



**MACPAC**  
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission



# Coverage of Medicaid Dental Benefits for Adults

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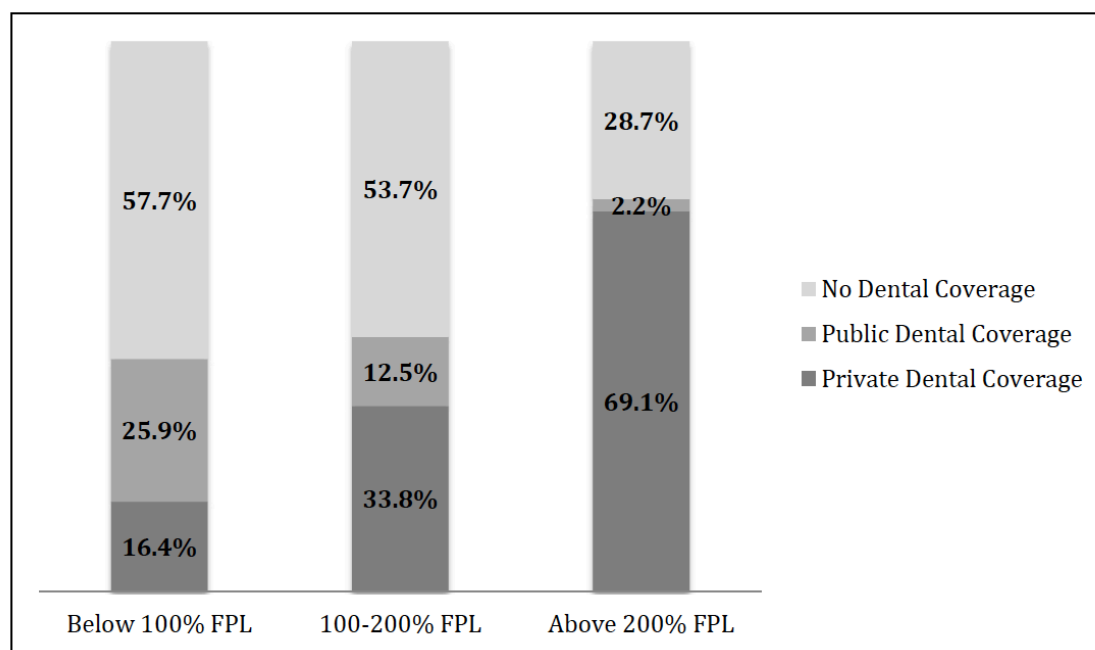
# Overview

- The impact of poor oral health
- Dental coverage
- Current adult dental benefits in Medicaid
- Recent trends in dental benefits
- Use of dental care
- Current and possible future Commission work

# The Impact of Poor Oral Health

- 85% of adults age 18+ are affected by dental caries (cavities)
- Adults with incomes <100% FPL more than 3 times as likely to have untreated dental caries as those with incomes >400% FPL
- May be cause and consequence of several conditions
- Other negative effects

# Percentage of Adults Ages 19 to 64 Who Have Private Dental Coverage, Public Dental Coverage, or No Dental Coverage by Income, 2012



Source: Rodhe, F., Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, analysis of MEPS 2012 data. 2014.

Note: FPL is federal poverty level.

