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**UTILIZATION OF DENTAL SERVICES AMONG FLORIDA HEALTHY KIDS ENROLLEES
WHO ARE ALSO ENROLLED IN A DENTAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE PLAN**

**A REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
HEALTHY KIDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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INTRODUCTION

The Florida Healthy Kids Program currently contracts with three dental managed care plans, Atlantic Dental, CompDent, and Delta Dental. Each of these dental plans offers a variety of services, such as preventive services, oral exams, X-rays, restorative services, oral surgery, endodontic services, periodontal services, removable prosthodontics, orthodontic services, analgesia and sedation, injectable medication, and palliative treatment. Preventive services include office visits, routine cleanings and fluoride treatments, sealants and space maintainers. A more detailed description of each of these services can be found on the Healthy Kids website (<http://www.healthykids.org/how/benefits.html>).

Atlantic Dental and Delta Dental do not charge co-pays for these services. CompDent charges a five-dollar co-pay for all services other than preventive services.

This report examines the utilization of dental services among children who were continuously enrolled for at least six months beginning February 1, 2001 through October 31, 2001. Only nine months of data were available for analysis at the time that this report was written.

This report describes:

- 1) The number of children enrolled in each dental plan; and the mean number of months enrolled.

- 2) The percentage of users and non-users of dental services overall and by dental plan.
- 3) Gender of users and non-users of dental services overall and by dental plan.
- 4) The mean age of users and non-users of dental services overall and by dental plan.
- 5) Federal poverty levels of users and non-users of dental services overall and by dental plan.
- 6) The number of dental services provided overall and by dental plan.
- 7) The percentage of dental services provided overall and by dental plan.

PERCENTAGE OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF DENTAL SERVICES

Overall, there were 42,621 children enrolled in a dental plan for at least six months during the time frame mentioned above. Only children who were enrolled for at least six months were included in these analyses in order to yield stable results. Atlantic Dental had 17,298 enrollees, Delta Dental had 13,622 enrollees and CompDent had 11,701 enrollees (See Table 1). Both overall and at the dental plan level, children in the analysis were enrolled in their dental plan just slightly under eight months (See Table 1).

PERCENTAGE OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF DENTAL SERVICES

Overall, 25% of all dental plan enrollees utilized dental services during this time frame (See Table 2). However, the percentage of enrollees who utilized dental services varied slightly by dental plan. Approximately 31% of the children enrolled in Delta Dental were users of dental services; 22% of the children enrolled in Atlantic Dental were users; and 24% of the children enrolled in CompDent were users of dental services. It is expected that many of these non-users will become users of dental services with the passage of time. It is important to note that only nine months of dental claims data were available for this analysis. Generally, at least 12 to 15 months of data are needed in order to obtain a more accurate picture of the percentage of children utilizing dental services.

GENDER OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF DENTAL SERVICES

Both overall and at the dental plan level, approximately 50% of the children who utilized dental services were female and 50% were male (See Table 3). Among those children who did not utilize dental services, a slightly higher percentage was male (51.44%).

MEAN AGE OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF DENTAL SERVICES

Both overall and at the dental plan level, the mean age of a child who utilized dental services was approximately 11.68; and the mean age of a child who did not utilize dental services was 11.95. Thus, children who utilized dental services tended to be younger than the children who did not utilize dental services (See Table 4).

FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL OF USERS AND NON-USERS OF DENTAL SERVICES

Among both the users and non-users of dental services, approximately 39% of the children were below 132% of federal poverty level (FPL); 17% of children were between 133-149% of FPL; 38% of the children were between 150-199% of FPL; and 5% of the children were 200% or more above FPL. A similar distribution of poverty levels is also seen among each of the three dental plans.

NUMBER OF DENTAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Dental services provided were categorized into eleven categories using the America Dental Association's coding scheme. A total of 104,504 dental services were provided between February 1, 2001 and October 31, 2001. CompDent provided the greatest number of services (N=40,162), followed by Atlantic Dental (N=32,411) and Delta Dental (N=31,931). This finding is

surprising since CompDent had the lowest number of enrollees with respect to the other dental plans.

Overall, 43% of all services provided were preventive, 40% were diagnostic, and the remaining 7% were for other services (See Table 7). The distribution of services provided was similar for both Atlantic Dental and CompDent, however the distribution of services provided by Delta Dental was different. Delta Dental provided mainly either preventive services (55%) or diagnostic services (45%), very few services fell into the remaining categories.

Summary

- 42,621 children were enrolled in a dental plan for at least six months during February 2001 to October 2001.
- Twenty-five percent of children enrolled in a dental plan utilized dental services.
- Among children who utilized dental services there was no difference in gender; but among children who did not utilize dental services a slightly higher percentage were male.
- Children who did not utilize dental services were slightly older than the children who did utilize dental services.
- There was no significant difference in federal poverty level among users and non-users of dental services.
- A total of 104,504 dental services were provided during February 2001 to October 2001.
- The majority of the dental services provided were preventive (43%) or diagnostic (40%) in nature.
- The distribution of dental services provided was similar for both Atlantic Dental and CompDent. However, the distribution of dental services provided by Delta Dental was different from the other two dental plans, with Delta Dental providing the most preventive services.

Table 2: Percentage of Users and Non-Users of Dental Services, Overall and by Dental Plan.

Site	Dental Services	
	Users	Non-Users
Atlantic Dental	21.55	78.45
CompDent	23.63	76.37
Delta Dental	31.05	68.95
Overall	25.16	74.84