

## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN FLORIDA\*

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM DENTAL CARE VISITS DRAMATICALLY INCREASING

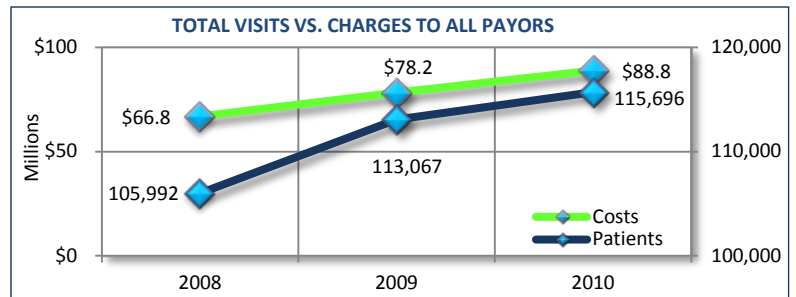
More than 115,000 hospital emergency room visits in 2010 were for dental care with charges exceeding \$88 million. Much of it may have been avoided with proper preventive care.

An analysis of emergency room visits from 2008 to 2010 for dental conditions generally considered preventable found the number of patients seeking emergency-room dental care increased over the three years by about 10,000, and charges have increased by more than \$21 million. More than half of the increase—\$12.9 million—was to Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care. In contrast, charges to private insurance increased by only about \$800,000. The data is a conservative estimate of the true cost of care as it reflects only a subset of the most common billing codes used to charge for dental services.

#### LACK OF ACCESS DRIVING EXPENSIVE EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

Hospital emergency rooms are among the most expensive sources of dental care yet typically provide only temporary relief of the problem. Peak times for emergency room visits are during business hours, an indication of lack of access to providers willing to take Medicaid patients. While dental practices may refuse to accept Medicaid patients due to low reimbursement rates, hospital emergency rooms must treat all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

The average age of emergency-room dental patients is 32, when a lifetime of neglect may manifest as significant health issues. This may be exacerbated because routine dental services for adults are not covered under Medicaid. Better access for low-income patients to preventive and restorative services may be a cost-effective solution to reducing hospital and overall healthcare spending.



#### PUBLICLY FUNDED EMERGENCY-ROOM DENTAL CARE OF CHILDREN DOUBLED FROM 2008 TO 2010

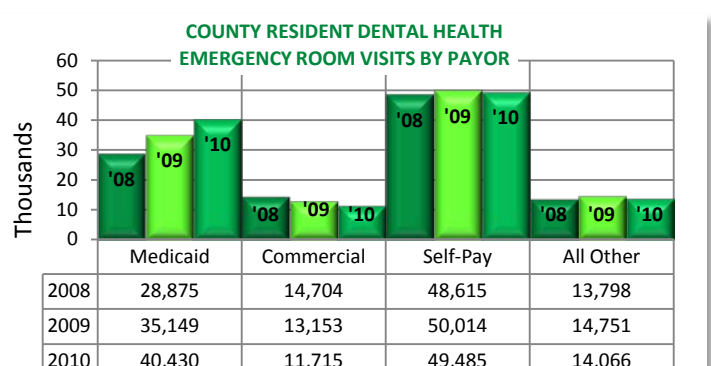
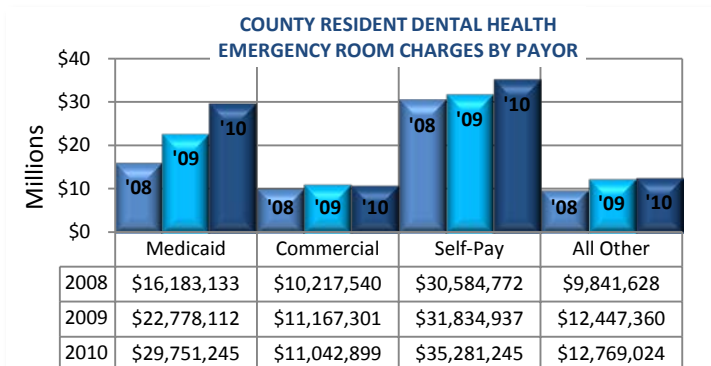
Visits charged to child-specific payors – KidCare, Healthy Kids, MediKids and Children’s Medical Services – more than doubled over the years reviewed while charges almost tripled. Unlike adults, routine dental services for low-income children are covered by Medicaid and other public-payor sources. These findings may reflect a lack of community providers and the need to better inform parents—in all income brackets—of the vital importance of preventive dental care.

STATE ORAL HEALTH ER VISITS BY CHILD AGE GROUP		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	TOTAL
2008		4,286	2,795	1,670	5,852	14,603
2009		4,617	2,866	1,734	6,241	15,458
2010		4,588	2,922	1,845	6,173	15,528

#### POLICY SOLUTIONS

The relationship between oral and overall health is well documented. As the cost of healthcare mounts, increasing access to preventive oral health services would help avoid more expensive care. Recommended policy actions include:

- ✓ Expand preventive services by dental hygienists
- ✓ Support and expand county health department dental services
- ✓ Expand pre-school- and school-based preventive dental services in high-risk communities
- ✓ Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for preventive and restorative dental care
- ✓ Cover routine dental services for adults under Medicaid
- ✓ Work toward 100 percent community water fluoridation



\*Source: The Health Council of Southeast Florida, on behalf of the Florida Public Health Institute, analysis of emergency-room Ambulatory Care-Sensitive dental data submitted to the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA).

