

Adult ER Utilization for Oral Health Conditions in Hawai'i

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)



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

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**.



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.