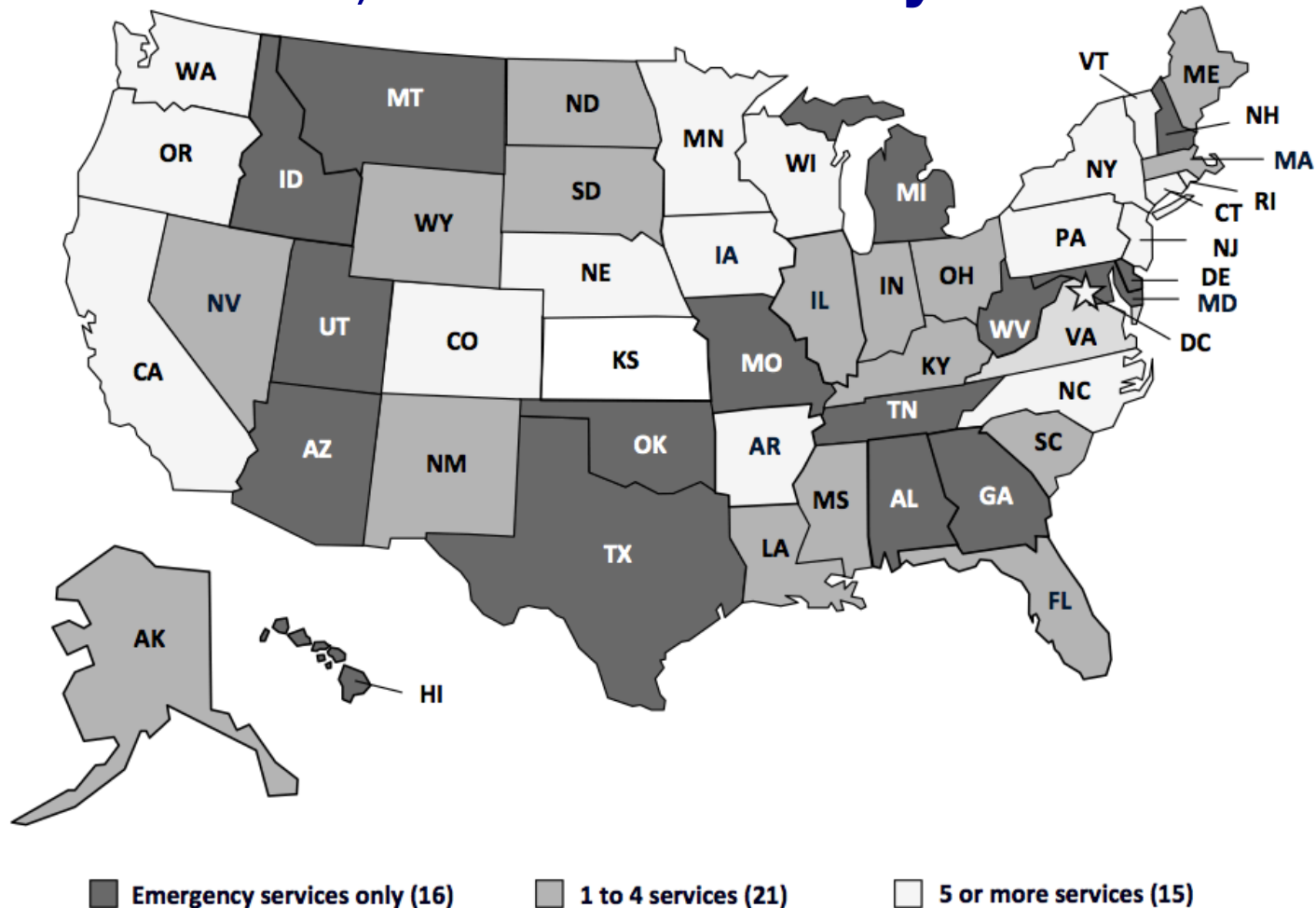
# Types of Services Offered under Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits, as of February 2015

Type of service	Number of states
Emergency Only	16
More extensive	35
Preventive	28
Restorative	26
Periodontal	19
Dentures	27
Oral Surgery	27
Orthodontia	2

**Note:** Federal Medicaid regulation defines dental services as “diagnostic, preventive, or corrective procedures provided by or under the supervision of a dentist in the practice of his profession, including the treatment of – (1) the teeth and associated structures of the oral cavity; and (2) disease, injury, or impairment that may affect the oral or general health of the recipient” (42 CFR §440.100).

**Source:** MACPAC analysis of state Medicaid websites, provider manuals, billing manuals, and informational pamphlet.

# Medicaid Dental Benefits for Adults by State, as of February 2015



**Source:** MACPAC analysis of state Medicaid websites, provider manuals, billing manuals, and informational pamphlet.

# Recent Trends in Dental Benefits

Between 2003 and 2012:

- 7 states increased from emergency only or no coverage to more comprehensive coverage
- 3 states decreased from more comprehensive coverage to emergency only
- 10 states experienced more than one change, both increasing and decreasing

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation. Medicaid Benefits: Dental Services. <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/dental-services/>.

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# Use of Dental Care

- Dental care utilization is lower than other medical care for people across all income levels
- Use of dental services among Medicaid enrollees and low-income populations is particularly low
- For Medicaid enrollees, two possible reasons are:
  - Medicaid does not cover dental care in many states
  - The inability to find a provider who takes Medicaid



# Current and Possible Future MACPAC Work

- Current:
  - Updating dental measures in MACStats and looking at changes over time
  - Focus groups with dually eligible beneficiaries
- Possible Future Work:
  - Use of emergency room for dental services
  - Environmental scan of provider network issues