



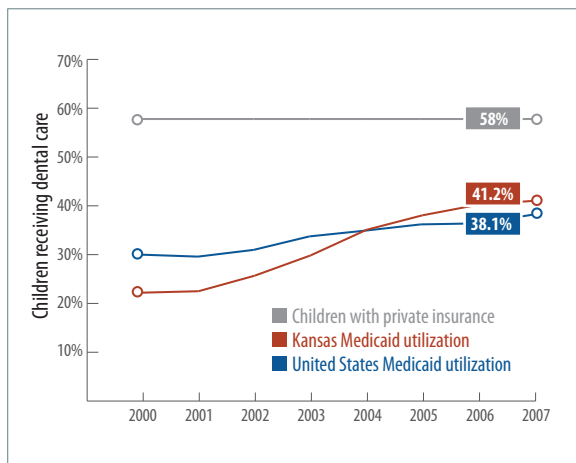
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children Kansas



KANSAS meets just half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state is one of just two in the Midwest failing to meet the national goal of having 75 percent of the population on optimally fluoridated water systems. In addition, less than 25 percent of high-risk schools in Kansas are reached by school sealant programs. Kansas' Medicaid utilization rate has risen for several consecutive years, up from 22 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental services in 2000 to 41 percent in 2007, the latest year for which data are available. And the state reimburses medical providers for offering basic preventive dental care to Medicaid-enrolled kids. Still, Pew calculates that more than 16 percent of the population—456,000 residents—are unserved for dental care. Kansas needs at least 90 dentists to meet the needs of these residents.

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 KANSAS 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	Y	Y	✓
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	65.1%	75%	
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	41.2%	38.1%	✓
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	53.3%	60.5%	
Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Authorizes new primary care dental providers, 2009	N	Y	
Tracks data on children's dental health, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Total score	C		4 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.



The Pew Center on the States is a division of The Pew Charitable Trusts that identifies and advances effective solutions to critical issues facing states. Pew is a nonprofit organization that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public and stimulate civic life.

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