Health Equity and Childhood Oral Health: Improving Access to Care with Medicaid and CHIP

Webinar:
February 9, 2023
2:30 – 3:30 p.m. ET
Agenda

• Healthy Equity and Children’s Dental Health: Trends and Insights
  • CAPT Wanda Finch, Deputy Director, Office of Minority Health, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

• Oral Health: An Evidence and Data-Driven Approach to Achieve Better Health, Equity, and Fiscal Responsibility
  • Natalia Chalmers, DDS, MHSc, PhD, Chief Dental Officer, Office of the Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

• Medi-Cal Dental: Spanish-Language Outreach and Resources
  • Monique Garcia, Member and Provider Services Section Chief, Medi-Cal Dental

• Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign Resources
  • Helen Gaynor, MPH, Outreach Contractor, Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign, Porter Novelli Public Services, Inc.

• Questions and Answers
Healthy Equity and Children’s Dental Health: Trends and Insights

CAPT Wanda Finch
Deputy Director
Office of Minority Health, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CMS Office of Minority Health

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the largest provider of health insurance in the United States, responsible for ensuring that more than 170 million individuals supported by CMS programs (Medicare, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplaces) are able to get the care and health coverage they need and deserve.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) is one of eight offices of minority health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS OMH works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of all minority populations, racial and ethnic communities, people with limited English proficiency, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.
Mission
CMS OMH will lead the advancement and integration of health equity in the development, evaluation, and implementation of CMS’s policies, programs, and partnerships.

Vision
All those served by CMS have achieved their highest level of health and well-being, and we have eliminated disparities in health care quality and access.
Equity Versus Equality

• **Health equity**: the attainment of the highest level of health for all people

• While equality offers the same opportunities, equity ensures fairness

What are Social Determinants of Health?

The social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.¹

Why are SDOH important?

It’s estimated that between 70-90% of health is determined by SDOH. This doesn’t mean that the clinical encounter doesn’t matter – but instead, that health and health outcomes are influenced by the context of a person’s place and space in society.
Health Equity at CMS

**Health equity** means the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, or other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.

CMS is working to advance health equity by designing, implementing, and operationalizing policies and programs that support health for all the people served by our programs, eliminating avoidable differences in health outcomes experienced by people who are disadvantaged or underserved, and providing the care and support that our enrollees need to thrive.

https://www.cms.gov/pillar/health-equity
CMS Strategic Pillars

**ADVANCE EQUITY**
Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system

**EXPAND ACCESS**
Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care

**ENGAGE PARTNERS**
Engage our partners and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process

**DRIVE INNOVATION**
Drive Innovation to tackle our health system challenges and promote value-based, person-centered care

**PROTECT PROGRAMS**
Protect our programs’ sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds

**FOSTER EXCELLENCE**
Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS’s operations
The CMS Framework for Health Equity expands on the existing CMS Equity Plan to include all CMS programs: Medicare, Marketplace, Medicaid, and CHIP and is informed by research and stakeholder input.

Learn more about the framework at go.cms.gov/framework
CMS Framework for Health Equity: 5 Priority Areas

Priority 1: Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data

Priority 2: Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps

Priority 3: Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities

Priority 4: Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services

Priority 5: Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services & Coverage

https://go.cms.gov/framework
CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities

To ensure that CMS's approach is responsive to the unique needs of rural, tribal, and geographically isolated communities, CMS engaged with listening session participants and federal partners across the nation with lived experience receiving health care or supporting health care service delivery in these communities to help shape the CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities. The Framework focuses on six priorities over the next five years.

https://go.cms.gov/ruralhealth
Coverage to Care (C2C)

C2C aims to help individuals understand their health coverage and connect to primary care and the preventive services that are right for them, so they can live a long and healthy life.
C2C Resources

- Roadmap to Better Care
- 5 Ways to Make the Most of Your Health Coverage
- COVID-19 Resources
- Enrollment Toolkit
- Telehealth Resources
- Prevention Resources
- Partner Toolkit
- And more

go.cms.gov/c2c
Quick Reference
View Your Path to Better Health

Step 1: Put Your Health First
- Staying healthy is important for you and your family.
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle at home, at work, and in the community.
- Get health screenings and manage chronic conditions.
- Keep all of your health information in one place.

Step 2: Understand Your Health Coverage
- Check with your health plan to see what services are covered.
- Make your costs (premiums, copayments, deductibles, co-insurance) clear.
- Know the difference between in-network and out-of-network.

Step 3: Know Where to Go for Care
- Use the emergency department for a life-threatening situation.
- Primary care is preferred when it’s not an emergency.
- Know the difference between primary care and emergency care.

