

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

Nebraska



2011 GRADE

Nebraska meets half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state is one of eleven who succeeded in providing dental care to over half of its Medicaid-enrolled children. However, the state misses the benchmark of providing fluoridated water to 75 percent of the population on community water system, and sealant programs still reach less than one-quarter of high-risk schools.

HOW WELL IS NEBRASKA RESPONDING?

2011: **C**

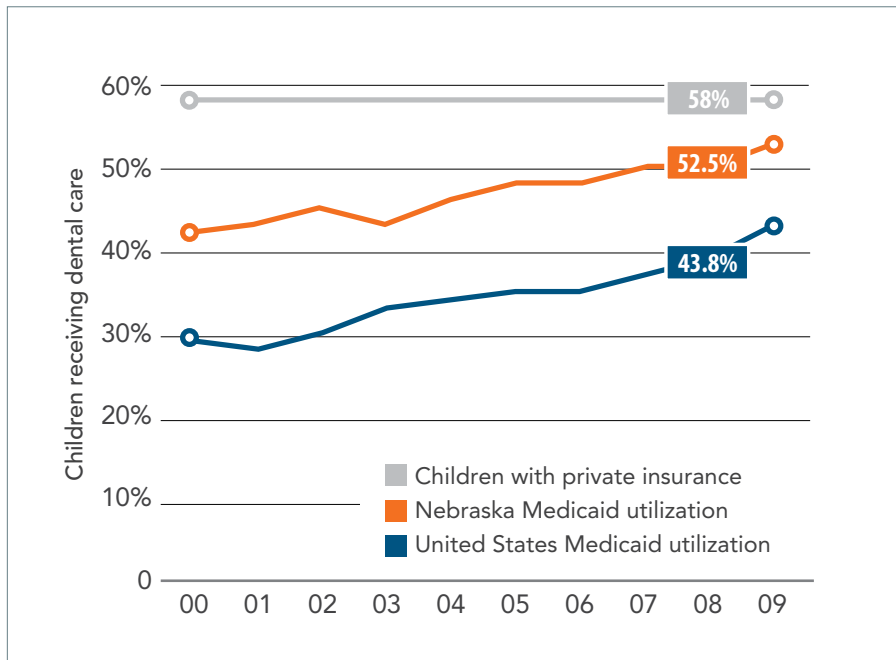
2010: **C**

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	<25%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	YES	YES	✓	✓
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	69.9%	75%		
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	52.5%	38.1%	✓	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	49.4%	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. While more than half of Nebraska children on Medicaid received care in 2009, they were less likely to be treated than kids with private insurance.



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.