

Maine AAP Annual Conference April 30, 2022

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Children's
Oral Health
Network
of Maine

1

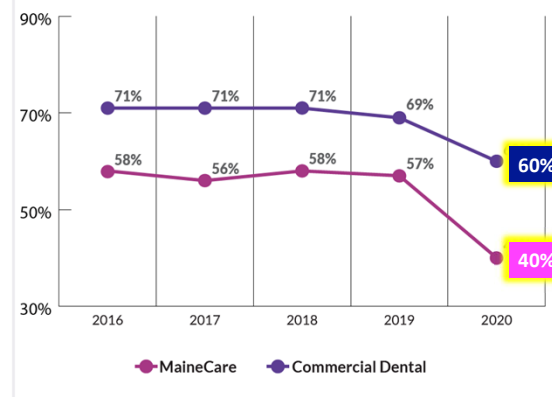
The current reality of children's oral health in Maine

Challenges:

- Almost half of kids in Maine are not getting regular preventive dental care
- Workforce shortages are impacting access
- The economics of providing dental care, especially in rural areas and for MaineCare and uninsured families, are very challenging - even non-profit dental centers must fill revenue shortfalls with grants in order to keep their doors open
- COVID has exacerbated pre-existing access challenges by decreasing provider capacity, increasing provider costs, changing home-care routines, and delaying preventive care

2020 data demonstrates increasing access challenges and growing disparities

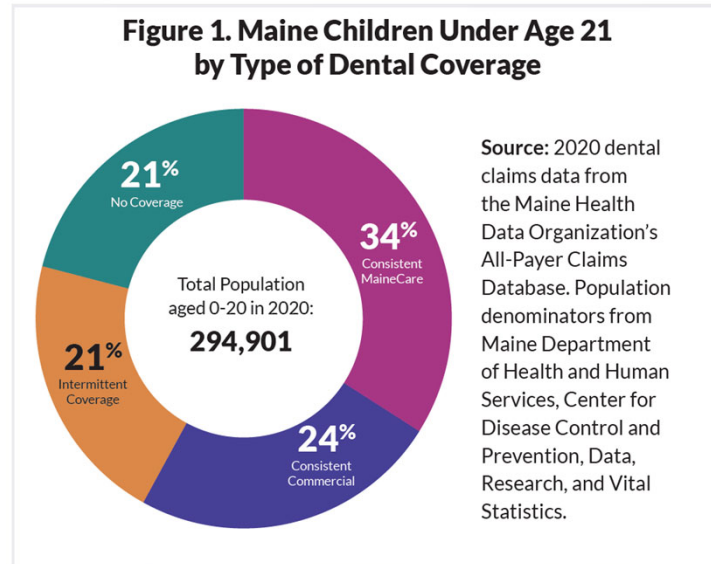
Figure 6. Percentage of Children Under Age 21 with at least one Preventive Dental Claim in 2016-2020



Source: Dental claims data from the Maine Health Data Organization's All-Payer Claims Database
Note: percentages reflect the rates among children with consistent coverage (i.e. 11+months of either MaineCare or commercial dental insurance in 2019).
Full data brief: <https://www.mainecohn.org/assets/docs/2020-COHN-Data-Brief.pdf>