Funding for this study made possible through a grant from the DentaQuest Foundation

To join the Florida Oral Health Coalition or for more information, please visit [www.oralhealthflorida.com](http://www.oralhealthflorida.com)  
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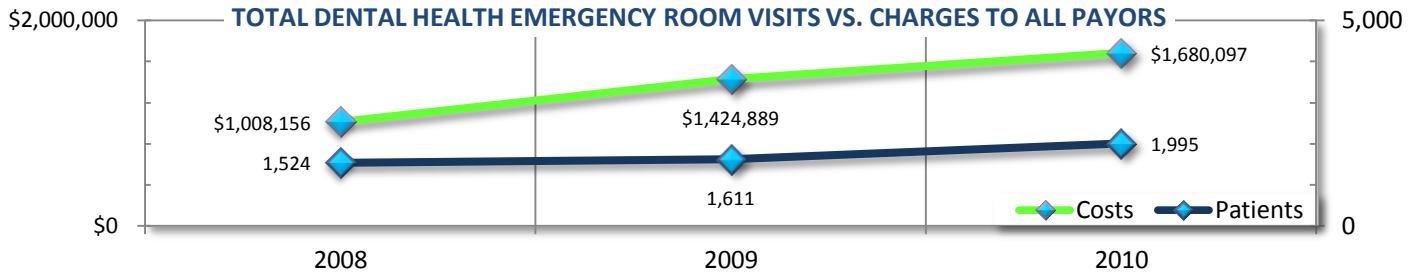
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN OSCEOLA COUNTY

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

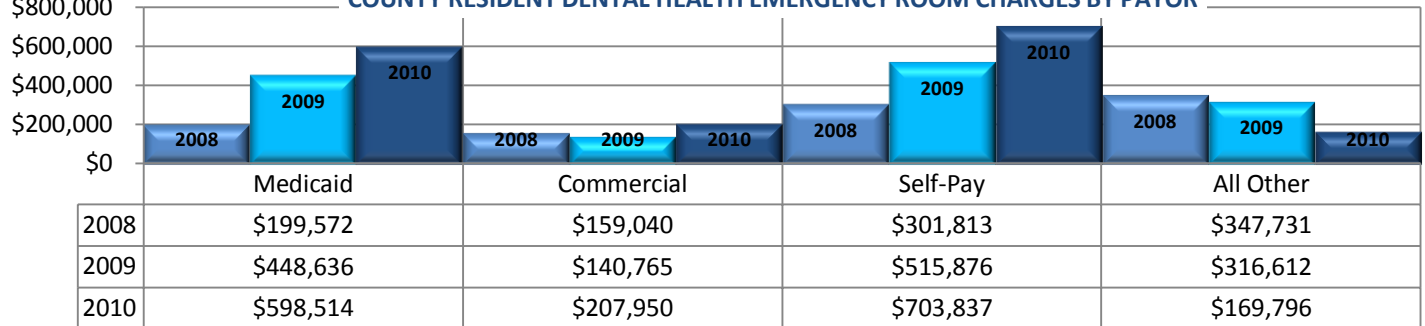
#### DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
FLORIDA HOSPITAL CELEBRATION HEALTH	576	670	590
FLORIDA HOSPITAL KISSIMMEE	501	564	560
OSCEOLA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	626	701	854
ST. CLOUD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	436	432	389

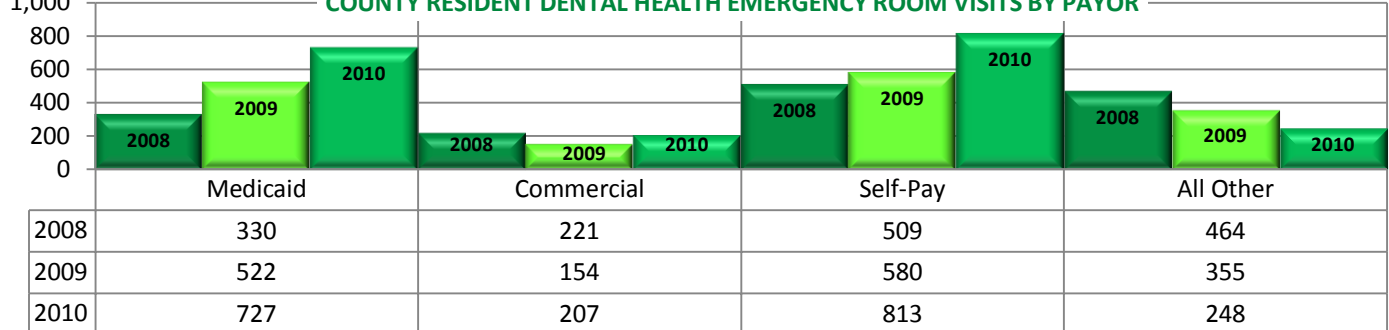
#### OSCEOLA COUNTY RESIDENT-SPECIFIC DATA:



#### COUNTY RESIDENT DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM CHARGES BY PAYOR



#### COUNTY RESIDENT DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY PAYOR



#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF OSCEOLA COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
64	56	58	31	44	58	31	28	33	86	77	94

\* An analysis of Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) 2008-2010 Emergency Department Database – Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Dental Conditions by the Florida Public Health Institute from data collected by the Health Council of Southeast Florida.

