U.S. Dental Spending Down in 2020

NATIONAL DENTAL EXPENDITURES DECREASED by 1.8% from $145 billion in 2019 to $142.4 billion in 2020 (constant 2020 dollars).

DENTAL SPENDING PER CAPITA DECREASED from $442 in 2019 to $430 in 2020 (constant 2020 dollars).

COVID-19 related government relief program spending was $8.7 billion in 2020. Absent these programs, we estimate that 2020 NATIONAL DENTAL SPENDING WOULD HAVE BEEN $133.7 BILLION, REPRESENTING A 7.8% DECREASE.

OUT OF POCKET SPENDING DECREASED THE MOST, by 12.7%. Private health insurance spending fell by 4.9% and government program spending by 2.1%. The ‘Other’ category increased by 481% due to the COVID-19 Paycheck Protection Program and the Provider Relief Fund.

NATIONAL DENTAL EXPENDITURES, 2000-2020 (Constant 2020 $, Billions)

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE
OUT OF POCKET
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS
OTHER

Sources: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Expenditures adjusted for inflation using the GDP implicit price deflator. In the second graph, the ‘Other’ category includes the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Provider Relief Fund (PRF). It does not include the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. The ‘Government Programs’ category includes Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, Department of Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information, visit ADA.org/HPI or contact the Health Policy Institute at hpi@ada.org.