According to a 2021 study by the Hawai‘i Oral Health Coalition, in partnership with University of Hawai‘i - JABSOM Biostatistics Core Facility, between 2016 - 2020:

- 29,536 total adults 21+ visited the ER with a dental-related diagnosis.
- 67% (19,691) of these visits were due to a principal dental diagnosis.

A significant proportion of the ER visits with a principal dental diagnosis were:

- in Honolulu County: 56% (11,118)
- those aged 21-44 years: 62% (12,138)
- for Medicaid recipients: 49% (9,680)
- Native Hawaiian/Part Native Hawaiian: 24% (5,018)

10% of patients revisited the ER at least twice in the same year. Higher rates of ER visits with a dental-related diagnosis were found for Hawai‘i County and Kaua‘i County.

Medicaid claims constituted 45% of the cumulative charges for the ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis, totaling $12.3 million.

After 12 years of emergency only coverage, the time is now + Hawai‘i must restore diagnostic, restorative, and preventive dental care to adults on Medicaid in order to address these disparities.