

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

## District of Columbia

# D

2011 GRADE

**The District of Columbia** meets three of the eight benchmarks for improving children's dental health. The District has continued to improve the percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental care, surpassing the benchmark. However, Pew clarified that a dentist's screening is necessary before a hygienist in a school program can place a sealant, and these programs are present in less than one-quarter of high-risk schools.

### HOW WELL

### IS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESPONDING?

2011: **D**

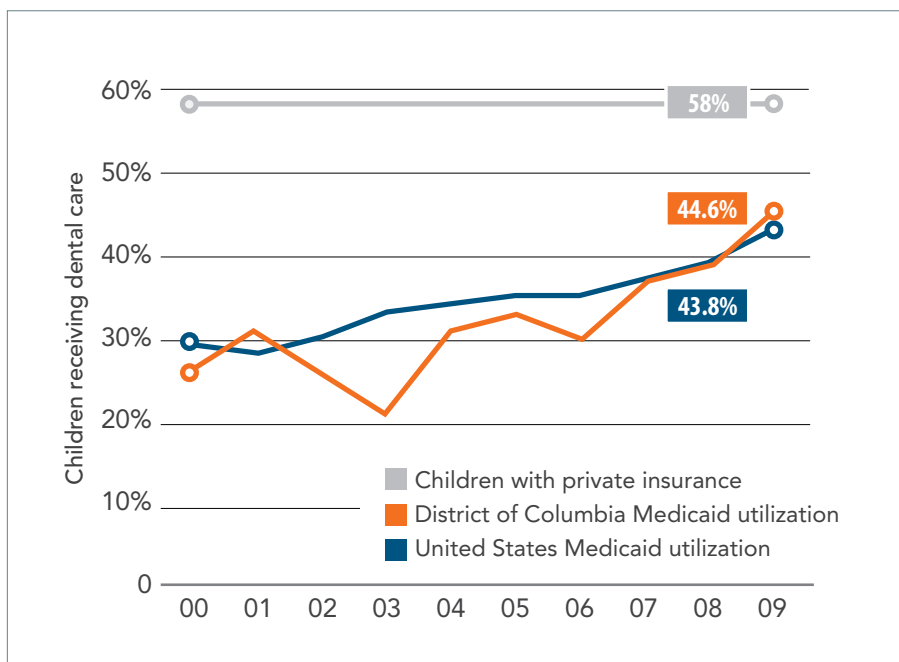
2010: **D**

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	100.0%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	44.6%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	84.1%	60.5%	✓	✓
2010	Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care	NO	YES		
2010	Authorizes new primary care dental providers	NO	YES		
2010	Tracks data on children's dental health	NO	YES		
<b>Total score</b>				<b>3 of 8</b>	<b>3 of 8</b>

**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.

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.