



**Department  
of Health**

# **New York State Oral Health Coalition 2023 Annual Meeting**

**New York State Medicaid  
Michele Griguts, DDS  
Dental Director**

October 2023

# Agenda

- Greetings
- Updates
- Access Strategies
- Quality Improvement Projects

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# Greetings and Introduction

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# Updates

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## **New Dental Policies: Expansion of Access to Dental Services for Children and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)**

- Established distinct Medicaid reimbursement for oral sedation and nitrous oxide separate from an office visit for children and individuals with IDD
- Enhanced payments for IDD members who require medically necessary dental treatment in the hospital setting.
- Established a 20% rate enhancement for privately practicing dentists who serve individuals with IDD
- Guidance for new policies published in the [July 2023 Medicaid Update](#)

## Updates and Changes to the New York State Medicaid Dental Policy and Procedure Code Manual

- Hyperlinks for easy cross reference
- Latest additions to the manual highlighted in **purple**
- Revision Table provided on [eMedNY](#)
- Added appendix for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) population (with Recipient Exception codes RE 81/RE 95 OPWDD/Managed Care Exemption) highlighting additional dental benefits available to this population

[https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Dental/PDFS/Dental\\_Policy\\_and\\_Procedure\\_Manual.pdf](https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/Dental/PDFS/Dental_Policy_and_Procedure_Manual.pdf)

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# Under Construction: Soon to Come Dental Informational Page

Dental page to be added to the New York State Department of Health website with information for Medicaid members and providers

## For members:

- Information on Medicaid dental services, importance of oral health, new dental benefit highlights and resources for locating a dental provider (Fee for Service)

## For dental providers:

- Information on provider resources including provider enrollment, billing guidance, provider outreach and training, listserv messages, Medicaid updates, prior approval guidelines, and new dental benefit highlights

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# Access Strategies



## Access to Dental Services

Increasingly difficult for Medicaid members to access dental services

- Fewer dental providers, with an increase in enrolled Medicaid members<sup>1</sup>
  - In a recent report from the American Dental Association [Health Policy Institute \(HPI\)](#):<sup>2</sup>
    - Dental Sector continues to face a serious workforce shortage.
    - Vacant positions in dental assisting and dental hygiene have reduced dental practice capacity by an estimated 10% nationally.
    - There is a downward trend in enrollment for dental assisting and dental hygiene programs. Some recovery of dental hygiene enrollment post-pandemic but dental assisting shortage expected to remain an issue for years to come.
- Shortages having a significant impact on dental access for Medicaid members, especially the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled (IDD) population.
- Capital District especially hard hit with the closure of hospital based dental programs

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/enrollment/historical/enrollment\\_trends.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/enrollment/historical/enrollment_trends.htm)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/dental\\_workforce\\_shortages\\_labor\\_market.pdf?rev=e6025d77df184e6c95dc7cefde4adee3&hash=225FCBBCCB67174AAFC760FE2287322D](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/resources/research/hpi/dental_workforce_shortages_labor_market.pdf?rev=e6025d77df184e6c95dc7cefde4adee3&hash=225FCBBCCB67174AAFC760FE2287322D)

# Current NYS Medicaid Enrollment

Latest Month Summary (June 2023)		
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>8,020,548</b>	
NYC Enrollment	4,490,134	(56.0% of total)
Rest of State Enrollment	3,530,413	(44.0% of total)

