

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 2023.¹
- 50 of the Medicaid dentists in 2023 provided care in safety net clinics.¹
 - 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.²



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 2023 the number of Medicaid dental providers increased by 184, and the number of Missouri Medicaid members who received dental care increased by over 50,000.³

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.⁴

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.⁵

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.⁵

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>

¹ Oral Health Kansas data request to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health Care Finance, September 2024

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

³ Missouri Coalition for Oral Health: "Capturing the Moment," 2023

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

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