Oral Health Care System: Tennessee

This fact sheet summarizes select data on the oral health care system as of 2015. Topics include dental care utilization; oral health status; attitudes and knowledge of oral health; fluoridation rates; reimbursement rates to providers and the supply of dentists.

For methods and data sources, please visit ADA.org/statefacts.

For more information on the ADA Health Policy Institute, please visit ADA.org/HPI.

Percentage with a Dental Visit in the Past 12 Months

Percentage of Medicaid Children Who Received a Sealant on a Permanent Molar in 2013

15% OF TENNESSEE MEDICAID CHILDREN 6 THROUGH 14 YEARS OLD RECEIVED A SEALANT ON A PERMANENT MOLAR IN 2013, COMPARED TO 14% NATIONALLY.

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Percentage of Population on Community Water Systems Receiving Fluoridated Water in 2012

90% OF TENNESSEE’S POPULATION ON COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS RECEIVE FLUORIDATED WATER

Oral Health Status Index Among Adults in 2015

Tennessee

- Excellent Oral Health: 7.9
- High-Income Adults: 7.9
- Low-Income Adults: 7.5

U.S.

- Excellent Oral Health: 8.2
- High-Income Adults: 8.2
- Low-Income Adults: 7.2

Oral Health Knowledge Index Among Adults in 2015

42% OF HIGH-INCOME TENNESSEE ADULTS ANSWERED ALL OF HPI’S ORAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE SURVEY QUESTIONS CORRECTLY COMPARED TO 52% OF HIGH-INCOME AND 44% OF LOW-INCOME U.S. ADULTS

Oral Health Attitude Index Among Adults in 2015

Tennessee

- Positive: 6.2
- Neutral: 4.8
- Negative: 5.9

U.S.

- Positive: 4.0
- Neutral: 0
- Negative: 0

Oral Health Care System: Tennessee

High-Income Adults: 84%
Low-Income Adults: 79%
Oral Health Care System: Tennessee

Change in Private Dental Benefit Plan Charges Between 2003 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGE IN PRIVATE DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN CHARGES BETWEEN 2003 AND 2013</th>
<th>CHILD</th>
<th>ADULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement as a Percentage of Private Dental Benefit Plan Charges for Child Dental Services

- **TENNESSEE**: 54%
- **U.S.**: 49%

Medicaid Fee-for-Service Reimbursement in Medicaid decreased 37.5% in Tennessee between 2003 and 2013.

Number of Dentists per 100,000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tennessee</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>50.6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>60.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Dentists Participating in Medicaid for Child Dental Services in 2014

- **TENNESSEE**: 35%
- **U.S.**: 42%

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