

The State of Children's Dental Health: Making Coverage Matter Mississippi



2011 GRADE

Mississippi meets four of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs, enough to improve by one letter grade since 2010. The state's progress includes the decision by its Medicaid program to begin reimbursing medical providers for preventive dental health services. Mississippi also continued to improve the share of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental services. The state falls short of the benchmark for fluoridation, providing fluoridated water to almost 55 percent of its citizens on community systems.

HOW WELL IS MISSISSIPPI RESPONDING?

2011: **C**

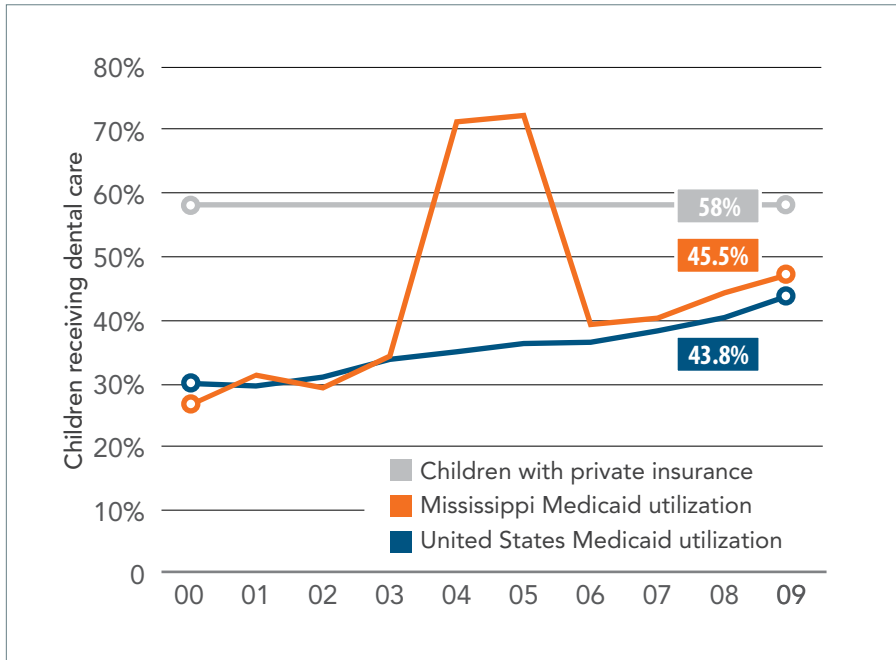
2010: **D**

DATA YEAR	MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARKS FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS	MET OR EXCEEDED
2010	Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs	<25%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	NO	YES		
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	54.6%	75%		
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	45.5%	38.1%	✓	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	61.9% ¹	60.5%	✓	✓
2010	Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care	YES	YES	✓	
2010	Authorizes new primary care dental providers	NO	YES		
2010	Tracks data on children's dental health	YES	YES	✓	✓
Total score				4 of 8	3 of 8

Grading: A = 6-8 points B = 5 points C = 4 points D = 3 points F = 0-2 points

HOW BAD IS THE PROBLEM?

Too many children lack access to dental care, with severe outcomes. One measure of the problem: more than half of the children on Medicaid received no dental service in 2009.



SOURCE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416. Mississippi submitted data in 2004 and 2005 that appear to be abnormally high, indicating possible problems with the submission. Please use caution when interpreting the data in question for these years.

SOURCES FOR BENCHMARKS: (1, 2, 7) Pew Center on the States survey of states; (3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; (4) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416; (5, 6) Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association and American Academy of Pediatrics; (8) National Oral Health Surveillance System.

1. Includes only four procedures, due to missing data.