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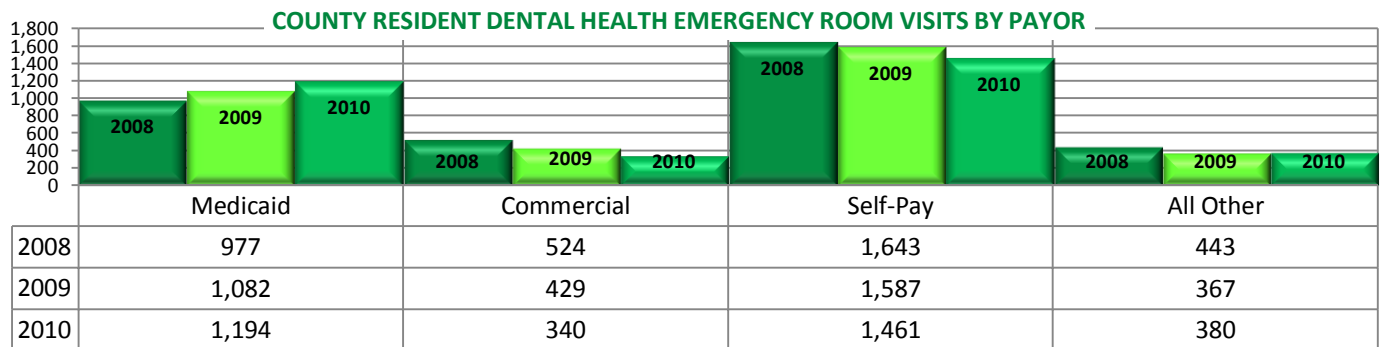
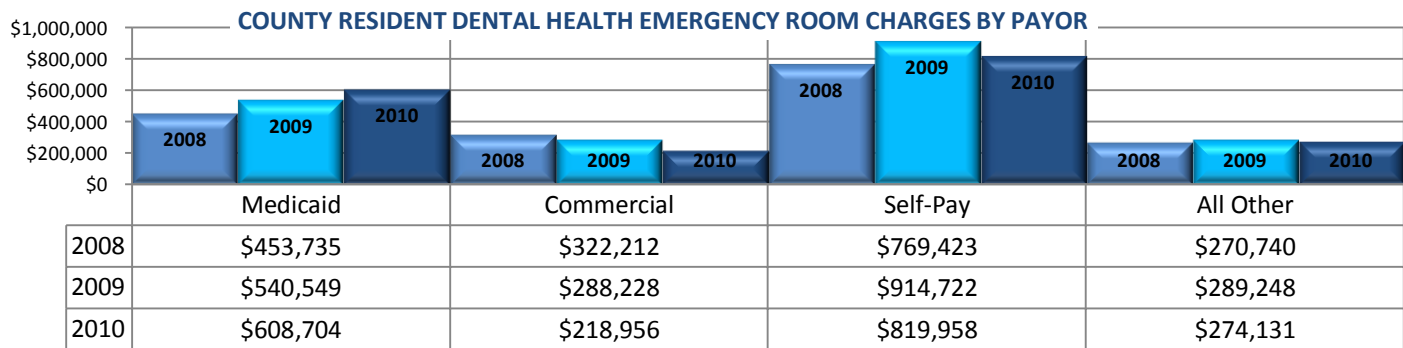
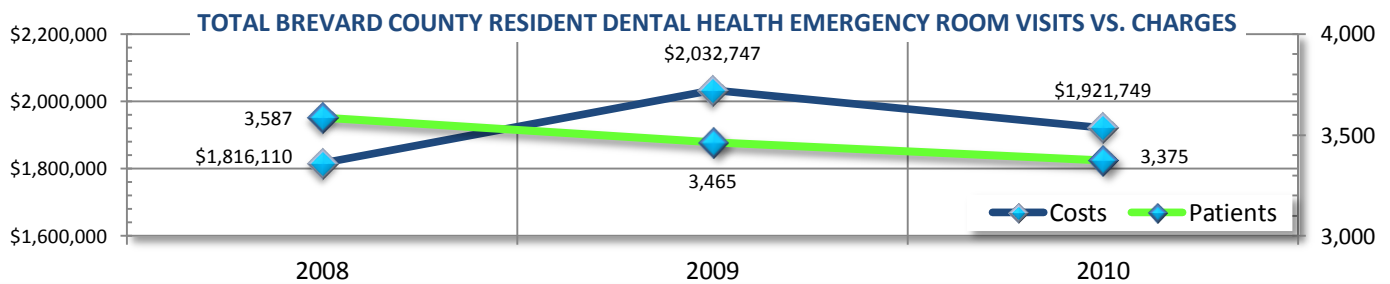
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN BREVARD COUNTY

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY BREVARD COUNTY HOSPITAL: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
CAPE CANAVERAL HOSPITAL	380	300	299
HOLMES REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	787	794	718
PALM BAY HOSPITAL	713	754	753
PARRISH MEDICAL CENTER	995	956	966
WUESTHOFF MEDICAL CENTER – MELBOURNE	393	413	345
WUESTHOFF MEDICAL CENTER – ROCKLEDGE	435	371	395

#### BREVARD COUNTY RESIDENT-SPECIFIC DATA:



ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF BREVARD COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP											
0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
71	65	52	67	79	57	50	36	39	223	200	182

\*Source: The Health Council of Southeast Florida, on behalf of the Florida Public Health Institute, review of the past three years of emergency-room Ambulatory Care-Sensitive dental data submitted to the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) Emergency Department Database.

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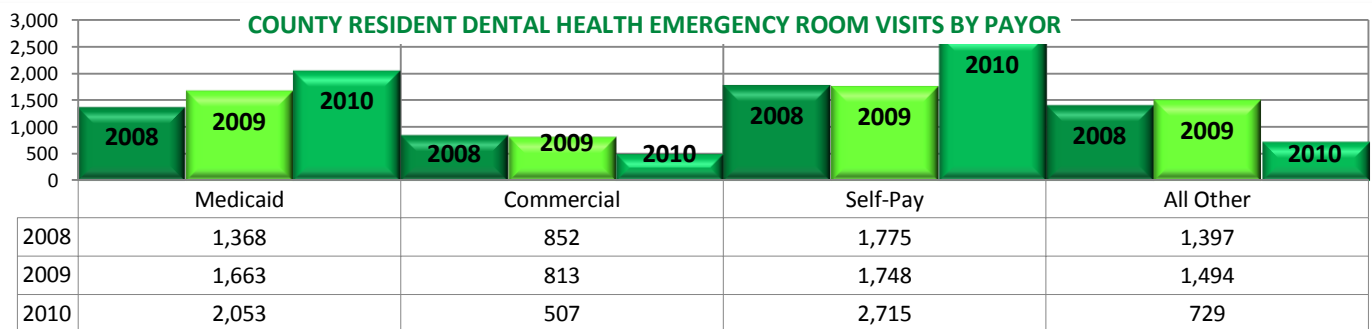
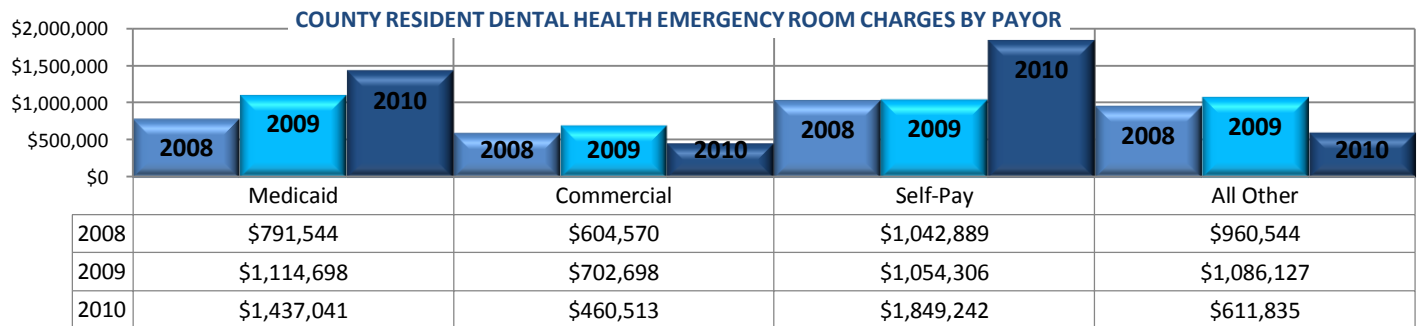
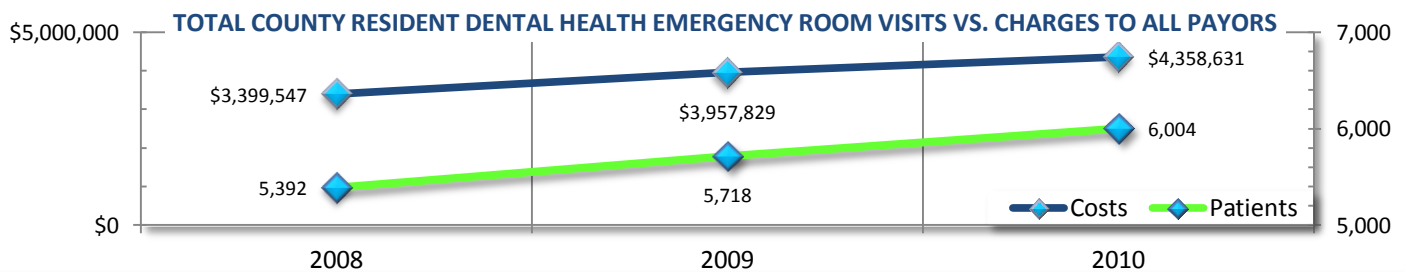
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN ORANGE COUNTY

