

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

# B

2011 GRADE

**Georgia** meets five of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs, one more than it met in 2010. The state now reimburses medical care providers for preventive dental health services such as fluoride varnish.

Georgia is still a leader in community water fluoridation, being one of seven states providing fluoridated water to over 95 percent of its residents on public systems. Georgia nearly met the benchmark for Medicaid payments to dentists as a percentage of dentists' median retail fees last year (59.9 percent), but the state fell 8 percentage points further from that benchmark this year.

## HOW WELL IS GEORGIA RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

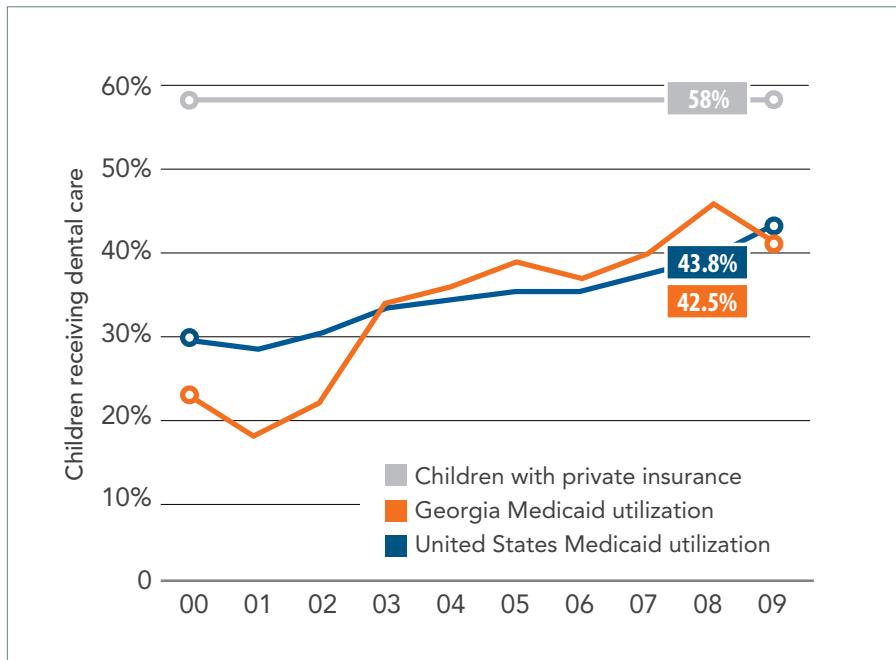
2010: **C**

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	25-49%	25%	✓	✓
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	NO	YES		
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	95.8%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	42.5%	38.1%	✓	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	51.9%	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	✓	✓
<b>Total score</b>				<b>5 of 8</b>	<b>4 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.