Measuring What Matters

Access to Dental Care in Oregon

Marko Vujicic, PhD
Chief Economist & Vice President
Health Policy Institute
American Dental Association
The main reason people avoid the dentist isn't fear

The biggest reason people skip out on going to the dentist isn't fear or inconvenience; it's cost, KIDY reports. A study published this month in Health Affairs found people are more likely to forego dental health because of cost than any other type of health care.

In fact, cost is the main reason for not seeing a dentist even among people who have private dental insurance. Study author Marko Vujicic points to maximum benefit limits and high co-pays in most dental coverage as the culprit.

"Anything beyond checkups, like getting a cavity filled or a root canal and a crown, you're looking right away at 20% to 50% coinsurance," he says.
Today

1. Review key oral health outcomes in Oregon compared to other states

2. Present new analysis on access to dental care in Oregon

3. Give you my takeaways on where policy makers should be putting more focus
Dental Care Use

Percent of Medicaid-Enrolled Children with a Dental Visit in the Past 12 Months (CMS416)

- Oregon
- United States

Year:
- 2000: 29.2%
- 2001: 32.8%
- 2002: 31.5%
- 2003: 30.2%
- 2004: 32.9%
- 2005: 34.2%
- 2006: 35.3%
- 2007: 35.3%
- 2008: 37.1%
- 2009: 39.0%
- 2010: 42.6%
- 2011: 46.4%
- 2012: 47.1%
- 2013: 48.1%
- 2014: 49.2%
- 2015: 49.7%
Dental Care Use

Percent of Medicaid- or CHIP-Enrolled Children With a Dental Visit in the Past 12 Months, 2015 (from CMS416)

- Texas: 49.7%
- United States: 68.0%

States with lower percentages include:
- Wisconsin: 29.7%
- North Dakota: 36.0%
- Florida: 36.4%
- Ohio: 38.1%
- Missouri: 39.5%
- South Dakota: 40.1%
- Michigan: 40.7%
- Minnesota: 41.1%
- Maine: 42.1%
- Oregon: 44.1%
- New York: 44.4%
- California: 46.2%
- Wyoming: 46.9%
- Montana: 47.8%
- Illinois: 48.7%
- Rhode Island: 49.2%
- Kansas: 50.0%
- Louisiana: 50.3%
- Idaho: 50.4%
- Delaware: 50.4%
- Kentucky: 50.7%
- Indiana: 50.8%
- Arizona: 50.8%
- Alabama: 51.0%
- New Jersey: 51.5%
- Tennessee: 52.0%
- Oklahoma: 52.1%
- Mississippi: 52.6%
- West Virginia: 52.8%
- North Carolina: 52.9%
- Virginia: 53.2%
- Arkansas: 53.7%
- Iowa: 54.1%
- Colorado: 54.4%
- Georgia: 54.5%
- Utah: 55.7%
- Massachusetts: 56.4%
- Nebraska: 57.2%
- New Mexico: 57.5%
- District of Columbia: 57.6%
- New Hampshire: 58.8%
- Maryland: 61.0%
- New Jersey: 63.7%
- Minnesota: 64.7%

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Dental Care Use

Percent of Children With a Dental Visit in the Past 12 Months, 2015

- **Children with Private Dental Insurance**
- **Children with Medicaid or CHIP**
## Oral Health & Well-Being for Adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very Often</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difficulty Biting/Chewing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Avoid Smiling</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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33% of low income adults reduce participation in social activities due to the condition of their mouth and teeth.
Barriers to Dental Care for Adults

Reasons for Not Visiting the Dentist More Frequently, Among Those Without a Visit in the Last 12 Months

- **Cost**: 59%
  - Afraid of Dentist: 26%
  - Inconvenient Location or Time: 21%
  - Trouble Finding a Dentist: 11%
  - No Original Teeth: 13%
  - No Perceived Need: 6%
  - No Reason: 13%
  - Other: 19%
New Data-Driven Insights

Projected Supply of Dentists: Oregon

**Dentists per 100,000 Population in Oregon**

- **Actual:**
  - 2005: 68
  - 2010: 73
  - 2015: 76

- **Projected:**
  - 2020: 80
  - 2025: 85
  - 2030: 90
  - 2035: 95

**Percentage of Oregon Dentists That Are Female**

- **2015 (Actual):** 26.4%
- **2015 (Projected):** 37.2%

**The Projected Supply of Dentists in Oregon Will Increase,** even after adjusting for dentist hours worked, patient visits and population growth.

