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

South Dakota meets five of the eight policy benchmarks aimed at improving children's dental health, one more than it met in 2010. The state surpassed the national benchmark for Medicaid utilization, providing dental services to 46 percent of Medicaid enrollees ages one to 18 in 2009, a nine percentage-point improvement from 2007.

Although South Dakota still fulfills the national benchmark for Medicaid rates as a percentage of dentists' median retail fees, payments have not kept pace with inflation. The state now pays 62 percent of dentists' usual fees.
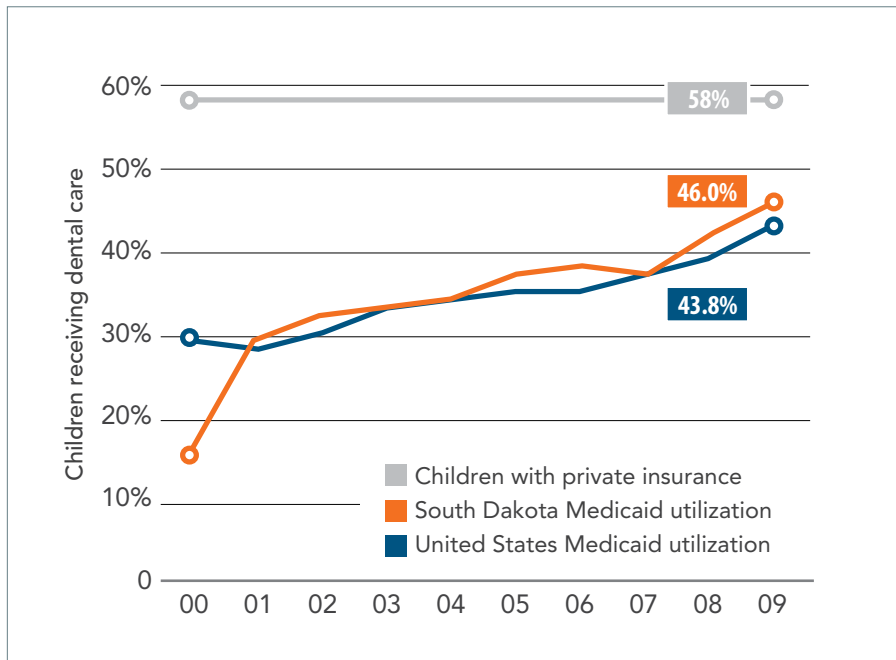
HOW WELL IS SOUTH DAKOTA RESPONDING? 2011: B | 2010: C

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	0%	25%		
2010	Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam	NO	YES		
2008	Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies	93.3%	75%	✓	✓
2009	Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care	46.0%	38.1%	✓	
2010	Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid	62.4%	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	4 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.

Y-axis: Children receiving dental care

Legend:
- Children with private insurance
- South Dakota Medicaid utilization
- United States Medicaid utilization

Values shown: 58%, 46.0%, 43.8%

X-axis: 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09

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.