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
ARNOLD PALMER MEDICAL CENTER	279	265	296
DR. P. PHILLIPS HOSPITAL	1,166	1,100	1,051
FLORIDA HOSPITAL	529	667	692
FLORIDA HOSPITAL APOPKA	657	640	662
FLORIDA HOSPITAL EAST ORLANDO	890	943	973
HEALTH CENTRAL	691	792	811
ORLANDO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	812	925	1,029
WINTER PARK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	421	464	460

#### ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENT-SPECIFIC DATA:



#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
290	256	283	187	178	166	106	86	105	307	348	323

\* An analysis of Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) 2008-2010 Emergency Department Database – Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Dental Conditions by the Florida Public Health Institute from data collected by the Health Council of Southeast Florida.

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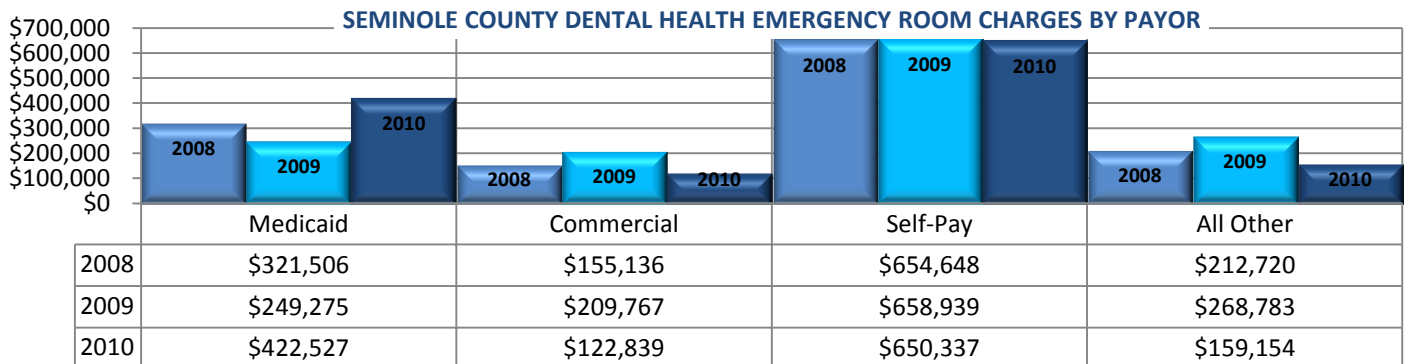
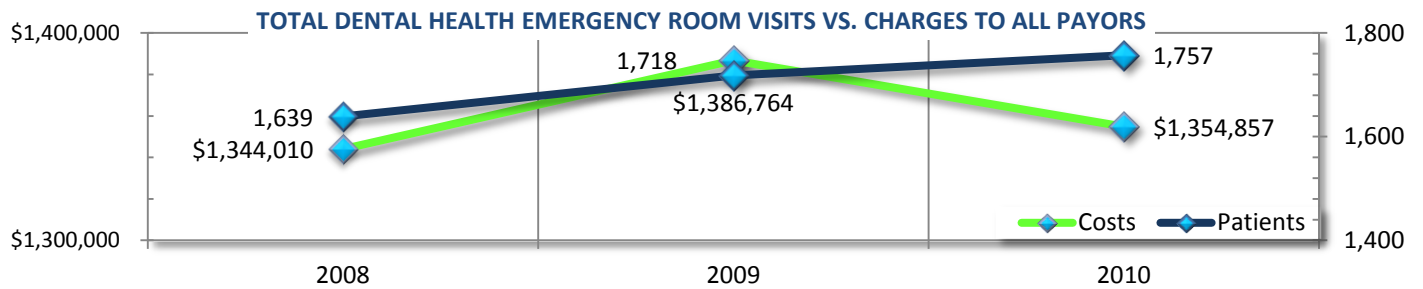
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN SEMINOLE COUNTY\*

