

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

Missouri



2011 GRADE

Missouri meets half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state notably falls short in providing dental care to Medicaid-enrolled children. Just 30 percent of Missouri children received even basic dental care in the most recent year for which data are available. The state reports that it does not have a school-based sealant program.

Almost one-quarter of Missouri's population live in federally-designated Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas, and more than a million of those people are estimated to have no reasonable expectation of finding a dentist to see them.

HOW WELL IS MISSOURI RESPONDING?

2011: **C**

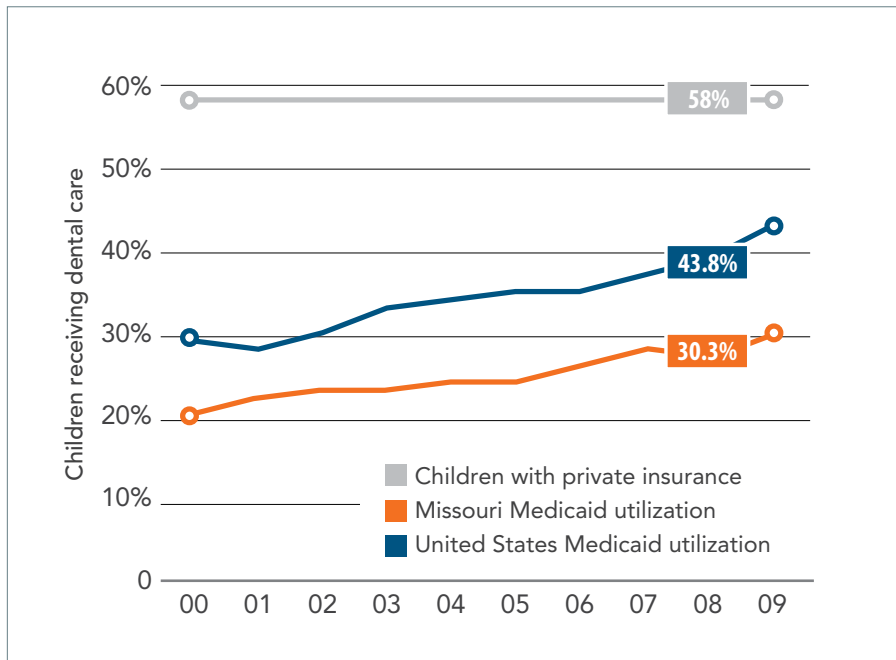
2010: **C**

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	0%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	YES	YES	✓	✓
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	79.8%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	30.3%	38.1%		
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	46.7%	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	✓	✓
Total score				4 of 8	4 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.