



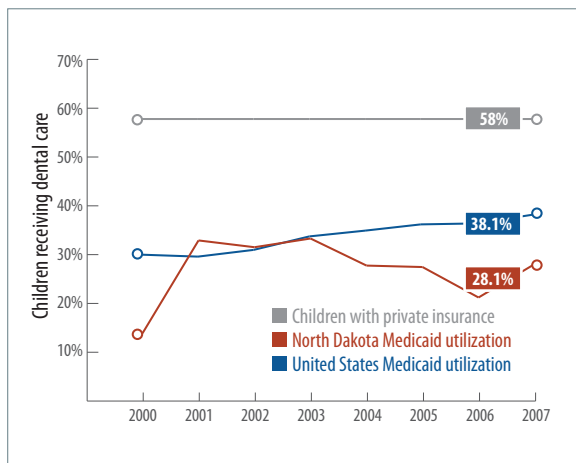
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children North Dakota



NORTH DAKOTA meets just half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. Only 28 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children received any dental care in 2007, the latest year for which data are available, and the state does not have sealant programs in any of its high-risk schools. However, the state's Medicaid program reimburses dentists at a level that exceeds the national average. And North Dakota ranks among the top five states in community water fluoridation, with more than 96 percent of the population on community systems receiving optimally fluoridated water. Since 2002, North Dakota has received a grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support oral health program staff, including a full-time dental director and a staff member dedicated to water fluoridation.

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 NORTH DAKOTA RESPONDING?

MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES

	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	0%	25%	
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	N	Y	
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	96.2%	75%	✓
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	28.1%	38.1%	
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	65.6%	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.



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