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

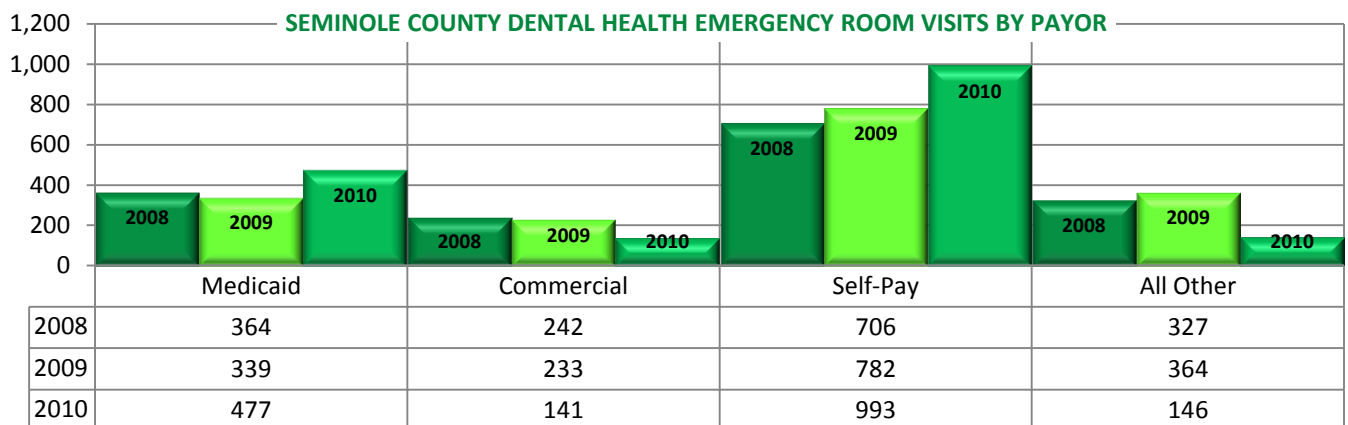
#### DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY SEMINOLE COUNTY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL HOSPITAL	791	646	633
FLORIDA HOSPITAL ALTAMONTE	732	835	983
SOUTH SEMINOLE HOSPITAL	571	618	609

#### RESIDENT-SPECIFIC SEMINOLE COUNTY DATA:



Note: Due to an apparent data-entry error to the AHCA database, self-Pay charges for 2008 are an estimation derived from averaging the self-pay charges for 2009 and 2010



#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF SEMINOLE COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
49	49	55	29	29	38	30	30	25	99	99	92

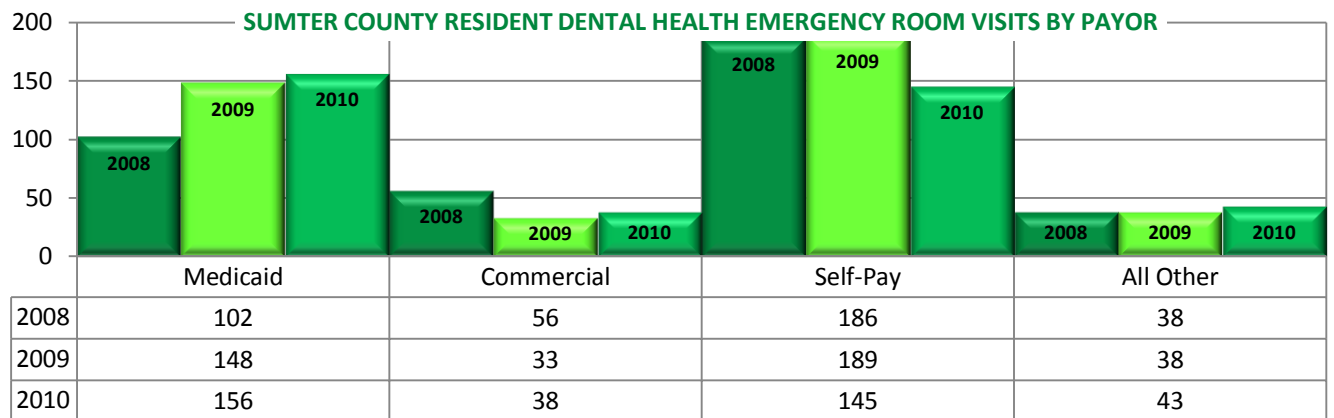
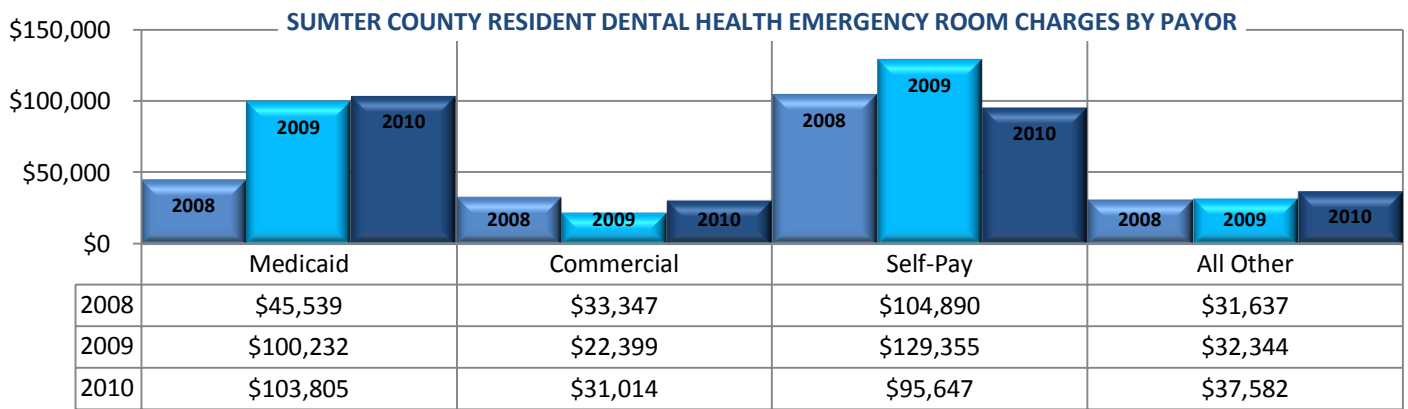
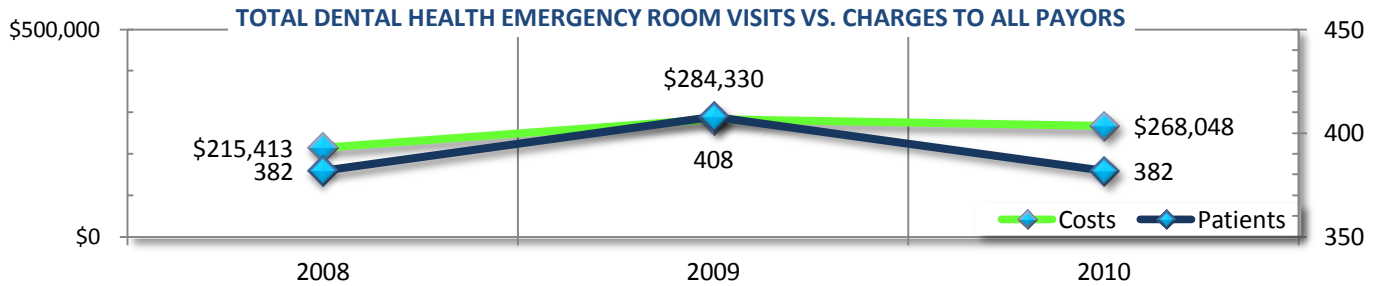
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN SUMTER COUNTY\*

