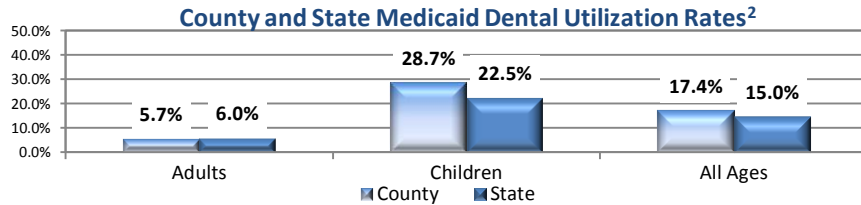


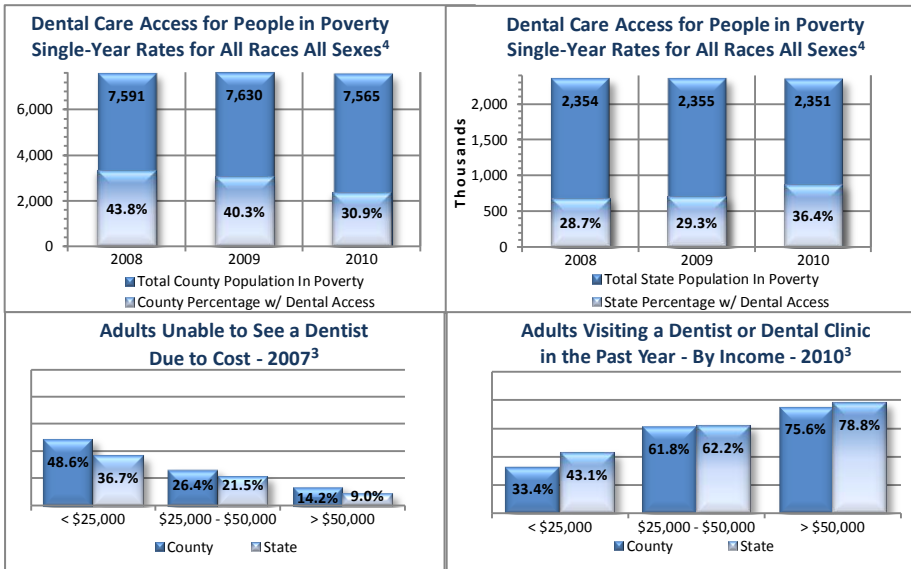
ORAL HEALTH ACCESS PROFILE: LEVY COUNTY

A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF RESIDENTS ARE UNABLE TO ACCESS ROUTINE DENTAL CARE

The number of Medicaid dental providers. Includes county health departments and federally qualified health centers ¹	0 (790 statewide)
The number of Medicaid-eligible adults compared to the number receiving Medicaid dental services ²	5,062 290
The number of Medicaid-eligible children compared to the number receiving Medicaid dental services ²	5,227 1,501



Adult Oral Health Behavior and Access³



Primary Oral Health Challenges

- A significant proportion of county residents are unable to access routine dental care.
- The county has not yet maximized access to evidence-based preventive services such as community water fluoridation and clinical preventive services such as dental sealants and topically applied fluorides. Currently, 0 percent of county residents on community water systems receive fluoridated water.⁴
- The only dental care option for many is the hospital emergency room.
- Despite a 2011 increase, Medicaid reimbursement rates remain too low for a private-practice dentist to offset the cost of care.

IN 2010, 56 LEVY COUNTY RESIDENTS SOUGHT EMERGENCY -ROOM TREATMENT FOR DENTAL CONDITIONS TYPICALLY CONSIDERED AVOIDABLE WITH APPROPRIATE PREVENTIVE AND RESTORATIVE CARE, INCURRING TOTAL CHARGES OF \$194,285. OF THAT TOTAL, \$76,801 WAS PAID BY FLORIDA MEDICAID.⁵

Policy Solutions

- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates & expand coverage to include adult preventive and restorative care.
Benefit: Cost increases in expanding dental care would be offset by reduced emergency room spending.⁶
- Grant Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) express authority to reimburse health access settings for dental hygiene services, which is needed to fully implement legislation passed in 2011.
Benefit: Increase access and reduce cost of preventive dental services.
- Expand fluoridation of community water supplies and oppose efforts to remove fluoride from the water supply.
Benefit: Overwhelming scientific evidence supports community water fluoridation as safe and effective in preventing tooth decay and pays for itself in reduced dental care costs.⁷

¹ Medicaid Bureau of Program Analysis, April 30, 2012

² Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, Medicaid Decision-Support System, accessed June 2, 2011. (Note: Reporting of encounter data is incomplete. This may result in under-reporting of utilization in the Medicaid reform counties (Baker, Broward, Clay, Duval, and Nassau) and in Miami-Dade County.)

³ Florida Behavior Risk Factor Survey, generated via FloridaCHARTS, May 4, 2012.

⁴ Florida Department of Health, Public Health Dental Program, generated via FloridaCHARTS, May 4, 2012.

⁵ Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration, Emergency Department Database, 2010.

⁶ Shortridge EF, Moore JR. Use of emergency departments for conditions related to poor oral healthcare: Implications for rural and low-resource urban areas for three states. J Public Health Manag Pract 2009; 15(3): 238-245.

⁷ Griffin SO, Jones K, Tomar SL. An economic evaluation of community water fluoridation. J Public Health Dent 2001; 61(2): 78-86.