



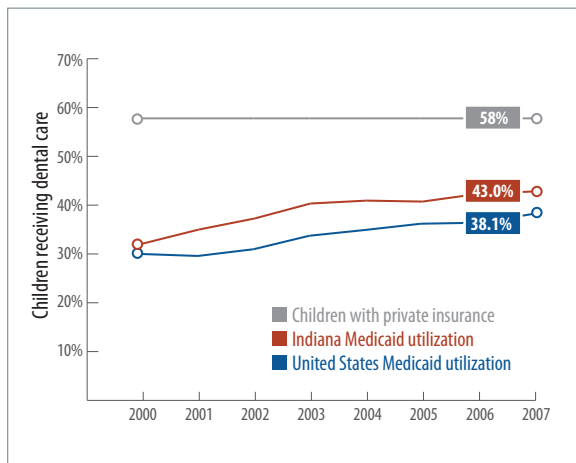
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children Indiana



INDIANA meets just three of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. It is the only Midwestern state to not reimburse medical staff for providing preventive dental care, and it is one of seven states with the most restrictive supervision laws for dental hygienists placing sealants in schools and other public health settings. Only a low percentage of its high-risk schools have sealant programs. The state also does not report data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System, making it difficult to identify the scope and size of its problems. More than 95 percent of the state's community water supplies are fluoridated, however, and 43 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children received dental services in 2007, the latest year for which data are available—just above the national average.

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 2007.



SOURCES FOR NATIONAL BENCHMARKS: 1) Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors; 2) American Dental Hygienists' Association; 3) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416; 4) American Dental Association; 5) Pew Center on the States, National Academy for State Health Policy and American Academy of Pediatrics; 6) National Oral Health Surveillance System.

HOW WELL IS INDIANA RESPONDING?

MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES

	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	<25%	25%	
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	N	Y	
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	95.1%	75%	✓
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	43%	38.1%	✓
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	69.6%	60.5%	✓
Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care, 2009	N	Y	
Authorizes new primary care dental providers, 2009	N	Y	
Tracks data on children's dental health, 2009	N	Y	
Total score	D		3 of 8

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

Download the full report and explanatory notes by visiting www.pewcenteronthestates.org/costofdelay.



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