

	2010	2010	Overage Grade: F "Florida meets just two of eight national measurements for oral health."		
Performance Measures	National Average	Florida	Comments	Recommendations	2011 Florida Progress Report
Share of high-risk schools with sealant programs, 2009	F	F	Florida scored in the bottom quartile of the states on this measure.	Florida should develop a sealant program targeting high-risk schools.	Local coalitions seeking partnerships for sealant programs
Hygienists can place sealants without dentist's prior exam, 2009	A	F	Florida law prohibits hygienist from placing sealants without a dentist's exam.	Florida can pull this grade up with the passage of Senate Bill 446 and House Bill 225 during the 2011 Legislative Session.	These bills currently are being considered by the Florida Legislature.
Share of residents on fluoridated community water supplies, 2006	C	C+	77.7 percent of Florida residents are on a fluoridated community water supply, compared to 75 percent nationally.	States with an A grade average 88.6 percent of their population on fluoridated water. Florida could raise its grade by taking a close look at local water supplies to see if fluoridation opportunities exist. Adding more fluoride varnish programs may also help.	Florida already is above the national average and the Florida Oral Health Coalition is working to raise the awareness of this simple preventative.
Share of Medicaid-enrolled children getting dental care, 2007	F	F-	At 23.8 percent, Florida is far below the unimpressive national average of just 37.5 percent.	States are required to provide children on Medicaid with dental care, but too many children don't have access to service due to transportation and other challenges. Many dentists won't accept Medicaid patients due to low reimbursement rates. Florida can quickly improve its grade by passing SB 446 and HB 225. Increasing sealant programs in high-risk school also could pull up this grade.	These bills currently are being considered by the Florida Legislature. It's unclear how these services may be impacted by Florida's current budget shortfall and shift to Medicaid Managed Care.
Share of dentists' median retail fees reimbursed by Medicaid, 2008	D	F-	Nationally, Medicaid pays dentists about 60 percent of their regular fees. In Florida, dentists are reimbursed just a third of their fees.	Florida Medicaid reimbursement rates are a big reason so few Medicaid-enrolled children receive dental care. It is probably not reasonable to expect these rates to increase in the current budget-shortfall climate, but passage of SB 446 and HB 225 would help by allowing hygienists to provide some of these services. The issue of low reimbursement rates should be part of a comprehensive review of oral health policies in Florida.	These bills currently are being considered by the Florida Legislature. It's unclear how these services may be impacted by Florida's current budget shortfall and shift to Medicaid Managed Care.
Pays medical providers for early preventative dental health care, 2009	A	A	A bright spot in Florida's Oral Health policy.	Florida should reduce the temptation to cut such services. Poor oral health is linked to heart disease, diabetes and other chronic conditions.	Unclear how these services may be impacted by Florida's current budget shortfall and Medicaid reform.
Authorizes new primary care dental providers, 2009	A	C	Florida does not authorize new primary care dental providers but neither do the top-rated states.	This is another policy that merits further exploration and may be assisted with the passage of SB 446 and HB 225. Combining primary care and dental care means patients have fewer appointments, which is especially helpful for those with inadequate transportation.	These bills currently are being considered by the Florida Legislature.
Tracks data on children's dental health, 2009	A	F	Florida has no system for tracking children's dental health.	A comprehensive study of Florida's oral health policies may identify simple, cost-effective methods for tracking this data. Florida's CHARTS system would make a useful reporting tool.	The Florida Oral Health Coalition is working on standards and a protocol for tracking children's dental health.