

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

Texas

B

2011 GRADE

Texas meets five of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state's oral health program clarified that Texas allows hygienists working in school-based health centers to place sealants without a dentist's prior exam; however, about 75 schools (out of 8,000 high-risk schools) in the state have school-based health centers, and of these, only about a dozen schools provide dental care.¹

Texas made progress this year by submitting basic screening data to the National Oral Health Surveillance System. Additionally, the state was one of three to receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to strengthen its oral health program.² This funding will help Texas support and coordinate community water fluoridation and sealant programs.

HOW WELL IS TEXAS RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

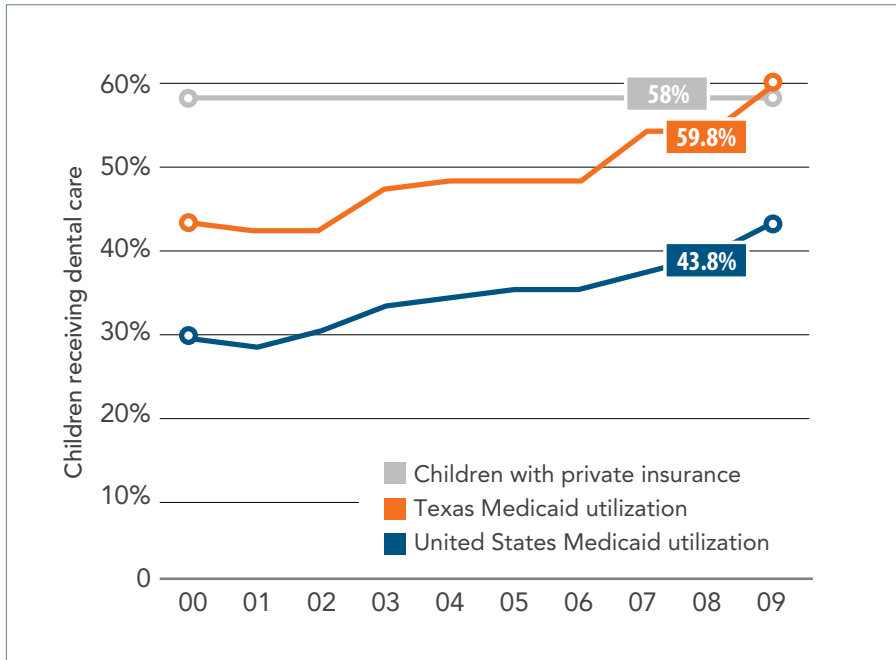
2010: **B**

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	78.6%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	59.8%	38.1%	✓	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	63.8%	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				5 of 8	5 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?

Texas reports a high level of dental utilization. Still, two in five Medicaid children 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. Pew Center on the States survey of state dental directors, communication with Sandy Tesch, RDH, MSHP, September 17, 2010.
2. "CDC-Funded States", http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/state_programs/cooperative_agreements/index.htm, (accessed October 20, 2010).