

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

## North Dakota

# B

2011 GRADE

**North Dakota** meets five of the eight policy benchmarks for strengthening children's dental health—one more than it met last year. Hygienists in North Dakota are now allowed to place sealants under general supervision.<sup>1</sup>

Although the number of children ages one to 18 on Medicaid receiving dental services grew from 28.1 percent to 32.6 percent in 2008, dental services delivered to enrollees still lag behind services delivered to privately insured children. This will continue to be a challenge as Medicaid enrollment increases. It is estimated that in three years, the number of residents receiving Medicaid benefits will continue to grow, from 60,000 to 90,000.<sup>2</sup>

### HOW WELL IS NORTH DAKOTA RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

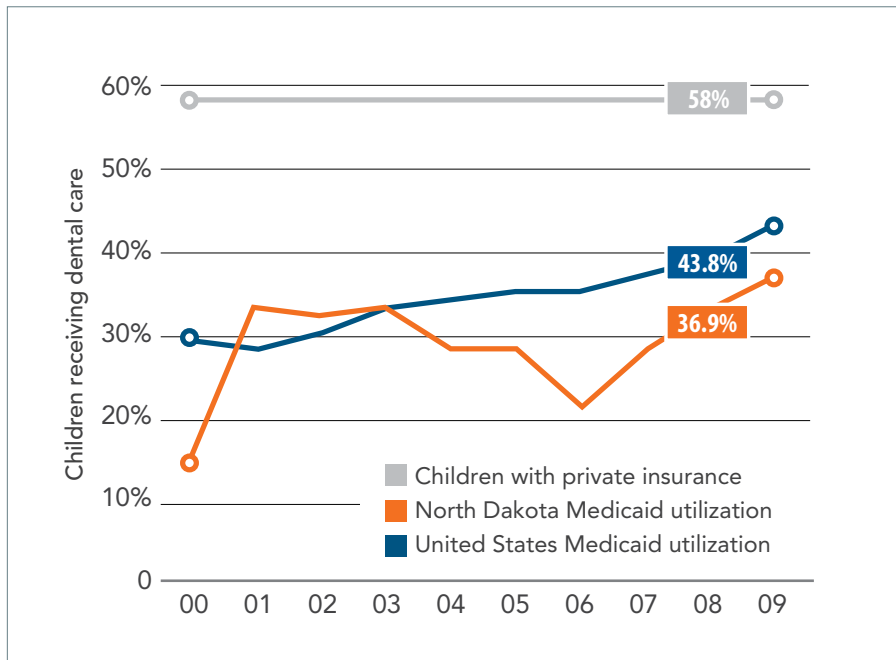
2010: **C**

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	96.4%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	36.9%	38.1%		
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	66.2%	60.5%	✓	✓
2010	Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care	YES	YES	✓	✓
2010	Authorizes new primary care dental providers	NO	YES		
2010	Tracks data on children's dental health	YES	YES	✓	✓
<b>Total score</b>				<b>5 of 8</b>	<b>4 of 8</b>

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

## 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. North Dakota State Board of Dental Examiners, "Procedures that can be delegated – supervision rules," <http://www.nddentalboard.org/pdf/Duties%20Delegated%20to%20RDH%20RDA.pdf>, (accessed November 22, 2010).

2. D. Wetzel, "Health care reform means ND Medicaid expansion; officials estimate \$106 million cost," Associated Press, April 28, 2010.