Oral health is vital to overall health and well-being. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease among children and adults in the United States. Oral diseases like tooth decay, gum disease, and oral cancer greatly impact common chronic disease among children and adults in the United States. Dental caries is the most prevalent of all chronic diseases and can result in pain, discomfort, premature loss of teeth, and poverty. Oral health is vital to overall health and well-being. Dental caries is the most common chronic disease among children and adults in the United States. Oral diseases like tooth decay, gum disease, and oral cancer greatly impact common chronic disease among children and adults in the United States. Dental caries is the most prevalent of all chronic diseases and can result in pain, discomfort, premature loss of teeth, and poverty.

Impact of Poor Oral Health Across the Lifespan

- Delayed growth and development
- Impaired school attendance and academic performance
- Increased risk of chronic health conditions
- Lower work productivity and employability
- Increased risk of health complications
- Preterm birth and low birth weight
- Nutritional deficiencies due to trouble eating
- Declining overall health and longevity

Oral examinations are defined according to logic adapted from the 2021 Oral Evaluation, Dental Services (OEV-CH-A) measure in the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) Pediatric Notes: The exhibits include beneficiaries under the supervision of a dentist and instead counts all services billed with a Current Dental Terminology (CDT) code indicating an oral examination (D0120, D0145, D0150). Medicaid (including Medicaid expansion Measure Set. Due to concerns with the quality of Provider Taxonomy information in the T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF), this exhibit does not require the service be rendered by or under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid from FFY 2000 to FFY 2020. The highest rates of dental service use occurred in FFY 2019, as indicated by the dotted line in the exhibit. Rates of service use fell in FFY 2020 due to disruptions in care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Percentage of Children and Adolescents, Ages 1 to 20, Enrolled in Medicaid for at Least 90 Continuous Days Who Received Dental Services, FFY 2000–2020

- 2000: 29.3%
- 2005: 29.6%
- 2010: 20.2%
- 2015: 18.7%
- 2020: 15.3%

Notes: Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2001–2020 percentages include data reported by states to CMS as of March 4, 2022. The data reflect the national percentage of children receiving selected dental services across states from FFY 2000 to FFY 2020. The highest rates of dental service use occurred in FFY 2019, as reflected by the dotted line in the exhibit. Rates of service use fell in FFY 2020 due to disruptions in care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Percentage of Medicaid Children and Adolescents Under Age 21 Who Received Oral Examinations* or Topical Fluoride Treatments**, 2018

- Oral examinations: 53.9% to 46.0%
- Topical fluoride treatments: 56.1% to 43.9%

Notes: The exhibits include beneficiaries under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid (including Medicaid expansion CHIP [M-CHIP]) with comprehensive benefits for at least 6 continuous months in 2018. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

DISPARITIES IN DENTAL CARE USE BY INSURANCE TYPE

Dental Visit Utilization by Type of Medical Insurance Coverage, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance type:</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Data suppressed</th>
<th>Uninsured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>52.4%</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Individuals</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dental service expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures

2018: 2.4% $14.8 Billion
2019: 2.4% $15.5 Billion
2020: 2.2% $14.9 Billion
2021: 2.4% $17.8 Billion

States are required to provide dental benefits to children covered by Medicaid and CHIP.

Key Facts

- Impact of Poor Oral Health Across the Lifespan
- Oral examinations are defined according to logic adapted from the 2021 Oral Evaluation, Dental Services (OEV-CH-A) measure in the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA) Pediatric Notes: The exhibits include beneficiaries under the supervision of a dentist and instead counts all services billed with a Current Dental Terminology (CDT) code indicating an oral examination (D0120, D0145, D0150). Medicaid (including Medicaid expansion Measure Set. Due to concerns with the quality of Provider Taxonomy information in the T-MSIS Analytic Files (TAF), this exhibit does not require the service be rendered by or under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid from FFY 2000 to FFY 2020. The highest rates of dental service use occurred in FFY 2019, as indicated by the dotted line in the exhibit. Rates of service use fell in FFY 2020 due to disruptions in care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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- Oral examinations: 53.9% to 46.0%
- Topical fluoride treatments: 56.1% to 43.9%

Notes: The exhibits include beneficiaries under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid (including Medicaid expansion CHIP [M-CHIP]) with comprehensive benefits for at least 6 continuous months in 2018. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Dental Provider Participation by Number of Medicaid Children and Adolescents Served, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Medicaid children and adolescents served</th>
<th>1–9</th>
<th>10–100</th>
<th>More than 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>87,419 dental providers delivered primary dental care to at least one Medicaid beneficiary under age 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: This analysis includes beneficiaries under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid with comprehensive benefits for at least 6 continuous months in 2018. Participating dental providers are defined as those who provided at least one oral examination or fluoride treatment to at least one Medicaid beneficiary under age 21 in 2018. These results do not include providers who were not Medicaid-enrolled or who were Medicaid-enrolled but did not serve at least one Medicaid beneficiary under age 21. Dental services billed with a CDT code were assumed to be provided by or under the supervision of a dentist unless the provider taxonomy code indicated a physician, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist. Fluoride treatment services billed with CPT code 99188 were assumed to be provided by a non-dental provider unless the provider taxonomy code indicated a dental provider.

MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ADULTS’ DENTAL CARE

State Medicaid Coverage of Dental Services for Adult and Pregnant Populations, 2022

Notes: The none category indicates no dental services covered for adults. The emergency category includes coverage for services provided for the relief of pain and infection under defined emergency situations. The limited category includes coverage for fewer than 100 diagnostic, preventive, and minor restorative procedures recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA); per-person annual expenditure cap is at least $1,000 or less. The extensive category includes a comprehensive mix of services, including more than 100 diagnostic, preventive, and minor and major restorative procedures approved by the ADA; per-person annual expenditure cap is at least $1,000. States that offer a different level of dental coverage for pregnant populations than the general adult population are identified with a dotted or blackened outline. This information according to changes in Medicaid dental coverage policies; this map reflects active state dental program policies as of October 20, 2022.

Publicly Insured Adults, Ages 18 to 64, Reported Loss of All Natural Teeth, 2018

Notes: Data include all non-institutionalized civilian adults ages 18 to 64 covered by Medicaid, CHIP, or other state-sponsored health plans.
If you would like more information about the Medicaid and CHIP programs and their beneficiaries, please see the 2022 Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile which provides an overview of the characteristics, health status, access, utilization, expenditures, and experience of the beneficiaries covered by Medicaid and CHIP. It is available at: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/index.html.