

The State of Children's Dental Health: Making Coverage Matter

Minnesota

A

2011 GRADE

Minnesota is a national leader, meeting six of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs, improving by two letter grades since the 2010 report. The state earned an 'A' by surpassing the threshold for providing dental services to Medicaid-enrolled children and by submitting basic screening data on oral health to the national database for the first time.

In 2009, the Pew Children's Dental Campaign and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation assisted state public health advocates in securing legislation authorizing two new types of dental providers. Training programs for dental therapists and advanced dental therapists are now underway, and the first class of advanced dental therapists will graduate in mid-2011.¹

HOW WELL IS MINNESOTA RESPONDING?

2011: **A**

2010: **C**

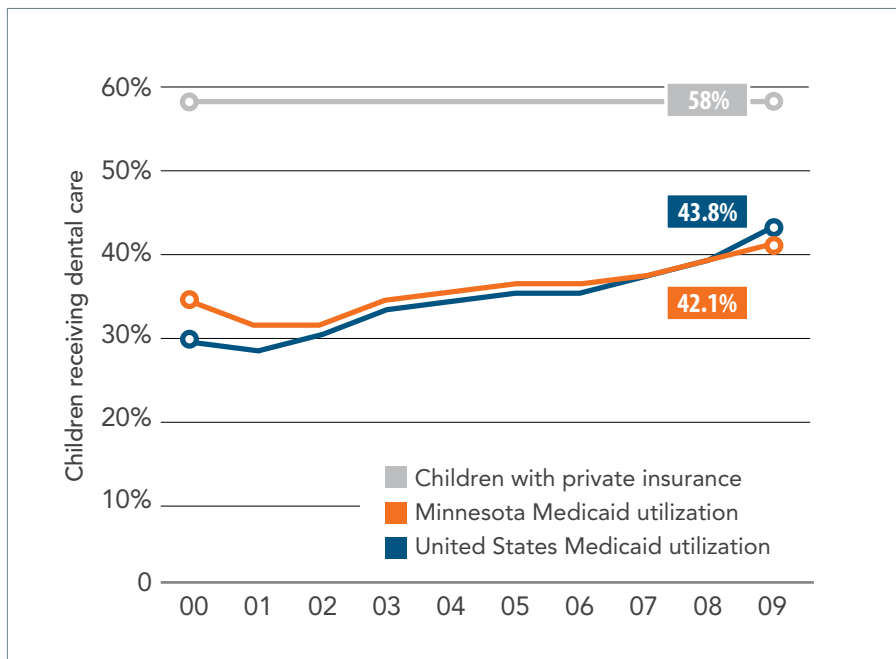
DATA YEAR	MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARKS FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS	MET OR EXCEEDED
2010	Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs	<25%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	YES	YES	✓	✓
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	98.8%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	42.1%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	40.1%	60.5%		
2010	Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care	YES	YES	✓	✓
2010	Authorizes new primary care dental providers	YES	YES	✓	✓
2010	Tracks data on children's dental health	YES	YES	✓	
Total score				6 of 8	4 of 8

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

The new dental practitioners authorized by state law can help close the access gap created by Minnesota's dentist shortage; recent federal data show the state has 96 Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas.²

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 2009.



SOURCE: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416.

SOURCES FOR BENCHMARKS: (1, 2, 7) Pew Center on the States survey of states; (3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; (4) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416; (5, 6) Medicaid/SCHIP Dental Association and American Academy of Pediatrics; (8) National Oral Health Surveillance System.

1. "1st class of midlevel providers nears graduation," Dr. Bicuspid (January 26, 2011) <http://www.drbuspid.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=pmt&pag=dis&ItemID=306755> (accessed February 15, 2011).

2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Table 4, "Health Professional Shortage Areas by State, Detail for Dental Care Regardless of Metropolitan/Non-Metropolitan Status as of December 6, 2010," accessed December 7, 2010, <http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/quickaccessreports.aspx>.