

**Department of Human Services  
Health Services Committee  
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman  
July 31, 2013**

Chairman Lee, members of the Health Services Committee, I am Jodi Hulm, the Administrator of the Children's Health Insurance Program and Health Tracks in the Medical Services Division for the Department of Human Services. I am here to provide information regarding North Dakota Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) dental services.

North Dakota Medicaid and CHIP dental services include both preventative and restorative services. This includes oral exams, cleanings, x-rays, fluoride varnish and sealants which are preventative. Other benefits include crowns, fillings, oral surgery and dentures which are restorative. Orthodontic services are also available for children. North Dakota Medicaid is one of the states that offer adult dental benefits beyond emergency dental care.

**Increased Medicaid Reimbursement**

As a result of legislative appropriations, the Department has increased the Medicaid dental fee schedule as follows:

- In 2007, House Bill 1246 passed and provided an additional \$160,000 in general funds and \$284,198 in federal funds, for a total of \$444,198, which was used to increase the fee schedule for Medicaid children's dental services. The new fees, along with a 4% inflationary increase, were implemented July 1, 2007.
- In 2008, the dental fee schedule received a 5% inflationary increase.
- In 2009, the dental fee schedule was increased to a minimum of an average of 75% of average billed charges.
- In 2010, the dental fee schedule received a 6% inflationary increase.

- In both 2011 and 2012, the dental fee schedule received a 3% increase.
- On July 1, 2013, the dental fee schedule was increased by 4%.

### **Increased Efforts by the Department**

In 2012, the Department initiated a Medicaid and CHIP Dental Access project. The intention of the project is to increase the number of dentists practicing in non-profit dental clinics by awarding funds to a non-profit clinic to support their recruitment of a dentist. The first of the awards was made in March 2013 and the award has assisted Bridging the Dental Gap (Bismarck) in hiring an additional dentist. In exchange for the award, Bridging the Dental Gap has increased outreach efforts to the Medicaid and CHIP population and expanded their service area from a 50-mile radius to a 75-mile radius and by the end of the year their service area will be a 100-mile radius.

Department staff are participating members of the North Dakota Oral Health Coalition and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Advisory Committee. These committees encourage collaboration and access to dental services.

Department staff also maintain a federal website of dental providers who accept new Medicaid and CHIP recipients. The purpose of the website is to provide a comprehensive list of providers who currently accept Medicaid and CHIP recipients. The website is [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov).

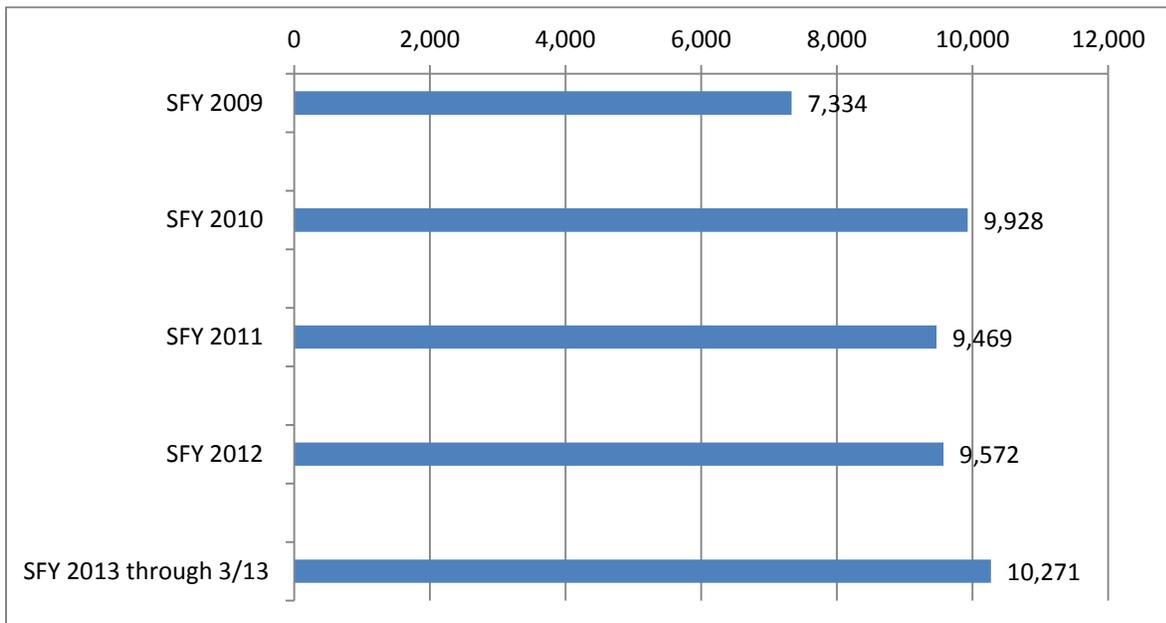
The Department inserts a flyer in all Medicaid and CHIP application packets that describe the dental benefit for each program including information on when it is recommended that a recipient receive a dental checkup.

