

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

## Utah

# B

2011 GRADE

**Utah** meets five of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at improving children's dental health, two more than in 2010. The state reports having sealant programs in over one-quarter of high-risk schools and that dental hygienists working in these programs can place sealants without a dentist's prior exam.

Utah still faces challenges in other areas of dental health policy—it can do more to expand water fluoridation and improve the rates that Medicaid pays to dentists. Pew's 2010 report noted that the state paid dentists serving Medicaid-enrolled children 45.1 percent of dentists' median retail fees, but that figure has dropped to 33.2 percent this year.

### HOW WELL IS UTAH RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

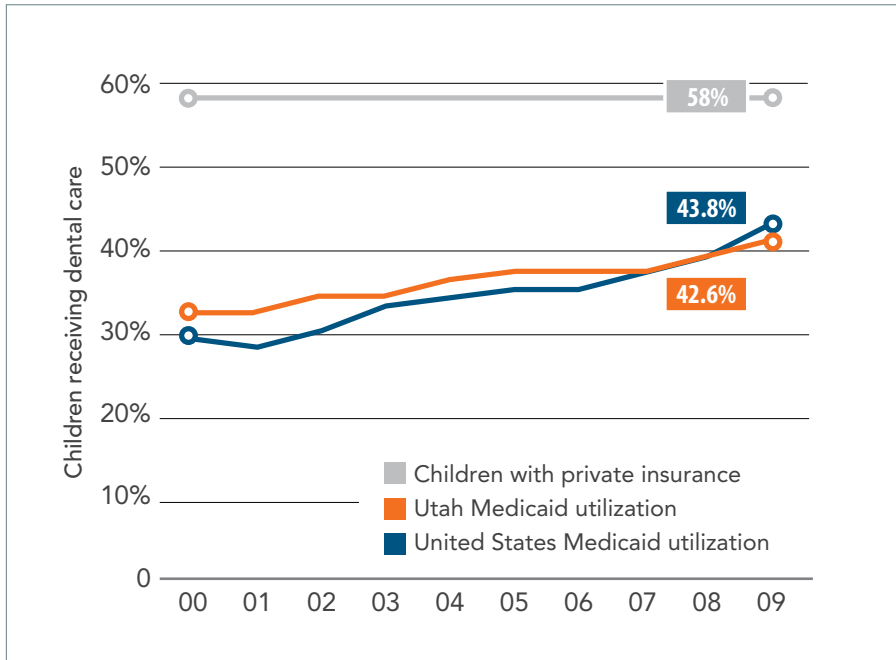
2010: **D**

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	25-49%	25%	✓	
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	YES	YES	✓	
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	54.3%	75%		
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	42.6%	38.1%	✓	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	33.2%	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>3 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.