Step 4: Find a Provider
- Ask people you trust. You can also do research online.
- Check your plan’s list of providers.
- If you’re assigned a provider, contact your plan if you want to change.

Step 5: Make an Appointment
- Mention if you’re a new patient or have been there before.
- Give your name, health plan, and any questions.
- Ask what you’ll need to bring for the appointment.

Step 6: Be Prepared for Your Visit
- Have your insurance card with you.
- Know your family health history.
- Make a list of any medicines you take.
- Tell your provider if you have any questions.

Step 7: Decide If the Provider is Right for You
- Did you feel comfortable with the provider you saw?
- Were you able to understand your provider? Did your provider understand you?
- Did you feel like you and your provider could make good decisions together?
- Remember: it is okay to change to a different provider!

Step 8: Next Steps After Your Appointment
- Follow your provider’s instructions.
- Fill any prescriptions you were given. Take them as directed.
- Schedule a follow-up visit if you need one.
- Review your Explanation of Benefits.
- Pay your health care bills.
- Contact your provider or health plan with any questions.
8 Steps in Roadmap to Better Care

• Explains what health coverage is and how to use it to get primary care and preventive services.
• Includes 8 steps for better care:
  1. Put your health first
  2. Understand your health coverage
  3. Know where to go for care
  4. Find a provider
  5. Make an appointment
  6. Be prepared for your visit
  7. Decide if the provider is right for you
  8. Next steps after your appointment

• Resource also includes information about Explanation of Benefits, a sample insurance card, and the differences between a provider’s office and the emergency department.
• Available in 9 languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, and Ukrainian.
CMS Health Equity TA program supports quality improvement partners, providers, and other CMS stakeholders by offering:

• Personalized coaching and resources
• Guidance on data collection and analysis
• Assistance to develop a language access plan and disparities impact statement
• Resources on culturally and linguistically tailored care and communication
• Training and resources to help embed health equity in stakeholder’s strategic planning:
  — Guide to Developing a Language Access Plan
  — Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards

HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov
Connect with CMS OMH

Contact Us
OMH@cms.hhs.gov

Visit Our Website
go.cms.gov/omh

Listserv Signup
bit.ly/CMSOMH

From Coverage to Care
CoverageToCare@cms.hhs.gov

Health Equity Technical Assistance Program
HealthEquityTA@cms.hhs.gov

Rural Health
RuralHealth@cms.hhs.gov
Oral Health: An Evidence and Data-Driven Approach to Achieve Better Health, Equity, and Fiscal Responsibility

Natalia I. Chalmers DDS, MHSc, PhD
Diplomate, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry
Chief Dental Officer
Office of the Administrator,
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Every day, CMS ensures that 160.8 million* people in the U.S. have health coverage that works.

*Subtotal: 172.8 million. Adjust for Medicare/Medicaid dual eligibles (-12 million).
CMS Vision Statement and Strategic Pillars

CMS serves the public as a trusted partner and steward, dedicated to advancing health equity, expanding coverage, and improving health outcomes.

- **Advance Equity**: Advance health equity by addressing the health disparities that underlie our health system.
- **Expand Access**: Build on the Affordable Care Act and expand access to quality, affordable health coverage and care.
- **Engage Partners**: Engage our partners and the communities we serve throughout the policymaking and implementation process.
- **Drive Innovation**: Drive Innovation to tackle our health system challenges and promote value-based, person-centered care.
- **Protect Programs**: Protect our programs’ sustainability for future generations by serving as a responsible steward of public funds.
- **Foster Excellence**: Foster a positive and inclusive workplace and workforce, and promote excellence in all aspects of CMS’s operations.

Source: https://www.cms.gov/cms-strategic-plan
Prevalence of Untreated Tooth Decay In Primary Teeth Among Children Aged 2–5 Years


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<tr>
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<td>9.5</td>
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<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>17.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>100%–199% FPL</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥200% FPL</td>
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</table>


[Graph showing prevalence rates for different categories]
The Effect of Poor Dental Health on Children

Severe Early Childhood Caries

Joanna Douglass, BDS, DDS
Source: smilesforlifeoralhealth.org

Poor academic performance

School attendance, i.e. student absenteeism

Emergency Department Use

Pain and Infection


Source: Ruff et al. Journal of the American Dental Association 2019
Dental Visit in the Past Year By Poverty

Source: Yarbrough and Vujicic Oral health trends for older Americans JADA 2019
Children With A Dental Visit In The Past Year

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

Proportion

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<th>HISPANIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>44.0%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>42.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

