



# Dental Benefits for Pregnant Women Enrolled in Medicaid

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45,000 Virginia Women

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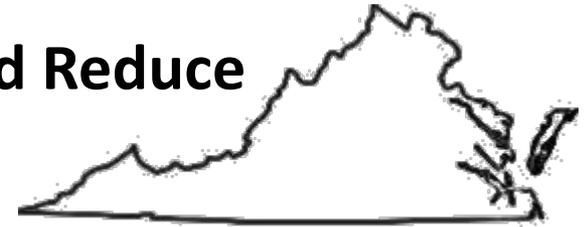
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# Dental Benefits and the Safety Net and EDs

## Contribute To Safety Net Sustainability And Reduce Costly Emergency Department Visits:



- Currently, 61% of all dental patients visiting a federally-qualified health center are uninsured and free clinics provide an additional 14,500 dental visits to uninsured Virginians.
- Uninsured individuals are found to visit the emergency department for dental issues more than any other diagnosis. The average cost of these visits is \$669; no treatment is provided. Cost to Medicaid for periodontal treatment is less than \$100 per quadrant.
- A recent survey of 53 hospitals found that during an 18-month period in 2008-09, residents made more than 23,000 visits to ERs for toothaches or other dental problems. Among the uninsured, patients with dental disorders were the most frequent ER visitors. Smaller studies of Virginia hospitals share similar findings.

# Dental Benefits and Pregnancy

## Save Money Through Improved Birth Outcomes:

- Higher levels of hormones, dietary changes and vomiting during pregnancy put pregnant women at a higher risk for cavities and periodontal disease.
- Pregnant women with periodontal disease may be up to eight times more likely to deliver prematurely.
- More than 25% of all pregnant women have periodontal disease.
- Over 18% of preterm low birth weight babies may be attributable to periodontal disease.
- Managing periodontal disease requires comprehensive treatment procedures such as scaling and root planing in addition to preventive care.
- 10% of the babies born to a mom receiving Medicaid or FAMIS MOMS in Virginia were premature.
- Average costs during the first year of life for a preterm baby are more than ten times that of a baby born at full term.



# Dental Benefits and Children

## Dental Coverage For Mom Can Reduce The Cost Of Oral Health Care For Children

- Mothers can spread oral bacteria to their babies, putting baby at risk for developing tooth decay. Reducing bacteria in a mother's mouth through dental care during pregnancy significantly reduces her risk of developing oral diseases and spreading decay-causing bacteria to her baby.
- A child is four times more likely to visit a dentist if a parent visits a dentist.

## Untreated Dental Disease Increasing

- Number one chronic childhood disease
- 70% low income kids
- Failure to thrive
- 1 million missed school hours
- In 2011, Virginia Medicaid spent \$7 million treating dental issues in the operating room.

## Age One Dental Home

- Less than 24% of Virginia Medicaid children have a dental visit by age two.
- If that child begins preventive dental care by age one, dental care costs during preschool years will be 40% lower.



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# Questions?

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