

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

## Indiana

# F

2011 GRADE

**Indiana** meets two of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs, one less than it met in 2010. The change in grade reflects the fact that the state's Medicaid reimbursement rates (relative to dentists' usual fees) fell below the national benchmark.

The state does not reimburse medical care providers for preventive dental health services, and Indiana is one of 10 states with very restrictive supervision laws for dental hygienists placing sealants in school sealant programs. These programs exist in less than one-quarter of high-risk schools. The state's bright spot is water fluoridation—about 94 percent of Indiana's residents receive fluoridated water.

### HOW WELL IS INDIANA RESPONDING?

2011: **F**

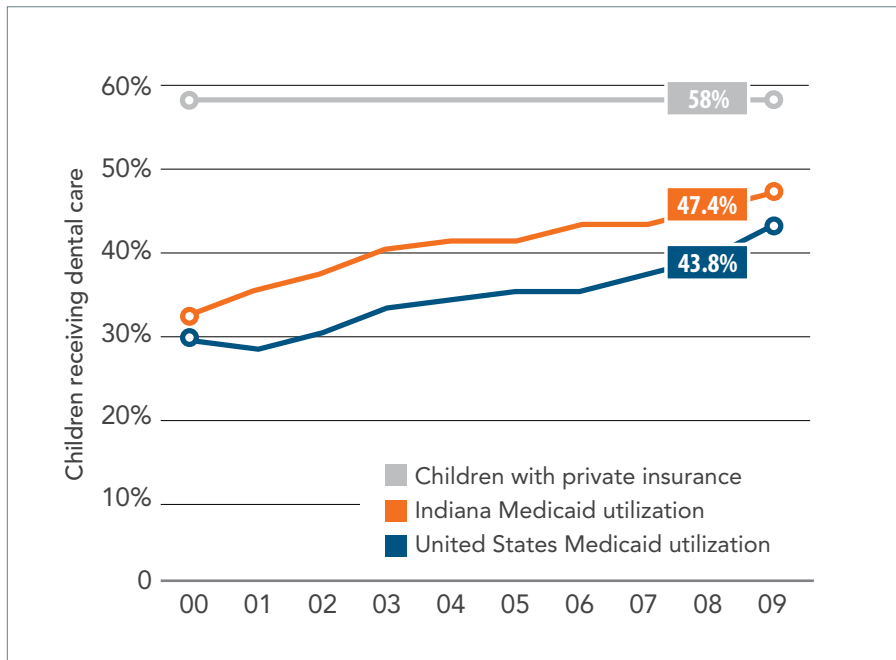
2010: **D**

| 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%  | 25%      |                  |                 |
| 2010               | Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam           | NO    | YES      |                  |                 |
| 2008               | Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies           | 94.5% | 75%      | ✓                | ✓               |
| 2009               | Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care              | 47.4% | 38.1%    | ✓                | ✓               |
| 2010               | Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid         | 58.0% | 60.5%    |                  | ✓               |
| 2010               | Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care       | NO    | YES      |                  |                 |
| 2010               | Authorizes new primary care dental providers                         | NO    | YES      |                  |                 |
| 2010               | Tracks data on children's dental health                              | NO    | YES      |                  |                 |
| <b>Total score</b> |  |       |          | <b>2 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.