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY SUMTER COUNTY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
THE VILLAGES REGIONAL HOSPITAL	389	555	473

#### RESIDENT-SPECIFIC SUMTERCOUNTY DATA:



#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF SUMTER COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
19	11	9	6	9	8	8	7	5	23	39	13

\* An analysis of Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) 2008-2010 Emergency Department Database – Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Dental Conditions by the Florida Public Health Institute from data collected by the Health Council of Southeast Florida.

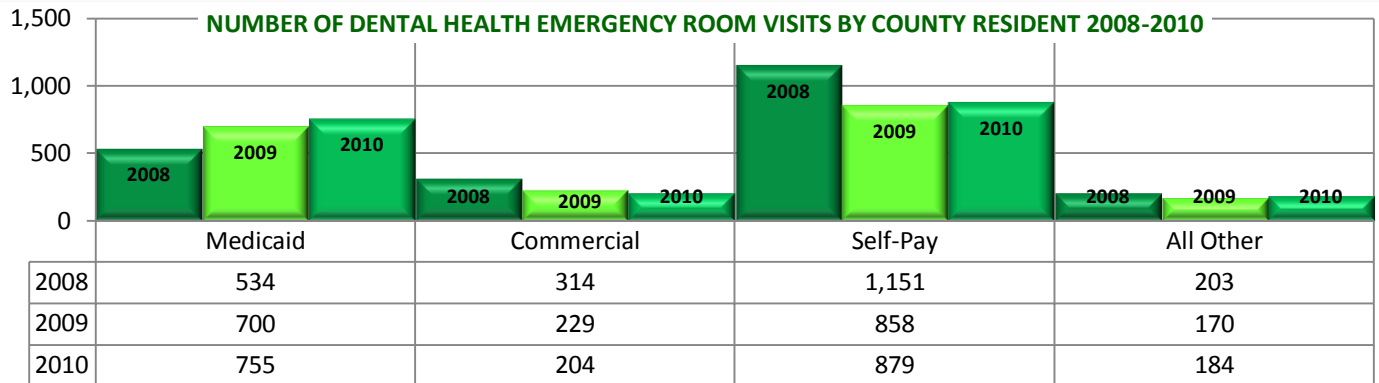
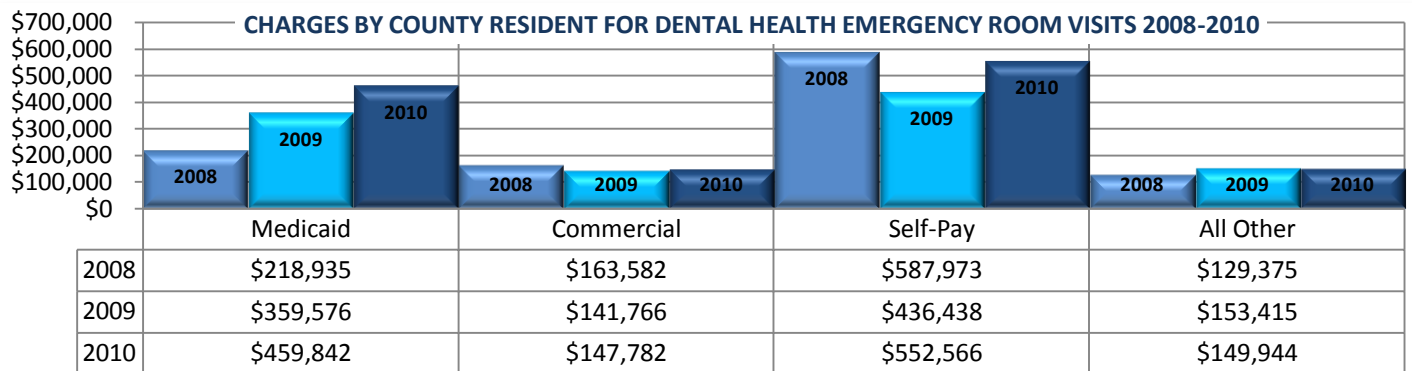
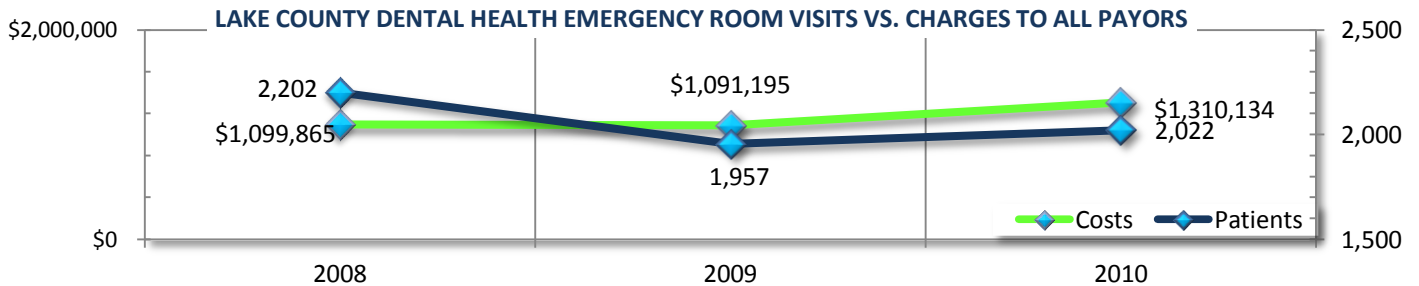
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN LAKE COUNTY