△ 12.9%
Children With Annual Dental or Medical Visits

Proportion of beneficiaries with visit in 2018

- Any Dental Service
- Medical Visit

Age of Beneficiaries
- Total
- < 1
- 1-2
- 3-5
- 6-9
- 10-14
- 15-18
- 19-20

Any Dental Service:
- Total: 49.7%
- < 1: 4.1%
- 1-2: 27.9%
- 3-5: 54.6%
- 6-9: 62.5%
- 10-14: 58.8%
- 15-18: 49.2%
- 19-20: 30.2%

Medical Visit:
- Total: 51.6%
- < 1: 91.7%
- 1-2: 79.4%
- 3-5: 62.5%
- 6-9: 62.8%
- 10-14: 58.8%
- 15-18: 49.2%
- 19-20: 18.1%

Source: 2018 Annual Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), National
Percentage of Medicaid Beneficiaries Ages 1 to 20 Who Received Preventive Dental Services, FFY 2020

Population: Beneficiaries ages 1 to 20 enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid expansion CHIP programs for at least 90 continuous days and eligible for EPSDT services

Notes:
This measure shows the percentage of children ages 1 to 20 who are enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid expansion CHIP programs for at least 90 continuous days, are eligible for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services, and who received at least one preventive dental service during the measurement period (October 2019 to September 2020).

Source:
Mathematica analysis of Form CMS-416 reports (annual EPSDT report), Lines 1b and 12b, for the FFY 2020 reporting cycle as of July 2, 2021.

Starting with FFY 2020, some states calculated and submitted their Form CMS-416 reports, while others chose to have CMS produce their Form CMS-416 reports using Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) data. The FFY 2020 reporting cycle includes services provided between October 2019 and September 2020.

Additional information available at:

Where People Manage Oral Health

People spend more hours managing their oral health at home than in a clinical setting.
Parents Dental Care Experience is Key to Coverage and Access

Proportion

Parent with Dental Visit: 85.9%
Parent without Dental Visit: 2.9%
Child with Dental Visit: 62.8%
Child without Dental Visit: 27%

Source: Isong et al. Pediatrics 2010
Source: Lipton et al. Health Affairs 2021
Adults With A Dental Visit In The Past Year

Source: ADA Health Policy Institute analysis of data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey
Periodontal Disease and Associated Inflammatory Comorbidities

Periodontitis Inflammatory Comorbidities
- Cardiovascular disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Alzheimer disease
- Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
- Cancers

Dissemination
- Bacteremia, hematogenous
- Oro-pharyngeal dissemination
- Oro-digestive dissemination
Association Between Maternal Periodontal Disease and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes

Maternal periodontal disease increases the odds of low birthweight by 10%.

Maternal periodontal disease increases the odds of preterm birth by 15%.

Maternal periodontal disease increases the odds of spontaneous abortion by 34%.

Maternal periodontitis increases the odds of any maternal complications by 19%.

Source: Choi et al. Family Practice, 2021
Dental Visit During Pregnancy

Percentage of women who had a dental visit for cleaning during pregnancy:

- Total: 49.6%
- Private Insurance: 60.1%
- Medicaid: 36.0%

Source: Lee et al. JDR Clinical & Translational Research 2021
CMS celebrates all 50 states and D.C. providing dental coverage in Medicaid/CHIP for pregnant and postpartum individuals.
Rate of Dental Services for Children During the PHE

After an initial steep decline, remained slightly below pre-PHE levels

Note: Data for recent months are likely to be adjusted upward due to claims lag.
Oral Health: Challenges and Opportunities

- System Capacity
- Increased Enrollment
- Workforce Shortages Provider Burnout
- Forgone Care

Vaccines and Vaccination
Telehealth
Pandemic
School-based Programs
Monique Garcia
Member and Provider Services Section Chief
Medi-Cal Dental

Medi-Cal Dental: Spanish-Language Outreach and Resources
What is *Smile, California*?

A campaign designed in 2018 to help Medi-Cal members make the most of their dental benefit.

Offers resources and educational materials to Medi-Cal members about their dental benefits.

Visit Smile, California today!

[www.smilecalifornia.org](http://www.smilecalifornia.org)

[https://sonriecalifornia.org/](https://sonriecalifornia.org/)
Smile, California Stats

- Increase in Annual Dental Visits from 2018 to 2019
- Increase in Preventative Dental Services 2018 to 2019 for ages 1-20
- Increase in molar sealants 2018 to 2019 for children ages 6-9
SmileCalifornia.org is the best source for information about the Medi-Cal Dental Program, covered services and good oral health habits.

