Reinstating Hawai'i Adult Medicaid Dental Benefits in 2022

Oral Health Is More Than Just Teeth

**223,438**
- adult Medicaid recipients have NO diagnostic, preventive, or restorative dental coverage

**29,536**
- adults aged 21 and older visited the ER with a dental-related diagnosis between 2016-2020

**$12.3M**
- of all charges for ER visits with a principal dental diagnosis was charged to Medicaid between 2016-2020

**49%**
- of ER visits with a principal dental-related diagnosis between 2016-2020 were Medicaid recipients

Poor oral health is associated with acute and chronic health issues including:
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Low birth weight
- Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) & COVID-19*

A study found that COVID-19 patients on mechanical ventilation were more susceptible to ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), which is the leading cause of hospital acquired infection (HAI) deaths among critically ill patients. However, patients are **22% less likely** to develop VAP if they received preventive dental care within the last 3 years.

*September 2020 report from the DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

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**A Wise Investment**

**Improved Chronic Conditions**
- HPI-ADA estimates a cost savings of up to **$1.7 mil** for the diabetic population each year with adult Medicaid dental benefits

**Reduced Risk for Pregnancy Complications**
- Birth costs for a premature/underweight newborn range from **$200,000 - $2 million**

**34**
- states offer comprehensive or limited preventive and restorative benefits to adults

**50%**
- Potential investment of the State's investment by the Federal Government

In a 2021 survey conducted by Ward Research for HIPHI, 9 in 10 registered Hawaii voters (92%) STRONGLY AGREED that preventative dental benefits should be included in adult Medicaid coverage.
Join the many organizations state-wide that support

REINSTATING DIAGNOSTIC, PREVENTIVE AND RESTORATIVE
DENTAL COVERAGE FOR ALL ADULTS ON MEDICAID

AARP Hawai‘i
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai‘i
AlohaCare
Bay Clinic
Easterseals Hawai‘i
Family Support Services - West Hawai‘i
Full Life Hawai‘i
Hale Makua Health Services
Hawai‘i Children’s Action Network
Hawai‘i Dental Hygienists Association
Hawai‘i Dental Service
Hawai‘i Dental Service Foundation
Hawai‘i Disability Rights Center
Hawai‘i Health & Harm Reduction Center
Hawai‘i Oral Health Coalition, a program of Hawai‘i Public Health Institute
Hawai‘i State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Hawai‘i State Rural Health Association
Ho‘ola Lahui Hawai‘i
Hui Mālama Ola Nā ‘Ōiwi
Hui No Ke Ola Pono Maui
Ke Ola Mamo
Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services
Lāna‘i Community Health Center
Maika‘i Health Community Clinic
Na Pu‘uwaï NHHCS (Molokai and Lanai)
Pacific Island Health Officers Association
Papa Ola Lokahi
Parents And Children Together (PACT)
Puna Kamali‘i Flowers/Employment Network Hawaii
Responsive Caregivers of Hawai‘i
Queens Medical Center Dental Clinic
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo School of Nursing
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai‘i Maui College Dental Hygiene
Wahiawā Health
Waikiki Health
Waimanalo Health Center
West Hawaii Community Health Center

For questions or more information, contact the Hawai‘i Oral Health Coalition at: info@hiohc.org