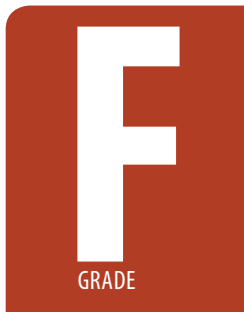




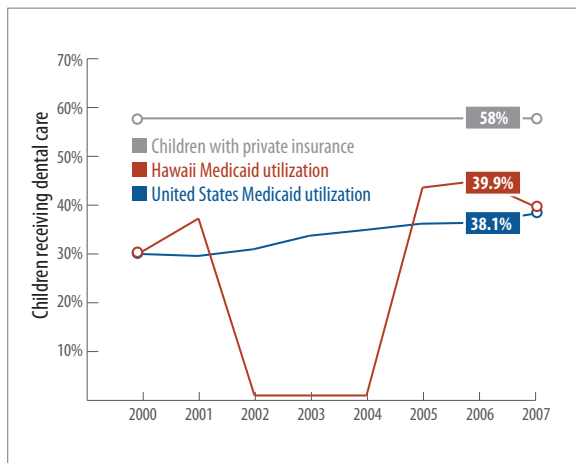
The Cost of Delay: State Dental Policies Fail One in Five Children Hawaii



HAWAII meets just two of eight policy benchmarks aimed at addressing children's dental health needs. The state is one of only two in the West earning failing grades. Hawaii exceeds the national targets only in its percentage of Medicaid-enrolled children who received dental care in 2007 and its policy allowing hygienists to apply sealants without a prior dentist's exam. Far less favorable is the state's fluoridation rate: At 8.4 percent, it is the lowest nationwide. Only those residents living on military bases receive fluoridated water.¹ Hawaii also lacks an organized school sealant program. The budget crisis is compounding the state's difficulty in providing preventive dental care: Employee layoffs in November 2009 dismantled Hawaii's Dental Health Division's Dental Hygiene Branch—the group responsible for advancing preventive strategies statewide.

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.

Hawaii submitted data in 2002, 2003 and 2004 that appear to be abnormally low, indicating possible problems with the submission. Please use caution when interpreting the data in question for these years.

¹ D. Easa, et al., "Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Settings Without a Research-Intensive Dental School: Collaborative Strategies," *Ethnicity and Disease* 15, (2005): 187-190.

HOW WELL IS HAWAII RESPONDING?

MEASURED AGAINST THE NATIONAL BENCHMARK FOR EIGHT POLICY APPROACHES

	STATE	NATIONAL	MEETS OR EXCEEDS
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	0%	25%	
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	Y	Y	✓
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	8.4%	75%	
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	39.9%	38.1%	✓
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	36.8%	60.5%	
Pays medical providers for early preventive dental health care, 2009	N	Y	
Authorizes new primary care dental providers, 2009	N	Y	
Tracks data on children's dental health, 2009	N	Y	
Total score	F		2 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.



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