



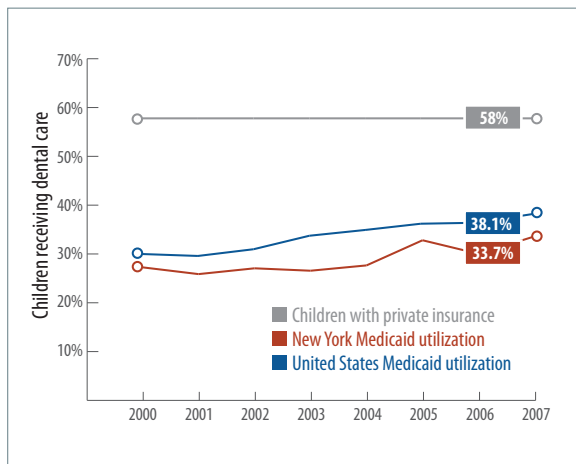
# The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children New York



**NEW YORK** meets just half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state has a high need for dental services: According to Pew's calculations, more than 1.1 million of its residents are unserved for dental care. New York reimburses medical professionals for offering basic preventive dental services to Medicaid-enrolled kids. But the state falls just short of the national community water fluoridation goal of 75 percent. And although the state's Medicaid program reimburses dentists at a level that exceeds the national average, it falls short of the national average for the percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving care, serving only about 34 percent of those kids in 2007, the latest year for which data are available. New York is a recipient of a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support a full-time dental director and other oral health program staff, which may help the state improve its policies and programs to serve disadvantaged 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 YORK 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	72.9%	75%	
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	33.7%	38.1%	
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	62.5%	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	✓
<b>Total score</b>	<b>C</b>		<b>4 of 8</b>

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](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/costofdelay).



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