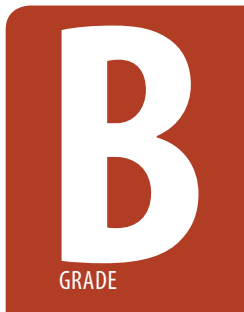




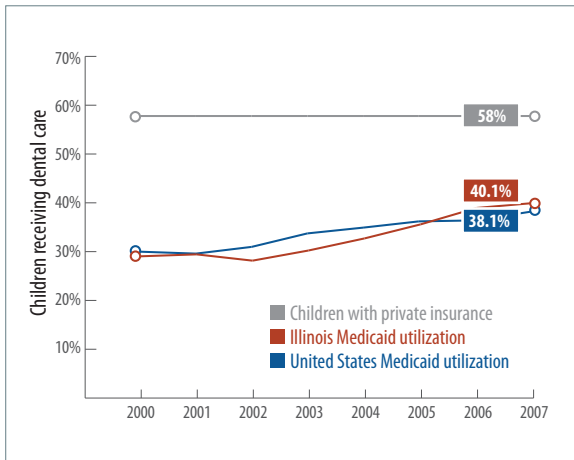
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children Illinois



ILLINOIS meets five of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state is a leader on community water fluoridation, providing optimally fluoridated water to nearly 99 percent of the population on community supplies. Its school sealant programs reach more than half of high-risk schools. Additionally, the percentage of children on Medicaid receiving services has risen in recent years, up from 29 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2007, the latest year for which data are available. However, Illinois faces steep workforce challenges. The state reimburses dentists at about 53 percent of median fees, falling short of the national target. And according to Pew's calculations, it needs at least 420 additional dentists to meet the needs of 1.7 million people estimated to be unserved for dental care. Illinois has not yet authorized a new primary care dental provider.

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 2007.



SOURCES FOR NATIONAL BENCHMARKS: 1) Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors; 2) American Dental Hygienists' Association; 3) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS-416; 4) American Dental Association; 5) Pew Center on the States, National Academy for State Health Policy and American Academy of Pediatrics; 6) National Oral Health Surveillance System.

HOW WELL IS ILLINOIS RESPONDING?

MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES

	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	50-74%	25%	✓
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	N	Y	
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	98.9%	75%	✓
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	40.1%	38.1%	✓
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	53.1%	60.5%	
Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Authorizes new primary care dental providers, 2009	N	Y	
Tracks data on children's dental health, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Total score	B		5 of 8

Grading: A = 6-8 points; B = 5 points; C = 4 points; D = 3 points; F = 0-2 points

Download the full report and explanatory notes by visiting www.pewcenteronthestates.org/costofdelay.



The Pew Center on the States is a division of The Pew Charitable Trusts that identifies and advances effective solutions to critical issues facing states. Pew is a nonprofit organization that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public and stimulate civic life.

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