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### NUMBER OF DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY LAKE COUNTY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
FLORIDA HOSPITAL WATERMAN	771	487	473
LEESBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	699	717	853
SOUTH LAKE HOSPITAL	765	756	696

#### LAKE COUNTY RESIDENT-SPECIFIC DATA:



ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP											
0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
71	64	65	54	38	39	33	26	28	106	102	106

\* An analysis of Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) 2008-2010 Emergency Department Database – Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Dental Conditions by the Florida Public Health Institute from data collected by the Health Council of Southeast Florida.

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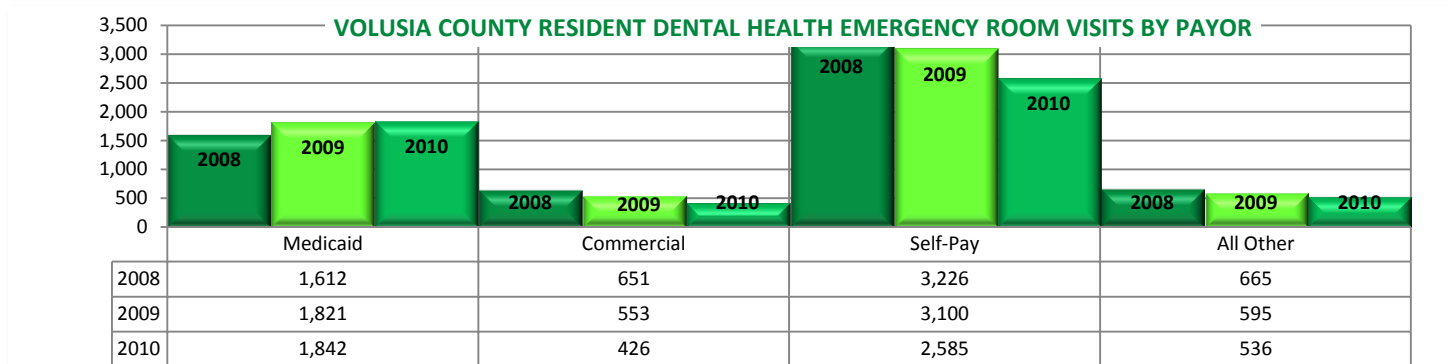
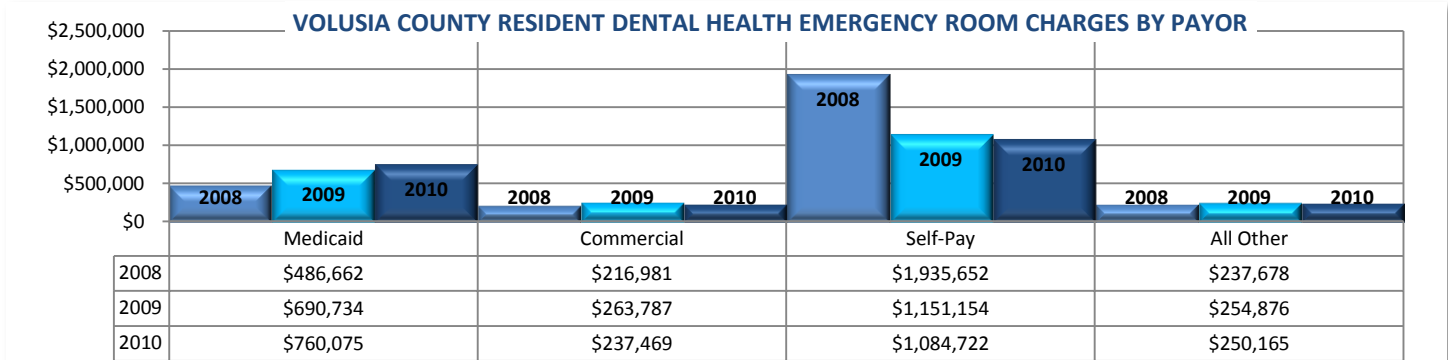
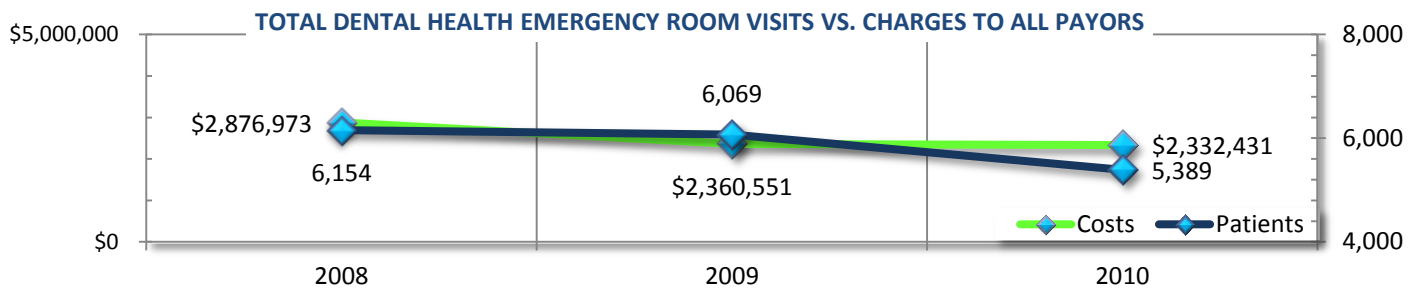
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN VOLUSIA COUNTY\*

