

# 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?

- 30% of dentists in Kansas were Medicaid providers in 2023.
  - Out of the approximate 1550 dentists in Kansas, 464 were actively billing Medicaid in 2023.<sup>1</sup>
- 50 of the Medicaid dentists in 2023 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>



## 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 2024, the number of Medicaid dental providers increased by 449, and the number of Missouri Medicaid members who received dental care increased by over 80,000.<sup>3</sup>

## How do the Kansas Medicaid rates compare: To our neighbors?

- The Medicaid dental rates in the neighboring states of Colorado and Missouri are as much as twice as high as Kansas Medicaid dental rates.<sup>4</sup>

## To private dental insurance rates?

- Kansas Medicaid rates are approximately 60% of private dental insurance rates, and Missouri's rates are approximately 99% of private insurance rates.<sup>5</sup>

## To average fee-for-service rates set by dental offices?

- Overall Kansas Medicaid rates in 2024 were approximately 37% of the average fee-for-service rates set by dentists.<sup>5</sup>

The current low Medicaid reimbursement rates in Kansas are harming small businesses. Dentists want to care for their communities, but they cannot because the rates do not make business sense.

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

- The cost to increase the Kansas Medicaid dental rates is \$44.3 million All Funds, including \$16.9 million in 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, September 2024

<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

<sup>3</sup> Missouri Coalition for Oral Health: "Capturing the Moment," 2023

<sup>4</sup> Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance: "Kansas Reimbursement Study Report," October 2024

<sup>5</sup> American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute: "Medicaid Reimbursement for Child and Adult Dental Services," 2024