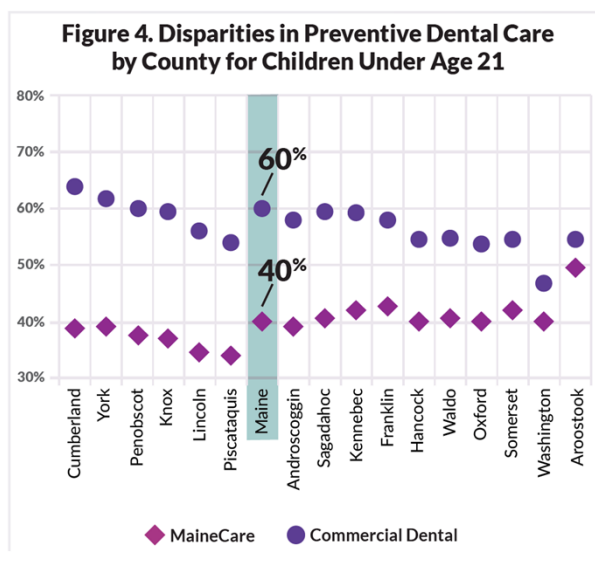
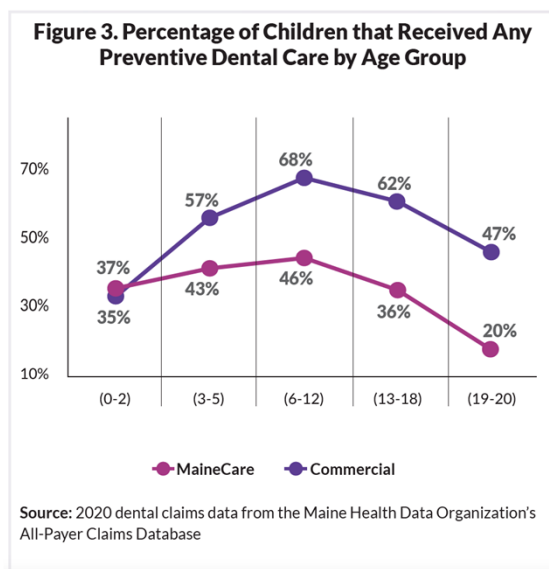
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The current reality of children’s oral health in Maine



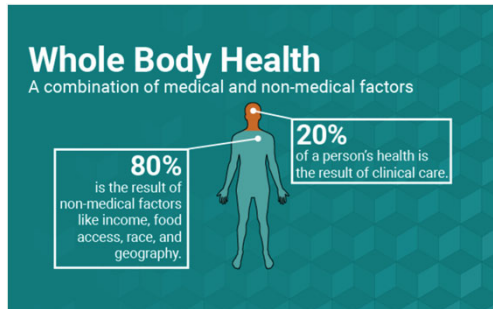
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Preventive claims by age and by county



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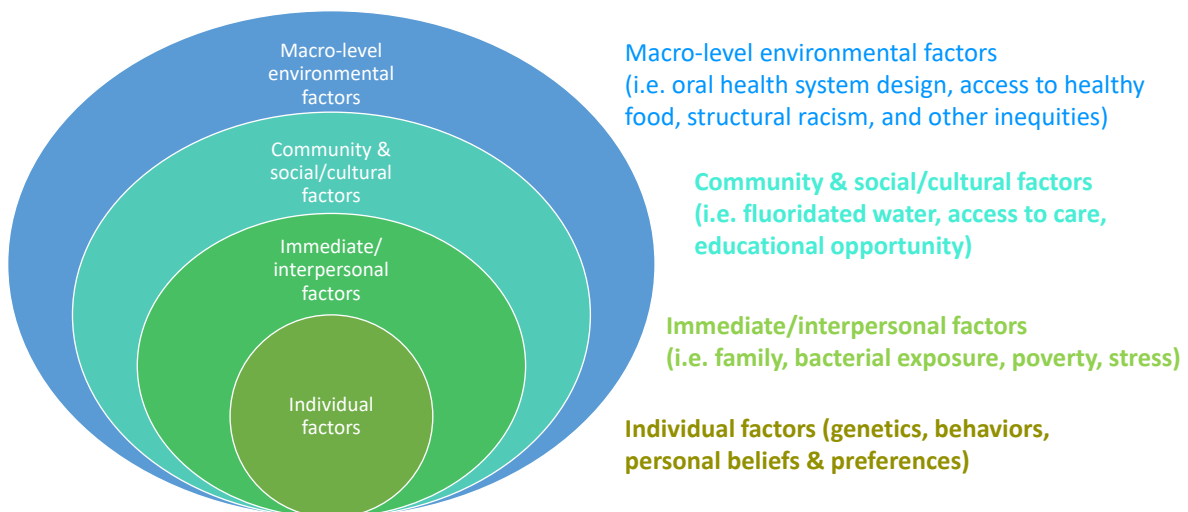
It's not all about access to dental care



<https://oralhealthnc.org/social-determinants-of-health-how-the-world-around-us-impacts-our-mouths/>

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Influences on oral health and disparities



<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2147600/>

6

It's not all bad news!