**Average Annual Inflows to and Outflows from Dentist Workforce in Oregon**

- **Actual:**
  - 2005-2010: 127
  - 2015-2016: 124

- **Projected:**
  - 2015-2020: 152
  - 2020-2025: 168
  - 2025-2030: 165
  - 2030-2035: 167

**Access to Dental Care: Oregon**

- **91%** of publicly insured children live within 15 minutes of a Medicaid dentist.
- **89%** of publicly insured children live in areas where there is at least one Medicaid dentist per 2,000 publicly insured children within a 15-minute travel time.
- **88%** of the population live in an area where there is at least one dentist per 5,000 population within a 15-minute travel time.

**Dental Office Locations and Percentage of Children with Public Insurance**

- **Office does not participate in Medicaid**
- **Office Participates in Medicaid**

**Percentage of Children with Public Insurance**

- **0-10%:** 10.3-20%
- **20.1-30%:** 30.1-40%
- **40.1-50%:** 50.1-60%
- **>50%:** >60%

**Distribution of Population According to Distance to Dentist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publicly Insured Children per Medicaid Dentist</th>
<th>Population per Dentist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;500</td>
<td>&gt;500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Geographic Coverage of Medicaid Dentists**

- **15-Minute Travel Time to Medicaid Office**
- **Percentage of Children with Public Insurance**

**Publicly Insured Children per Medicaid Dentist Within a 15-Minute Travel Time**

- **No Medicaid Office:** 2,600/1
- **2,500-3,500/1:** 3,500-4,500/1
- **4,500-5,500/1:** >5,500/1

**Population per Dentist within a 15-Minute Travel Time**

- **No Dental Office:** 2,600/1
- **2,500-3,500/1:** 3,500-4,500/1
- **4,500-5,500/1:** >5,500/1

For more information, visit ADA/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.
Supply of Dentists

DENTIST-TO-POPULATION RATIOS VARY ACROSS STATES
The number of dentists per 100,000 population in the United States was 60.9 in 2015 and varied across states. The District of Columbia (89.9), New Jersey (81.5) and Alaska (80.8) had the highest ratios in the nation.
Supply of Dentists

DENTISTS PER 100,000 POPULATION IN OREGON

- **HEADCOUNT**
- **FTE BASED ON HOURS/YEAR**
- **FTE BASED ON VISITS/WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Projected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>72.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>71.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>72.1</td>
<td>72.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2035</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Geographic Access

Dental Offices
- Office Does Not Participate in Medicaid
- Office Participates in Medicaid

Percentage of Children with Public Insurance
- 0-10%
- 10.1-20%
- 20.1-30%
- 30.1-40%
- 40.1-50%
- 50.1-60%
- >60%

15 Minute Travel Time to Medicaid Office
Percentage of Children with Public Insurance
- 0-10%
- 10.1-20%
- 20.1-30%
- 30.1-40%
- 40.1-50%
- 50.1-60%
- >60%
Geographic Access

91% OF PUBLICLY INSURED CHILDREN LIVE WITHIN 15 MINUTES of a Medicaid dentist.
Geographic Access

9% of publicly insured children do not have a Medicaid or CHIP dentist within a 15 minute travel time.

74% of publicly insured children live in areas with more than one Medicaid or CHIP dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 500 publicly insured children.

15% of publicly insured children live in areas with one Medicaid or CHIP dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 500 to 2,000 publicly insured children.

