

Fix Medi-Cal Dental Coverage

Half of California Kids Depend on It



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The Children's Partnership

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Maternal and Child Health Access
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Dental Health Care Needs of California's Children

- Nearly ¼ of California's children, ages 0-11, have never been to a dentist (150,000 in Los Angeles)
- Nearly ½ of children enrolled in Medi-Cal have never had a dental visit
- 71% of California children have tooth decay by third grade

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Consequences of Poor Dental Health



- Harms overall health
- Impacts children's ability to learn and succeed in school
- Costs taxpayers and families unnecessarily in emergency room costs and lost school days

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Why Are Children Not Getting Dental Care?



- Not enough providers who see children enrolled in Medi-Cal
- Not enough providers who see young children and children with special health care needs
- Not enough providers in certain geographic areas
- Transportation costs
- Parents unable to miss work

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Why Are Children Not Getting Dental Care?



- Lack of providers who can meet the cultural and language needs of families
- Families don't understand they have dental benefits or how to use them

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We Must Fix Medi-Cal's Dental Program



Half of California's children will be enrolled in Medi-Cal by the end of 2013

- More than 4 million children are currently enrolled in Medi-Cal
- Nearly 900,000 will transition from the Healthy Families Program to Medi-Cal
- More than 400,000 children are eligible but are not enrolled in Medi-Cal

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Action Plan

- Ensure Medi-Cal has enough providers
 - Increase reimbursement rates
 - Simplify process for providers
- Ensure children enrolled in Medi-Cal dental managed care plans receive timely dental care
- Ensure families understand that they have dental benefits for their children and how to access care
- Make accessing care easy for families

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Action Plan

- Invest in prevention: Restore funding to California Children's Dental Disease Prevention Program (CCDDPP)
- Strengthen leadership in oral health at the state level
- Expand the dental team
- Facilitate the use of technology to bring more dental care to children

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