

Ashland County's Access to Dental Care Problem

AT A GLANCE

Ashland County Folks Can't Get the Dental Care They Need

- Over 8% (4200) Ashland County residents live in poverty, but for children it is 11.5%.
- 40 patients per month visit the Ashland Hospital Emergency Room for dental problems.
- 2 to 5 children per week visit school nurses because of toothaches.
- 60% of Head Start children need follow-up (restorative) dental care.

Dental Care May be "Available" But Not "Accessible"

- Of the 20 dentists in the county, only 8 accept Medicaid and only 2 accept new Medicaid patients.
- The Ashland County Dental Clinic is the only source of affordable dental care (sliding fee scale) for many low-income Ashland County residents.
- Ashland County is federally designated as a dental health professional shortage area for the low-income population.
- There is a 3 month waiting time for a new patient appointment at the County Dental Clinic. Patients needing restorative dental care have to wait 6 months for an appointment.