Opportunities:

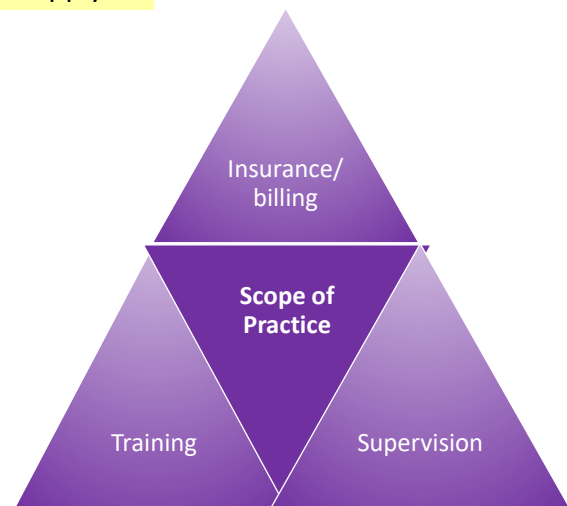
- Big changes coming for MaineCare starting July 1, 2022
 - Comprehensive adult benefit
 - New dental rates
- LD 1501 passed (2021) and funded (2022)!
 - Restores State Oral Health Coordinator position within Maine CDC
 - Requires expansion of School Oral Health Program to all public schools statewide over next 5 years
 - Adds children's oral health and methods to maximize Medicaid resources to MaineCare's annual report to HHS Committee
- Board of Dental Practice
 - New licensing authority for dental therapists in 2021
 - Rules coming for Teledentistry in 2022