You can also find Medi-Cal Dental providers by ZIP code using the Find a Dentist tool.

The website is available in English and Spanish. Landing pages are available in 17 threshold languages.

English: https://smilecalifornia.org/
Spanish: https://sonrieCalifornia.org/
Outreach in Spanish

- SonrieCalifornia.org
- Monthly Member Articles
- Facebook Live Events
- Social media captions
- Videos
- Outreach Materials
- Fotonovelas
Best Practices

• Culturally and linguistically appropriate messaging
• Knowing and addressing known barriers
• Partnerships with community partners
• Material tailored to key member populations
• Updates based on state and local partner feedback
The member’s page was designed with oral health resources and more information about Medi-Cal's dental benefits.

The Provider and Partner page has resources available.
National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM)

- Promotes the benefits of establishing good oral health early in life.
- For February, Smile, California is focusing on the importance of preventive dental care, by inspiring Medi-Cal members to love their teeth and visit the dentist regularly during the month of February.
Stay In Touch!

Website:  
English: [https://smilecalifornia.org/](https://smilecalifornia.org/)  
Spanish: [https://sonrie california.org/](https://sonrie california.org/)

Facebook:  /[SmileCalifornia](https://www.facebook.com/SmileCalifornia)

Instagram:  [@SmileOnCalifornia](https://www.instagram.com/SmileOnCalifornia)

YouTube:  [@SmileCalifornia](https://www.youtube.com/SmileCalifornia)

Email:  [dental@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:dental@dhcs.ca.gov)
Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign

Helen Gaynor, MPH
Outreach Contractor, Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign
Porter Novelli Public Services, Inc.
Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign: Initiatives

The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign reaches out to families with children and teens eligible for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to encourage enrollment and to raise awareness about the health coverage and specific benefits available under these programs.

The Campaign conducts annual initiatives tied to priority topics and key times of year:

- Oral Health
- Mental Health
- Vaccinations
- Missed Care
- Peace of Mind
- Youth Sports
- Year-Round Enrollment
- Back-to-School
- Rural Communities
- Multicultural Outreach
The website for Campaign information and resources

InsureKidsNow.gov

Launchpad for free or low-cost children's health insurance

Millions of children and teens qualify for free or low-cost health and dental coverage through Medicaid & the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Learn about coverage options for your family or help us spread the word about free or low-cost health insurance coverage!
Initiatives: Oral Health

Tooth decay can negatively affect a child’s physical and social development. Campaign materials remind families that children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP have coverage for comprehensive dental services.

Resources

• Digital videos
• Posters and palmcards
• Infographics
• eSignatures
• Live reads
• Newsletter templates
• New: Coloring pages
New Materials for Multicultural Outreach

Dental Health Materials Poster, Flyer, and Tear Pads now available in 24 languages at InsureKidsNow.gov
Outreach Tool Library

Find all Campaign Materials in the Outreach Tool Library:

• Ready-to-print posters
• Palmcards
• Social media posts
• Text messages
• Videos
• PSAs
• Template newsletters
Customizable Resources

Many Campaign resources can be customized to include information specific to your community:

- Visit the Outreach Tool Library at www.InsureKidsNow.gov/outreach-tool-library/index.html to review the Customization Guide

- Email CMS Division of Multimedia Services (DMS) with customization requests and your organization’s information: MultimediaServices@CMS.hhs.gov
  - Grantees must include their project officers on the email

- Up to two logos
Medicaid and CHIP Continuous Enrollment Unwinding

In March 2020, CMS waived certain Medicaid and CHIP requirements and conditions. The easing of these rules helped prevent people with Medicaid and CHIP from losing their health coverage during the pandemic.

- Soon, the continuous coverage requirement will come to an end and states will be required to restart eligibility reviews on April 1, 2023.

- The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign encourages beneficiaries to:
  - Update their address, email, and phone number with their state Medicaid offices
  - Check their mail for a letter regarding their Medicaid or CHIP renewal
  - Complete their renewal form, if received.

- Resources and additional information are available at Medicaid.gov/Unwinding, including a Communications Toolkit and graphics in 7 languages, including English and Spanish. Partners can find:
  - Social media copy and graphics
  - Drop-in articles and key messaging
  - The Medicaid.gov/renewals page to help families connect with their state Medicaid office.
Keep in Touch

Interested in learning more about the Campaign and its resources?

• Email us: ConnectingKids@cms.hhs.gov

• Follow us on Twitter: @IKNgov

• eNewsletter sign up: “Campaign Notes”
Questions?