

Dental Care Access and Use for Children Ineligible for SCHIP and Medicaid

Louise Palmer
The Urban Institute

Dana Hughes, DrPH
University of California, San Francisco

American Public Health Association

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THE URBAN INSTITUTE

Presentation Will Focus on:

- **Overview of the Healthy Kids Program**
- **Findings from an evaluation of the San Mateo County Healthy Kids program related to dental services**
- **Policy and program responses**

Background: California Oral Health Needs Assessment Findings

- Three out of ten third graders had untreated decay; 71% had some decay experience
- Only 28% of third graders had received dental sealants
- Latino kindergartners were 2.4 times more likely to have untreated decay than Whites
- Low income kindergartners were 1.9 times more likely to have untreated decay than higher income children

The Healthy Kids Program

The Healthy Kids Program

Eligibility

- Ineligible for Medicaid and SCHIP due to income or documentation status
- Family income up to 400% FPL

The Healthy Kids Program

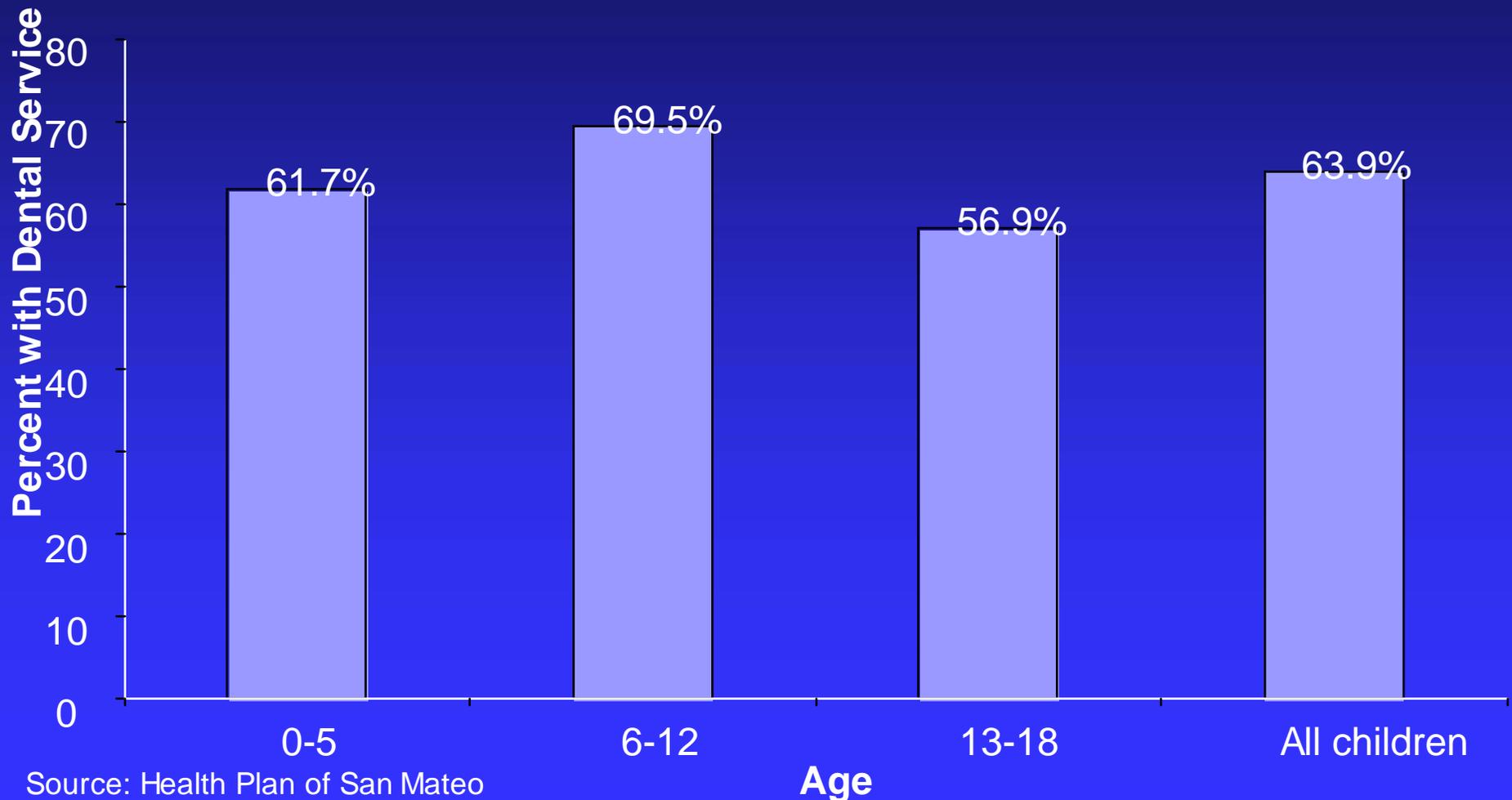
Benefits

- **Patterned after California SCHIP (Healthy Families)**
- **Relatively full scope medical, mental health, vision and dental**
- **Dental coverage includes most diagnostic, preventative and basic restorative services with no co-payments for most services, with no deductibles or annual maximums**

Methods

- **Survey of parents**
- **Utilization data from the health plan**
- **Interviews with dentists**
- **Key informant interviews**

Any Dental Services Continuously Enrolled 7/2004 to 6/2005



Source: Health Plan of San Mateo

2005 Parent Survey: Unmet Need

	%
Child Needed to Have Service, but Did Not	
Preventive Care	8.1
Specialist Care	6.3
Doctor	1.8
Dentist	11.4
Prescription Drug	0.9

Source: Healthy Kids Parent Survey

Average Number of Visits for Dental Services*

<u>Number of Visits</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	25.6