7

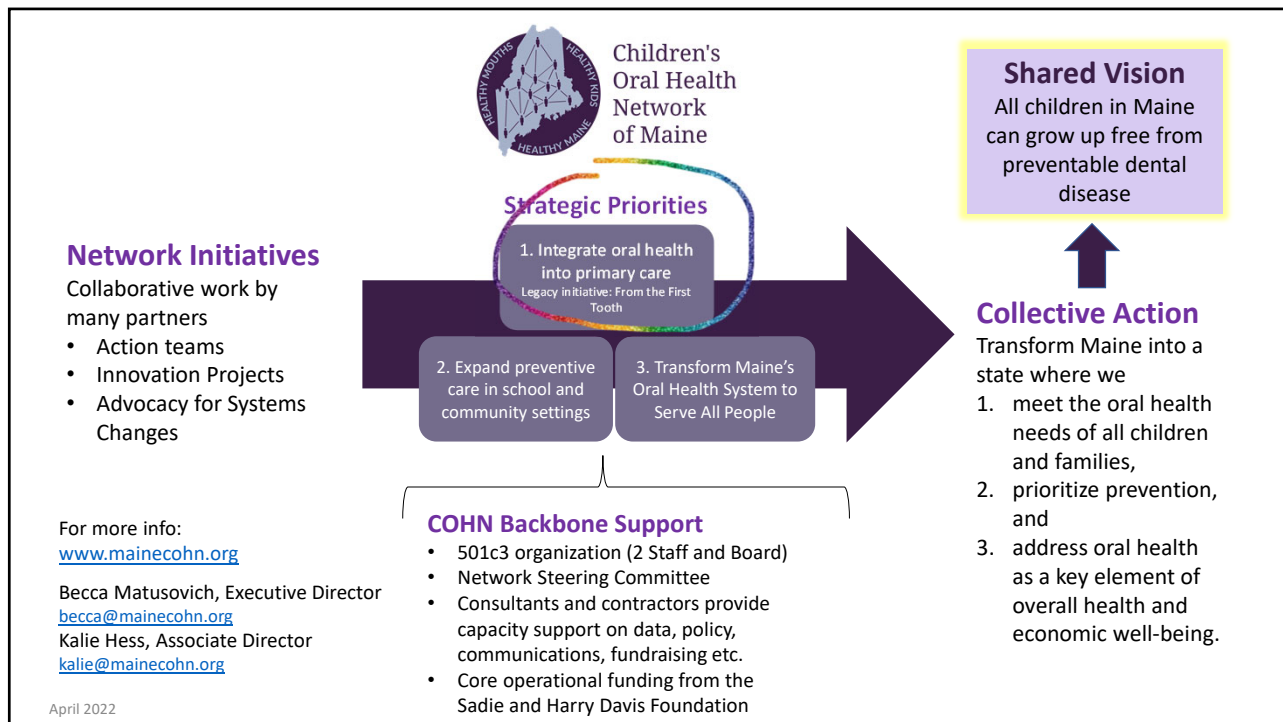
A status update on the dental workforce

- Dentists*
 - General dentists
 - Pediatric dentists
 - Specialists (oral surgeons, orthodontists)
- Dental hygienists*
 - RDHs
 - Independent Practice Dental Hygienists (and Public Health Status ("PHS") Hygienists)
 - Dental Therapists
- Other allied personnel*
 - Dental Assistants
 - Community Health Workers
 - Community Dental Health Coordinators

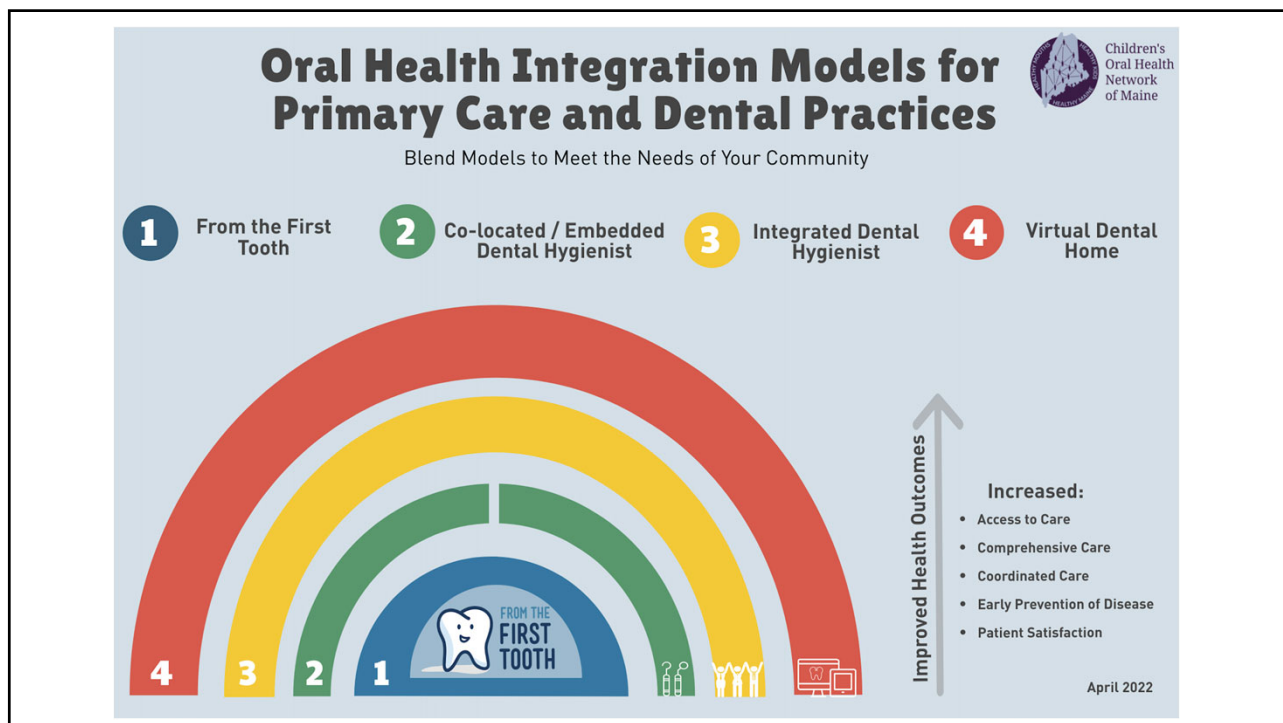
All are in short supply!



8



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10