Kansas Dental Provider Survey

Priorities for the Second Medicaid Rate Increase

In 2026, the Kansas Legislature appropriated an additional $5 million to the state budget to increase Medicaid dental reimbursement rates, representing the latest in a series of investments in the Medicaid Dental Program. Although this funding demonstrates the state's commitment to improving oral health care, the appropriation was insufficient to increase reimbursement rates across all covered dental services. Oral Health Kansas and the Kansas Dental Association, in partnership with Community Care Network of Kansas, administered a statewide survey to identify dental providers' reimbursement priorities. The survey findings were subsequently shared with the Kansas Medicaid agency to guide implementation of the 2026 Medicaid dental rate increases.

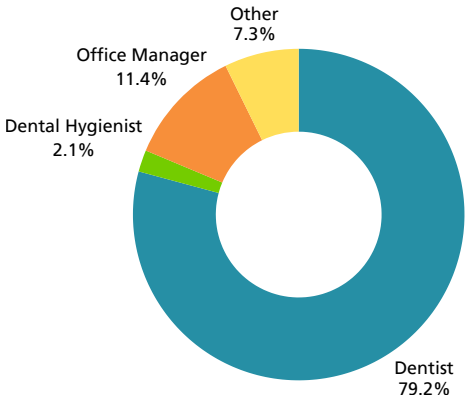
PARTICIPANTS

Participants Accepting Medicaid (N= 97)

	Yes	No
Group Private Practice	36	9
Solo Private Practice	31	8
FQHC	9	0
CHC	1	0
None of the Above	0	3
Totals	77	20

86%
of respondants
work in private practice

Participants by Role



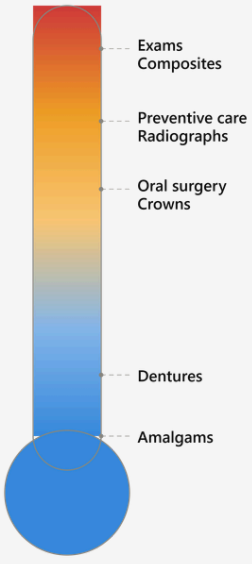
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Continued Attention on Reimbursement Rates
Emphasis on reimbursement rates remaining below the actual cost of care and need for continued attention on rates to sustain provider participation.

Specialty Services
Increasing reimbursement rates for services such as oral surgery, sedation, and endodontics, as well as certain crown codes.

Improve Administrative Processes
Recommending a streamlined process for Medicaid licensing and initial credentialing with the managed care organizations (MCOs).

OVERALL PROVIDER PRIORITIES



The thermometer represents the relative priority captured from the survey, with higher placement indicating a greater priority for increased Medicaid reimbursement.

- Exams and preventive care continue to be identified as high priority services
- Providers greater prioritized composites for a rate increase than last year
- Mirroring 2025 survey results, dentures and amalgams remained the lowest priority services

Priorities by Dental Care Setting

Survey results revealed that FQHCs/CHCs and private practices share similar priorities for dental service reimbursement, despite having different reimbursement models.

FQHC / CHC

1. Dental exams
2. Preventative services & Oral surgery
3. Composite filling

PRIVATE PRACTICE

1. Dental exams
2. Composite fillings
3. Preventative services

KANSAS MEDICAID DENTAL ADVOCACY

Changing Medicaid policies and reimbursement rates takes time. From identifying a need, to developing recommendations, working through the approval process, and implementing a change, there are many steps involved. The dental team voice is part of the process- it may feel like one small action, but when providers speak up together, those voices can help drive meaningful change.

Where to Learn More?

- Free Webinar "Behind the Curtain: How Dental Advocacy Creates Change" https://pathwaystooralhealth.org/resources-list/webinar/
- Advocacy Toolkit- https://oralhealthkansas.org/AdvocacyToolkit.html
- Weekly Wednesday Update- https://oralhealthkansas.org/WWU.html

How to Engage?

- Join the Dental Provider Advisory Group- https://www.oralhealthkansas.org/DentalProviderAdvisoryGroup.html
- Share your story and experiences
- Engage your peers
- Contact your representatives- See the "Behind the Curtain" webinar for tips
- Provide written and/or verbal testimony

For more information visit the Pathways of Oral Health website:
https://pathwaystooralhealth.org/

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