

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

West Virginia



2011 GRADE

West Virginia meets half of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental care, a significant improvement since 2010. The state reports that sealant programs are now in more than one-quarter of high-risk schools. Additionally, the state surpasses the national threshold for the Medicaid rates it pays as a percentage of dentists' median retail fees. West Virginia may make further progress soon on Pew's benchmarks. The state is considering reimbursing medical providers for preventive dental health services, although the policy was not in place in 2010.

HOW WELL IS WEST VIRGINIA RESPONDING?

2011: **C**

2010: **F**

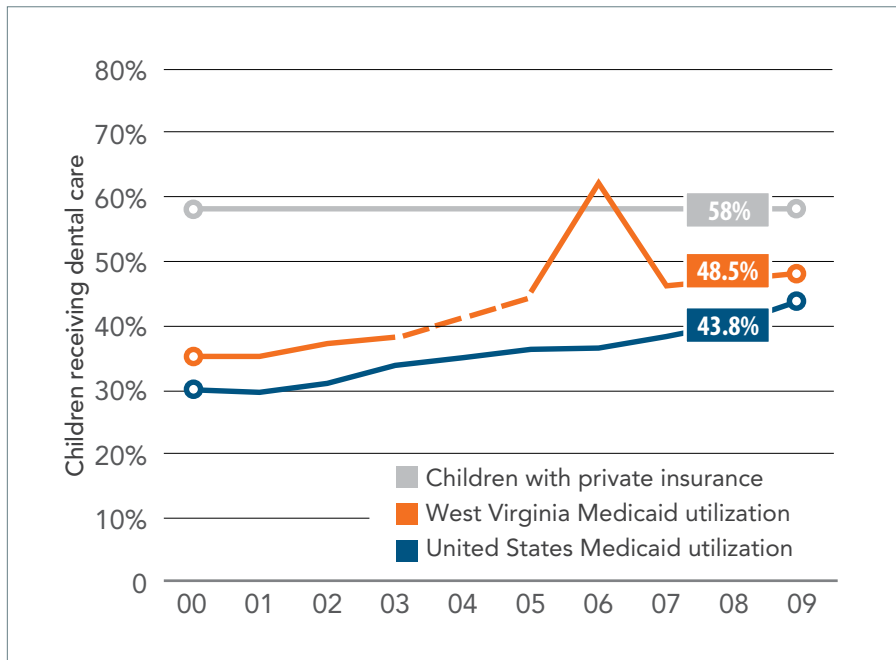
DATA YEAR	MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARKS FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
2010	Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs	25-49%	25%	✓
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	NO	YES	
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	90.6%	75%	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	48.5%	38.1%	✓
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	62.5%	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	
Total score				4 of 8

MET OR EXCEEDED
✓
✓
2 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. West Virginia submitted data in 2006 that appear to be abnormally high, indicating possible problems with the submission. Please use caution when interpreting the data in question for this year. West Virginia did not submit Medicaid data for 2004.

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.