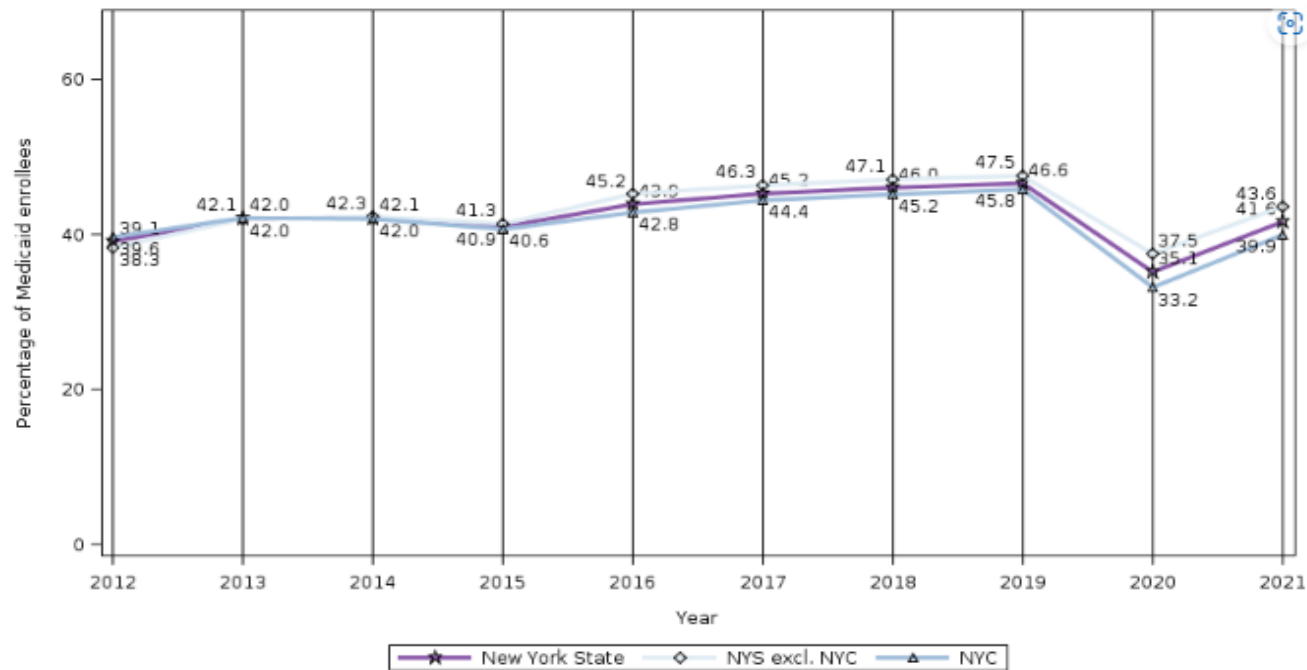
	NYC	Rest of State	Total Enrollment
June 2023	4,490,134	3,530,413	8,020,548
May 2023	4,451,289	3,521,570	7,972,859
April 2023	4,430,003	3,512,071	7,942,074
March 2023	4,402,825	3,506,553	7,909,379
February 2023	4,373,974	3,485,368	7,859,342
January 2023	4,355,953	3,480,451	7,836,404
December 2022	4,329,813	3,453,647	7,783,460
November 2022	4,302,871	3,433,406	7,736,277
October 2022	4,282,559	3,425,162	7,707,721
September 2022	4,262,228	3,414,864	7,677,092
August 2022	4,229,976	3,391,664	7,621,640
July 2022	4,214,332	3,373,801	7,588,133
June 2022	4,192,488	3,355,275	7,547,763
May 2022	4,170,704	3,337,088	7,507,792
April 2022	4,159,818	3,328,436	7,488,254
March 2022	4,149,370	3,325,328	7,474,698
February 2022	4,132,195	3,305,461	7,437,656
January 2022	4,116,581	3,293,104	7,409,685
December 2021	4,091,826	3,273,785	7,365,611
November 2021	4,064,914	3,248,966	7,313,880
October 2021	4,053,431	3,235,357	7,288,788
September 2021	4,028,979	3,216,508	7,245,487
August 2021	4,002,680	3,194,788	7,197,468
July 2021	3,987,261	3,175,552	7,162,813

Data Last Updated: 07/12/2023

[https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/enrollment/historical/docs/all\\_months.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/enrollment/historical/docs/all_months.pdf)

