



INCREASE MEDICAID DENTAL FUNDING

TEXAS IS LIMITING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE

Medicaid Dental Funding Increase is Necessary for Healthy Texas Children

TOOTH DECAY:

A PREVENTABLE EPIDEMIC

Nearly **46% of children in the US** suffer from tooth decay, a largely preventable condition. Inadequate access to dental care exacerbates this issue, jeopardizing the health of Texas children.¹

TEXAS HAS NOT INCREASED MEDICAID DENTAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES SINCE 2007

Stagnant reimbursement rates hinder Medicaid children's access to needed dental care, and over the past 18 years dental practice costs have surged.²

TEXAS FACES A MEDICAID DENTAL CRISIS

- **Significant Enrollment, Limited Dentist Participation:** Texas' Medicaid dental program serves over **3 million children monthly**, yet fewer than **3,700 dentists** actively participate.^{3,4}
- **Declining Medicaid Dental Access:** Fewer Medicaid children are receiving necessary dental care:
 - In **2016**, 69.16% of eligible children received dental services.
 - By **2021**, this number fell to 64.4%.¹

A FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE SOLUTION: INCREASE FUNDING BY \$33 MILLION (GR) ANNUALLY

- A recent analysis of Texas's rates compared to similar states revealed that Texas continues to lag other states' rates by over 6%.
- Allocating an additional **\$33 million in GR** annually directly to reimbursement rates would increase rates by approximately 6%, addressing the lag and rising costs of providing care.²

BENEFITS OF ADEQUATE REIMBURSEMENT RATES

- **Protect Medicaid Dentist Network Stability:** Ensures sufficient dentists are available to meet growing demand.
- **Save Texas Money:** Prevents expensive emergency care for untreated dental conditions.
- **Safeguard Lives:** Provides essential dental care for children and special needs patients, fostering healthier communities.

Investing in Medicaid dental funding is a critical, cost-effective step to ensure Texas children have access to the dental care they need. A healthier Texas starts with a healthy smile.

ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCREASES BY MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFIT CATEGORY⁵

Category	GR (Yearly)
Diagnostic	\$5,987,491
Preventative	\$7,786,878
Therapeutic	\$26,109,738
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	\$1,309,151
Anesthesia	\$2,730,799
Total	\$43,924,057

REFERENCES

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5. Medicaid Dental Utilization Data, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, SFY 2020-2021, Average Claims Paid.

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