

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

Wyoming

D

2011 GRADE

Wyoming meets three of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs, one more than it fulfilled in 2010. The state now meets the national benchmark for providing dental services to Medicaid enrollees ages one to 18, moving from 37.3 percent to 43.5 percent.

In 2010, Wyoming conducted an evaluation of the oral health of the state's third-graders – the first such survey in 20 years – but these data had not been accepted for publication in the National Oral Health Surveillance System by the time this report went to press.¹

HOW WELL IS WYOMING RESPONDING?

2011: **D**

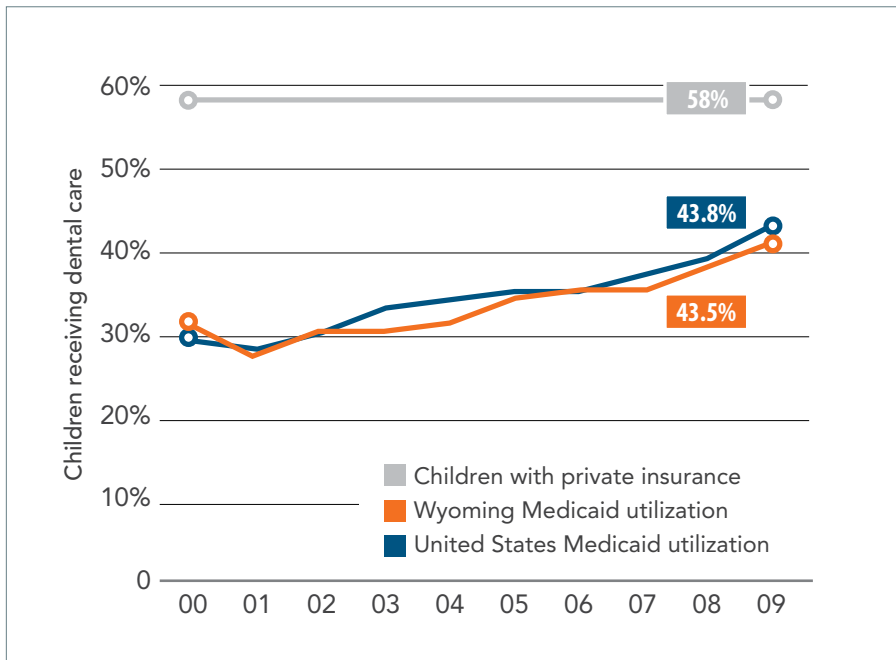
2010: **F**

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	0%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	NO	YES		
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	36.8%	75%		
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	43.5%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	65.3%	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	NO	YES		
Total score				3 of 8	2 of 8

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. Wyoming Department of Health, "Oral Health in Wyoming Final Report," 2010, <http://wdh.state.wy.us/Media.aspx?mediaId=9500>, (accessed February 15, 2011).