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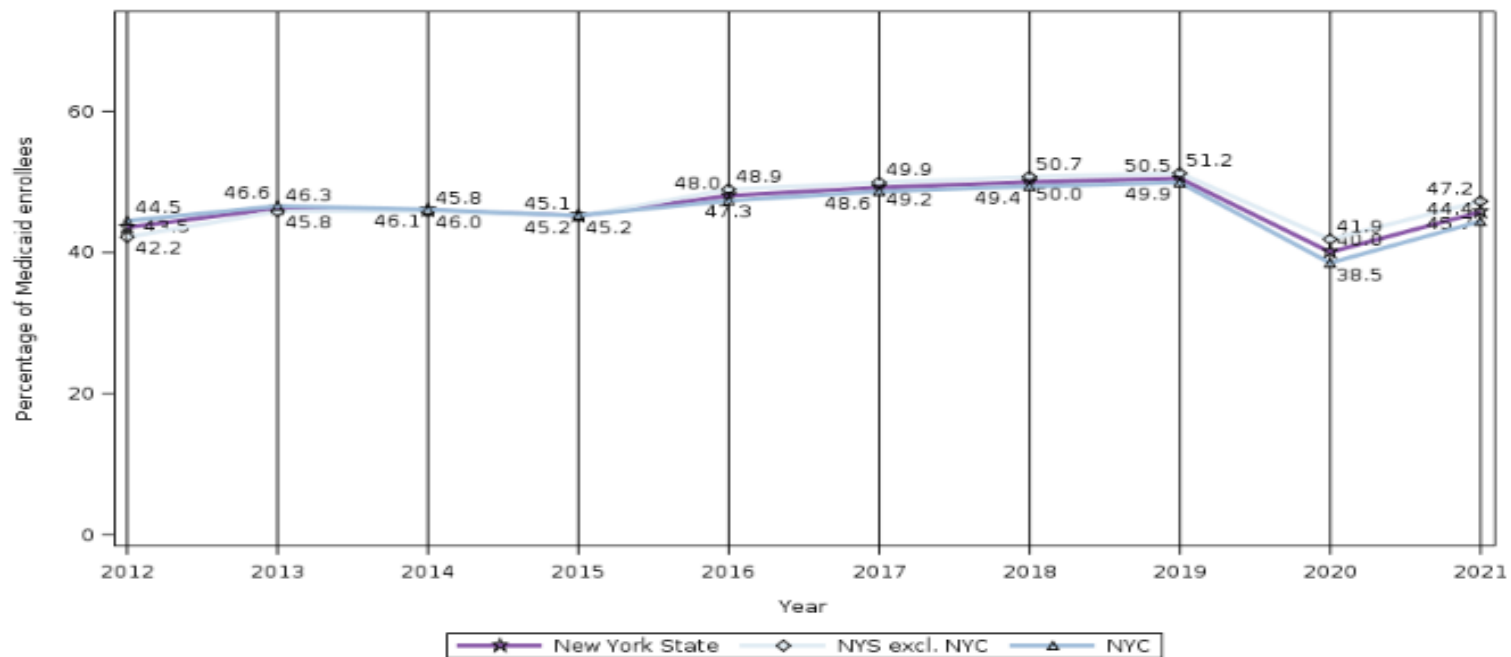
## New York State – Percentage of Medicaid Enrollees (aged 2-20) with at Least One Preventive Dental Visit within the Last Year



[https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/quest?\\_program=/EBI/PHIG/apps/chir\\_dashboard/chir\\_dashboard&p=str&ind\\_id=Lq119#pagetitle](https://webbi1.health.ny.gov/SASStoredProcess/quest?_program=/EBI/PHIG/apps/chir_dashboard/chir_dashboard&p=str&ind_id=Lq119#pagetitle)

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## New York State - Percentage of Medicaid enrollees (aged 2-20 years) who had at least one dental visit within the last year



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## Strategies for Improving Access

- Tracking of approved budget proposals that were implemented as of July 1, 2023, with focus on the pediatric and IDD population
- Consider benchmarking current reimbursement rates
- Examine best practices from other states on increasing provider enrollment in Medicaid
- Promote educational programs and fellowships, and explore loan repayment options for dental students
- Continue to promote teledentistry to maximize staff efficiency

# Quality Improvement Projects

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## Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Advancing Caries Reduction in Medicaid Project

- 2-year Oral Health Affinity project ended March 2023.
- **Vision:** to develop interprofessional relationships between dental, medical and academic communities to reduce incidence of tooth decay among our youngest Medicaid members, through promotion of fluoride varnish application in a primary care medical setting.
- **Aim:** to promote utilization of fluoride varnish (FV) application by a non-dental provider (MD, NP, PA, RN) for Medicaid children ages 6 months through the age of 6 years by increasing utilization of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99188 with a focus on 3 counties. In addition, the team intends to facilitate dental referrals from the medical provider to the dentist to support continuity of dental care.
  - Medicaid reimburses FV up to **4 X annually** for members **ages 6 months through 6 years under CPT code 99188** in the medical setting and up through age 21 in the dental setting under CDT code D1206.