2% of publicly insured children live in areas with less than one Medicaid or CHIP dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 2,000 publicly insured children.
Geographic Access

Breakdown of Publicly Insured Children per Medicaid or CHIP Dentist Within 15 Minute Travel Time

- Green: Less than 500 to 1
- Yellow: Between 500 and 2000 to 1
- Red: More than 2000 to 1
- Gray: None

States are listed from left to right, with states in the northern part of the country generally having better access than those in the southern part.
Geographic Access

Population Per Dentist Within a 15-Minute Boundary

- No Dental Office
- <2500:1
- 2500:1-5000:1
- >5000:1

- 6% of the population do not have a dentist within a 15 minute travel time
- 74% of the population live in areas with more than one dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 2,500 people
- 14% of the population live in areas with one dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 2,500 to 5,000 people
- 7% of the population live in areas with less than one dentist within a 15 minute travel time for every 5,000 people
Reimbursement in Medicaid

Medicaid Fee-For-Service Reimbursement Rates for Child and Adult Dental Care Services for all States, 2016

Authors: Nidita Gupta, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.; Cassandra Yarbrough, M.P.P., Marko Vujicic, Ph.D.; Andrew Blatz, M.S.; Brittany Harrison, M.A.

Key Messages
- Wisconsin, Washington and California had the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rates for both adult and child dental care services among states that provide dental services via fee-for-service.
- There is considerable variation across states in Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rates.

Introduction

Low-income children and adults are subject to different dental safety net. States are required to provide dental benefits to children, who are covered by Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but providing adult dental benefits is optional. Increased enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP led to a historic low of 11 percent of children lacking dental benefits in 2014, the most recent year data are available. There has also been a steady increase in dental care utilization among children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP over the past fifteen years. Low-income adults have not experienced similar gains. In 2014, the latest year for which we have data since Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, 54 percent of Medicaid-enrolled adults lived in states that provide adult dental benefits in their Medicaid programs. However, 36.2 percent of adults in the U.S. do not have any form of dental coverage.

A key issue for Medicaid is having a sufficient number of providers willing to participate. Research shows that a variety of factors limit the number of dentists that accept Medicaid, including high rates of canceled appointments among Medicaid enrollees, low

PERCENTAGE OF PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN MEDICAID

- 37.5% DENTISTS
- 68.9% PHYSICIANS

MEDICAID FFS REIMBURSEMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT

- 61.8% DENTISTS
- 60.1% PHYSICIANS

Source: Medicaid reimbursement for dentists is calculated from here. Medicaid reimbursement for physicians is calculated from here and here. Medicaid participation for dentists can be found here and for physicians here. Note: While fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement rates are an important policy focus within Medicaid, they may not be representative of actual payment rates to providers in all states, depending on the extent of managed care programs. However, excluding managed care states based on classification found here does not change main conclusions. Analyses for dentists is based on reimbursement and participation in Medicaid for child dental care services. Physician participation is for office-based physicians and reimbursement is for primary care services. Data are for 2016 except for physician participation in Medicaid, which is for 2015. However, analyses suggest physician participation has not changed substantially since then.
Reimbursement in Medicaid

Figure 1: Medicaid Fee-For-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Fees Charged by Dentists, Child Dental Services, 2016

Figure 2: Medicaid Fee-For-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Private Dental Insurance Reimbursement, Child Dental Services, 2016
Reimbursement in Medicaid

Figure 4: Medicaid Fee-For-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Fees Charged by Dentists, Adult Dental Services, 2016

Figure 5: Medicaid Fee-For-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Private Dental Insurance Reimbursement, Adult Dental Services, 2016
Reimbursement in Medicaid

Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement Rates as a Percentage of Private Insurance Reimbursement Rates, 2016 (FFS States)

- Medical > Dental
- Medical < Dental

Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement Rates as a Percentage of Private Insurance Reimbursement Rates, 2016 (Managed Care States)

- Medical > Dental
- Medical < Dental

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Key Takeaways

What We Learned…

• Geographic coverage of dental care providers is quite extensive
• The supply of dentists is expected to grow steadily in the coming years
• Dental care use is low among publicly insured children
• Main barriers to dental care among adults relate to cost and fear, not lack of providers

What This Means…

• Need to focus less on “supply” interventions, more on “navigation” interventions (e.g. connecting members to a dental home, nudging diabetics into routine dental care)
• Need to re-examine adult dental benefit design so that it focuses much more on oral health outcomes
• Need to accelerate innovations in payment and care delivery models that focus on outcomes
Thank You!

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