA include indicators that may have an impact on oral health relating to:

- smoking rates
- consumption of fruit and vegetables
- soft drink consumption
- tooth brushing frequency
- breastfeeding rates
- preventable hospital admission rates for dental conditions for children aged 0-4 years.

The LGA profiles can be accessed at <https://www.dhsv.org.au/oralhealthprofiles>

For more information on promoting oral health in your network please email art@dhsv.org.au