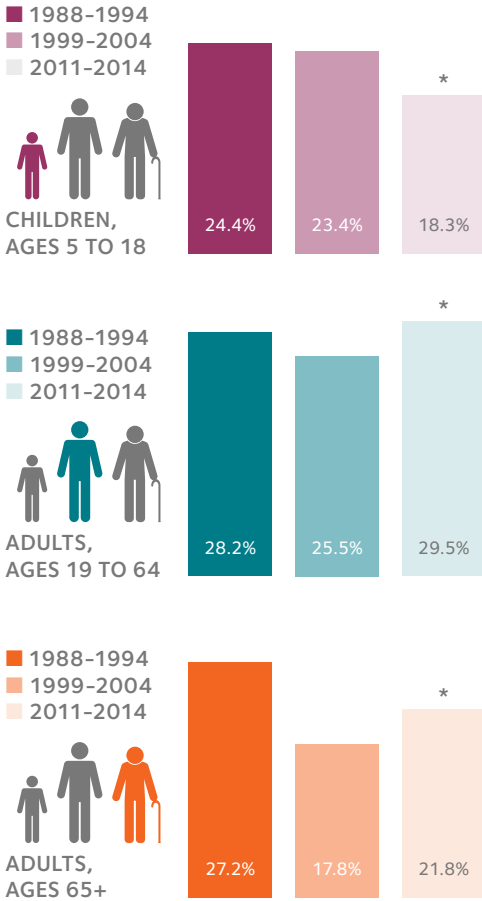


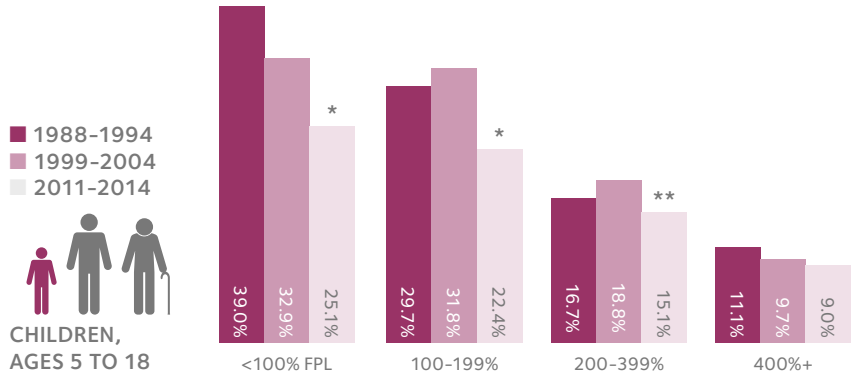
# Untreated Caries Rates Falling Among Children, Rising Among Low-Income Adults and Seniors

## PREVALENCE OF UNTREATED CARIES, BY AGE GROUP

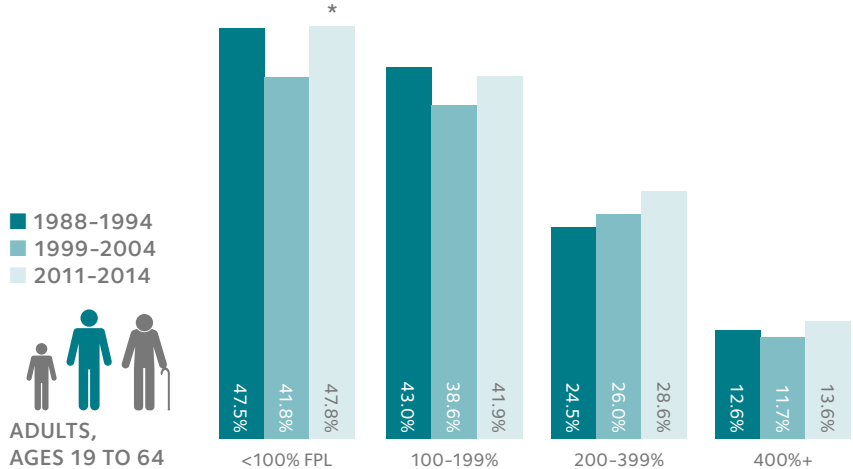


## PREVALENCE OF UNTREATED CARIES, BY INCOME LEVEL AND AGE GROUP

Untreated caries rates are declining for children, especially **low-income children**.

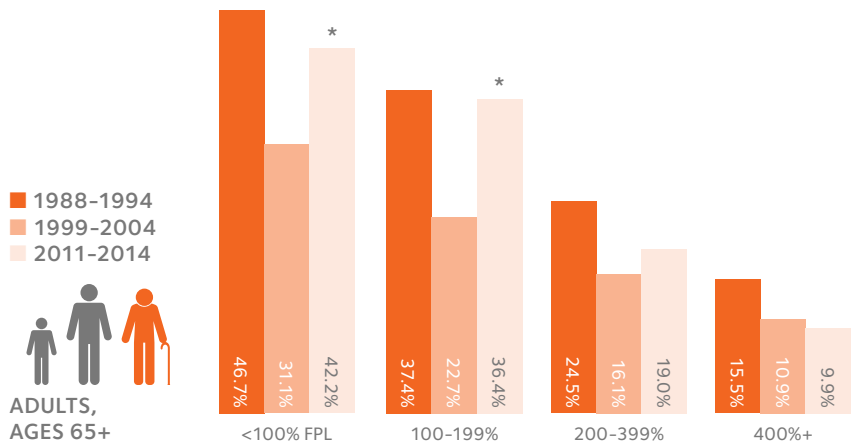


In contrast, untreated caries rates for **low-income adults** are on the rise.



**Note:** Based on HPI analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) data. The NHANES is designed to monitor the health and nutritional status of the civilian non-institutionalized U.S. population. Survey participants are selected through a complex, multistage process that includes oversampling in order to obtain reliable estimates for population subgroups. The survey consists of interviews conducted in participants' homes and standardized physical examinations in mobile examination centers (MECs). The years 1988-1994, 1999-2004 and 2011-2014 were selected because the NHANES oral health assessment was conducted using a consistent methodology. In other years, the methodology changed and data, therefore, are not comparable. Untreated caries refers to decay on the crown or enamel surface of a tooth (i.e., coronal caries) that has not been treated or filled. Decay in the root (i.e., root caries) was not included. The third molars were not included. Persons without at least one natural tooth (primary or permanent) were classified as edentulous (without any teeth) and were excluded. The presence of caries was evaluated in primary and permanent teeth for persons aged five and older. Additional information on NHANES is available from: [www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm). For each age group, we report untreated caries by household income: less than 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL), 100-199% of FPL, 200-399% of FPL and 400% or more of FPL.

**Low-income seniors** in particular have seen a sharp increase in untreated caries rates in recent years.



\*Indicates changes from 1999-2004 to 2011-2014 are statistically significant at the 5% confidence level.  
 \*\*Indicates changes from 1999-2004 to 2011-2014 are statistically significant at the 10% confidence level.