

# Finish the Job: Raise the Kansas Medicaid Dental Rates

## Who and what are covered in the Kansas Medicaid dental program?

- Both children and adults have dental coverage in the Kansas Medicaid program.
- Coverage includes exams, cleanings, fillings, crowns, gum disease treatment, and dentures.

## How many dental providers are Medicaid providers?

- A quarter of dentists in Kansas were Medicaid providers in 2025.
  - Out of the approximate 1630 dentists in Kansas, 399 were actively billing Medicaid in 2025.<sup>1</sup>
- 47 of the Medicaid dentists in 2025 provided care in safety net clinics.<sup>1</sup>
  - The safety net clinics do not have the capacity to be a dental home for all Medicaid members.

## What are the barriers to dentists becoming Medicaid providers?

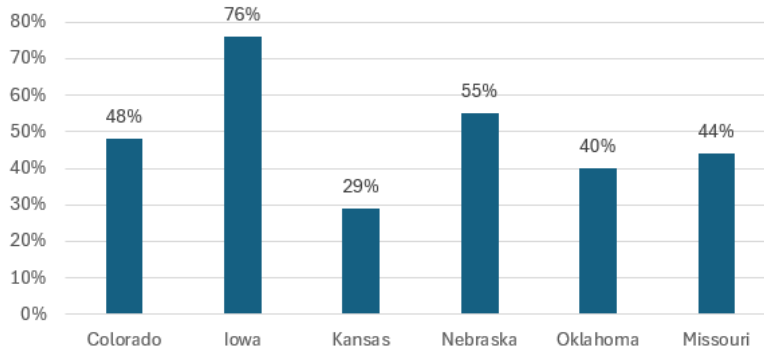
- 4 out of 5 dentists (79.6%) cite low Medicaid reimbursement rates as their top barrier to being Medicaid providers.<sup>2</sup>
- Kansas has the lowest percentage of dentists participating in Medicaid in our region.



## Do rates make a difference in dentists becoming Medicaid providers?

- In 2022, the Missouri Medicaid program increased its rates to near the commercial insurance level.
- By 2025, the number of Medicaid dental providers increased by 700, and the number of counties without a Medicaid dentist was cut in half.
- Last year the Kansas Legislature invested \$4 million in a rate increase. **Thirty new providers joined Medicaid in 2025!** The momentum is going in the right direction, and we are at a tipping point.

Percentage of Dentists Enrolled as a Medicaid Provider in 2024



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute, "The US Dentist Workforce"

## What will it cost to increase the Kansas Medicaid dental rates?

- The cost to finish increasing the rates to a level that is competitive with our neighboring states is \$12 million SGF. The House Social Services Budget Committee has recommended \$6 million SGF.

## Who supports increasing the Kansas Medicaid dental rates?

- A growing list of statewide and local organizations understand that a rate increase is the key to increasing the dental provider network and fulfilling the promise of Kansas Medicaid dental coverage.



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<https://oralhealthkansas.org/MedicaidDentalRates.html>

<sup>1</sup> Oral Health Kansas data request to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance, December 2025

<sup>2</sup> American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute: "Barriers to Dental Care Among Adult Medicaid Beneficiaries: A Comprehensive Analysis in Eight States," November 2024