

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

Delaware

B

2011 GRADE

Delaware meets five of the eight benchmarks aimed at improving children's dental health, three more than it met in 2010. This large improvement is due to the state surpassing the benchmark for water fluoridation, and also reinstating its school-linked sealant program during the 2009-2010 school year. The program links with Delaware's dental public health clinical system to transport children from schools to clinics.

The state has also achieved the benchmark for access to care for children through Medicaid; in 2009, over 41 percent of enrolled children received dental care.

HOW WELL IS DELAWARE RESPONDING?

2011: **B**

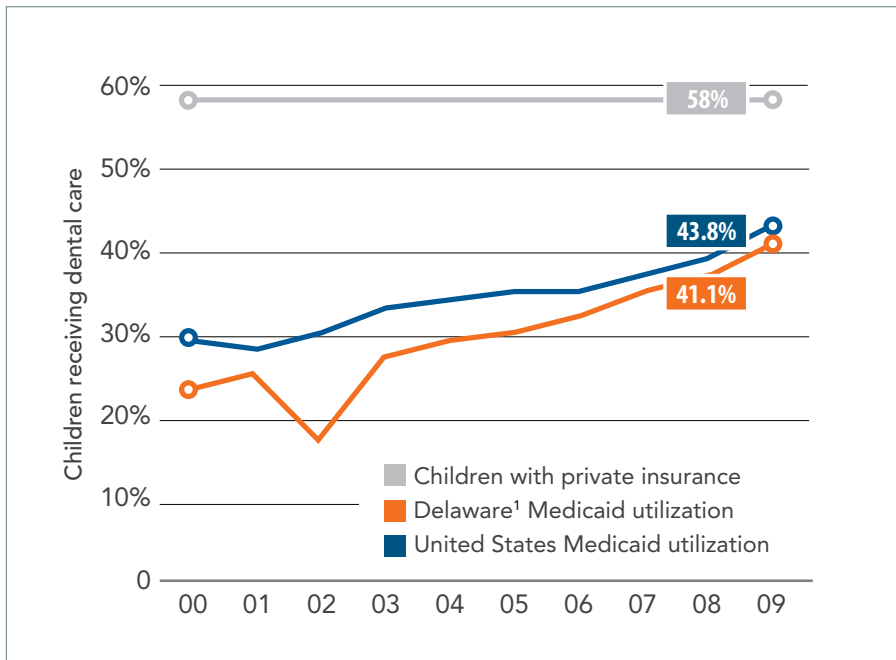
2010: **F**

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	NO	YES		
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	76.8%	75%	✓	
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	41.1%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	80.0% ¹	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	YES	YES	✓	✓
Total score				5 of 8	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.

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. Note that no calculation was performed for Delaware, since it has no set fee schedule, and simply pays 80 percent of each dentist's billed charges.