

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

## New York

# B

2011 GRADE

**New York** meets five of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state reports that sealant programs are now in place in more than one-quarter of its high-risk schools. New York also edged over the threshold for Medicaid utilization, with 38.4 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental care in 2009. But the state's Medicaid payment rates fell relative to dentists' usual fees. Despite the difficult economic climate, New York was the only state to expand Medicaid eligibility and benefits through 2011.<sup>1</sup>

### HOW WELL IS NEW YORK RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

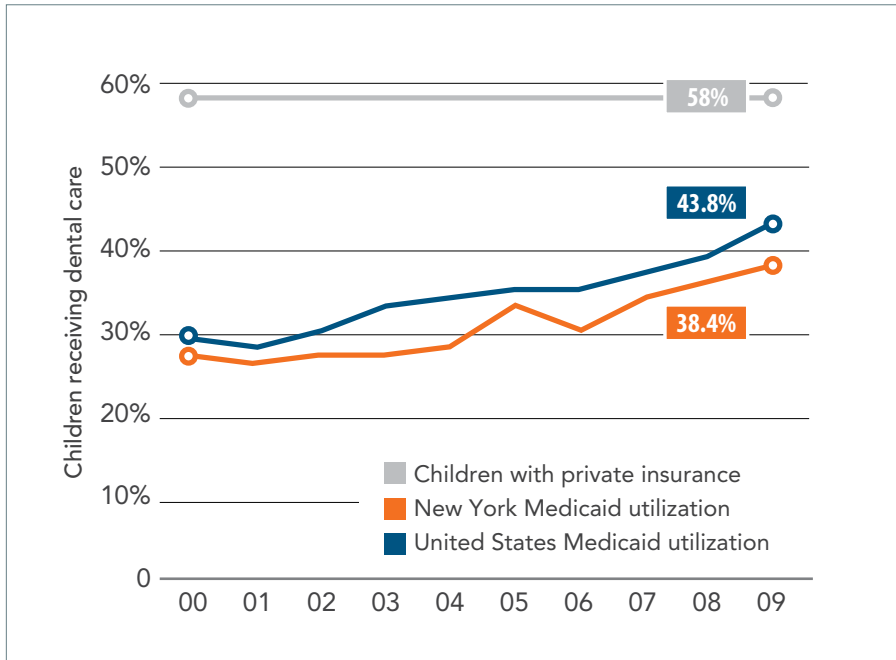
2010: **C**

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	25-49%	25%	✓	
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	YES	YES	✓	✓
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	72.2%	75%		
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	38.4%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	57.3%	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	YES	YES	✓	✓
<b>Total score</b>				<b>5 of 8</b>	<b>4 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.

1. J. Zremski, "New York Only State to Broaden Medicaid," Buffalo News (October 1, 2010) <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/capital-connection/washington/article207116.ece> (accessed February 24, 2011).