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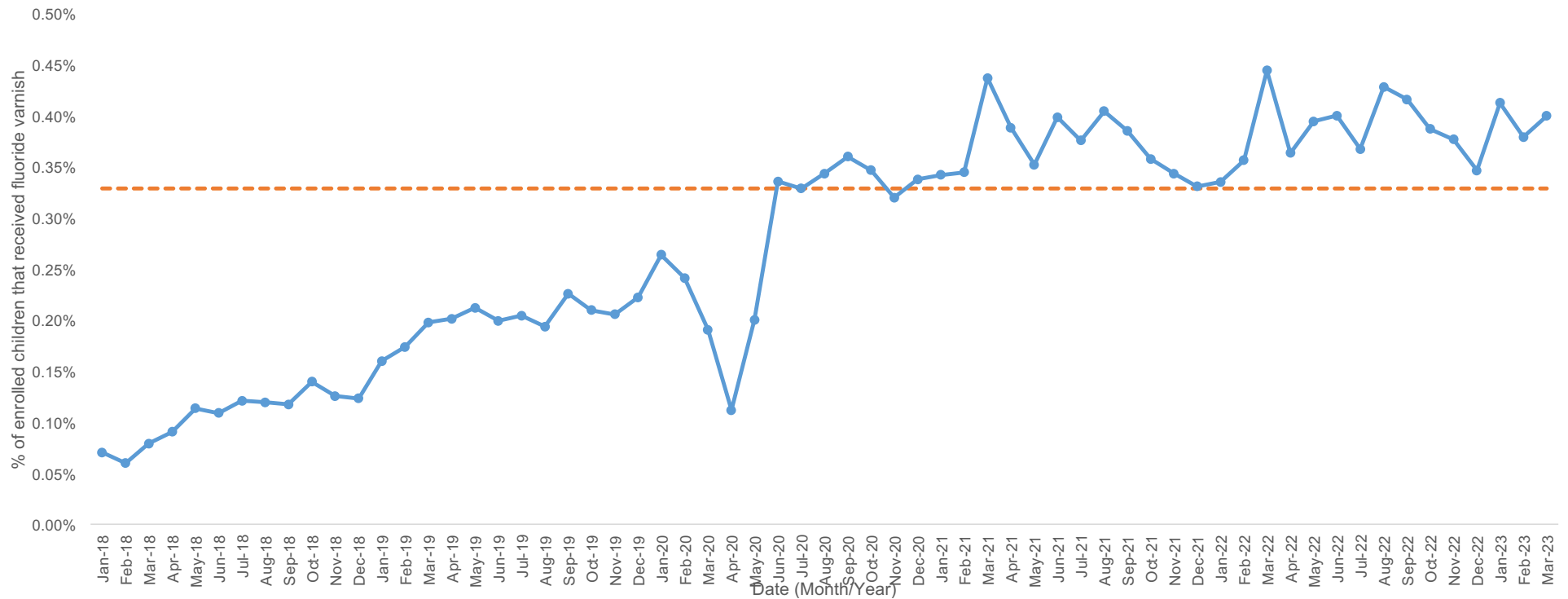
## Affinity Team and Stakeholders

- Department of Health
- Pediatrician Oral Health Champion
- Oral Health Advocacy Group
- Managed Care Plan
- School Based Health Center (SBHC)
- Local Community College

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# Percent of Total Enrolled Medicaid Population Ages 0-6 that Received Fluoride Varnish Application by a Non-Dental Provider



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## Next Steps

- Continue to work with Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) plans
- Expand opportunities for interprofessional collaboration
- Provider outreach/educational resources

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## Performance Improvement Project for MMC Plans

### Goals:

- Assess barriers and develop interventions to increase rates of preventive dental care, and decrease ED utilization for non-traumatic dental conditions, among MMC and HIV SNP adult members, ages 21 through 64 years, using clinical and non-clinical interventions by measurement year 2023
- Analyze membership data to identify at least one disparity in rates of preventive dental care, and/or ED utilization for dental care, and develop at least one intervention to reduce the identified disparity and one associated Intervention Tracking Measure (ITM)

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***Contact us at:***

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