



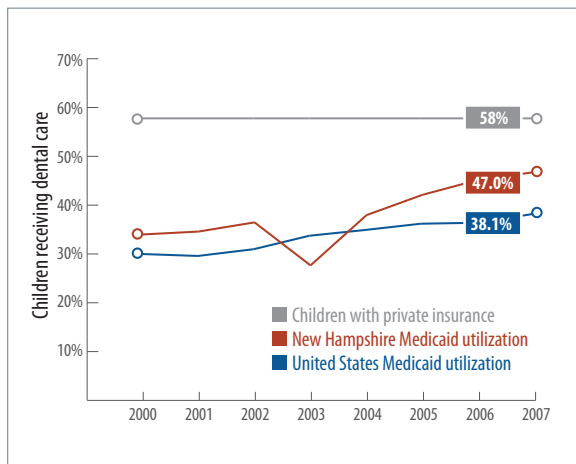
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children New Hampshire



NEW HAMPSHIRE meets five of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. Following a landmark U.S. Surgeon General's report in 2000, the state developed an oral health plan and coalition that has helped improve policies and programs. New Hampshire's sealant programs now reach 75 percent of high-risk schools, and the state makes effective use of hygienists in these settings. New Hampshire's Medicaid program offers reimbursement rates for dentists that exceed the national average, and 47 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children received care in 2007, the latest year for which data are available. However, the state is one of just nine where less than half the population on community systems had access to fluoridated water in 2006, the latest data available at the time of this writing. It also does not reimburse medical professionals who offer basic preventive services like fluoride varnish to Medicaid-enrolled children.

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 NEW HAMPSHIRE RESPONDING?

MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES

	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	75-100%	25%	✓
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	42.6%	75%	
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	47%	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	Y	Y	✓
Total score	B		5 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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