## **Medicaid Utilization of Dental Services**

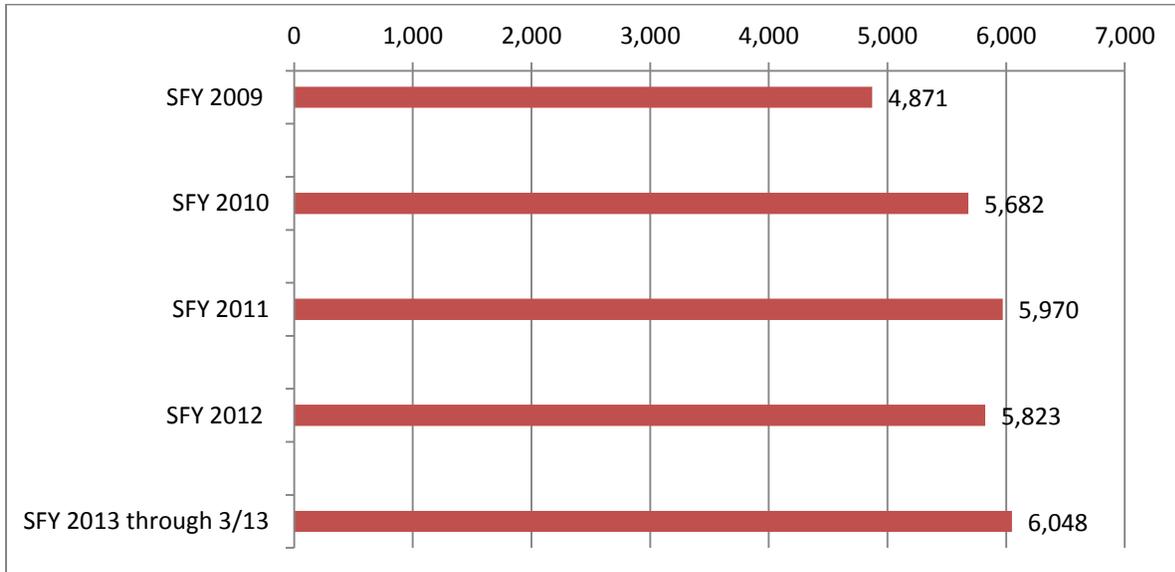
In 2007, House Bill 1293 authorized fluoride varnish treatments to be provided by registered nurses, registered dental hygienists, registered dental assistants, physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. The following table shows the numbers of fluoride varnishes provided to Medicaid recipients by those provider types (these numbers do not include dentists).

<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>2,673</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>4,445</b>	<b>5,619</b>

## **Dental Services Received by Children: Average Monthly Units for Dental Services**



## Dental Services Received by Adults: Average Monthly Units for Dental Services



The Department remains committed to improving dental access and we are available to provide any additional information to this committee during its interim study. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.