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY VOLUSIA COUNTY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
BERT FISH MEDICAL CENTER	851	945	670
FLORIDA HOSPITAL DELAND	1,217	1,206	1,056
FLORIDA HOSPITAL FISH MEMORIAL	926	963	892
FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER	656	608	630
FLORIDA HOSPITAL OCEANSIDE	527	512	396
HALIFAX HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER	1,466	1,432	1,411
HALIFAX HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER – PORT ORANGE	845	737	612

#### RESIDENT-SPECIFIC VOLUSIA COUNTY DATA:



ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF VOLUSIA COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP											
0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
121	171	107	136	125	104	80	71	72	316	279	260

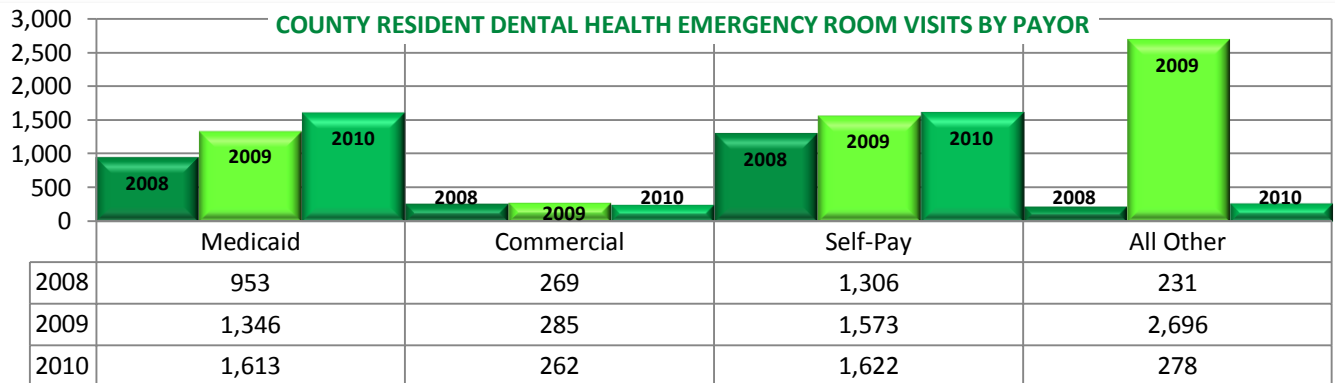
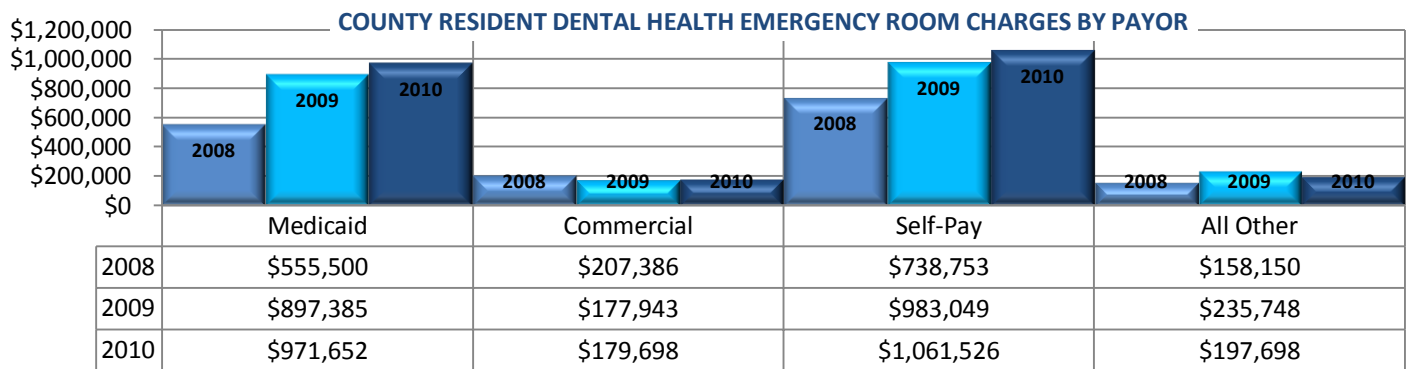
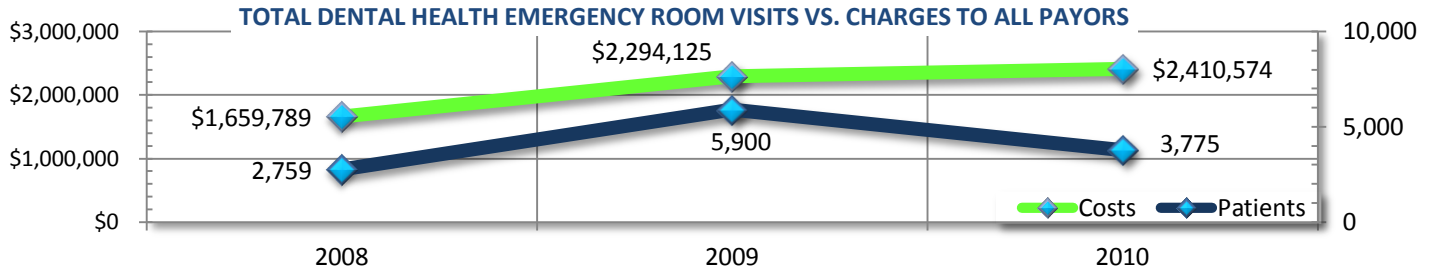
## ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM SPENDING IN MARION COUNTY

### AN AVOIDABLE HEALTHCARE COST

#### NUMBER OF DENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY MARION COUNTY HOSPITAL 2008 – 2010: ALL PATIENTS

	2008	2009	2010
MUNROE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	1,239	1,618	1,739
OCALA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	1,038	1,182	1,397
WEST MARION COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	333	420	447

#### MARION COUNTY RESIDENT-SPECIFIC DATA



#### ORAL HEALTH EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS BY NUMBER OF MARION COUNTY CHILDREN BY AGE GROUP

0-4			5-9			10-14			15-19		
2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
103	76	89	95	103	96	45	48	60	167	189	198

\* An analysis of Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) 2008-2010 Emergency Department Database – Ambulatory Care-Sensitive Dental Conditions by the Florida Public Health Institute from data collected by the Health Council of Southeast Florida.

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