2	27.0
3 to 5	37.9
More than 5	9.5
<u>N</u>	<u>1788</u>

Source: Health Plan of San Mateo

* Continuously enrolled July 2004 to June 2005

Type of Service Among Continuously Enrolled 7/2004-6/2005

	<u>Percent of Dental Users</u>
Diagnostic Services	
Exams	90.8
X-Rays	84.8
Preventive Care	
Prophylaxis	80.3
Sealants	63.7
Flouride Treatment	56.9
Other	29.9
Restorative Treatment	17.7
Endodontics	12.7
Oral Surgery	14.9
Peridontics	7.6
Other	0.1
N	1788

Source: Health Plan of San Mateo

Is There Sufficient Dental Care Capacity?

- **72.3% of Healthy Kids enrollees report a usual source of dental care**
- **Only 60% utilized their dental benefit**
- **Dental care unmet need is highest among the various services (11.4%)**
- **But only 3% of these enrollees reported cost as the issue**

Perceptions About Capacity

- **Some stakeholders and families believe there is insufficient capacity in the private sector**

Dental Provider Interview Findings

- Many dentists who do not serve Healthy Kids enrollees are unaware of the program
- Dentists who do serve Healthy Kids enrollees are willing to take more
- Preference to provide services for free – low reimbursement rates and cumbersome paperwork

Dental Users by Type of Provider

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Percent of All Users</u>
San Mateo Med. Center and County Clinics	39.1
Private Dentists	43.3
Private Dental Groups	20.9
Sonrisas Dental Clinic	5.8
Tooth Mobile	0.5
<u>N</u>	<u>1778</u>

Source: Health Plan of San Mateo

Proximity of Healthy Kids Enrollees to Dentists

- 98% of Healthy Kids live within 10 miles of a Healthy Kids dental provider
- Provider to member ratio is 11:1
- 236 dental office locations in the network
- 529 dental providers in the network

Source: San Mateo CHI

Wait Times for Non-Emergency Visits

- **Average wait time in private offices is 2 weeks**
- **Average wait time at the county dental clinics is 3-4 months**
- **Many families believe that they can only go to the county clinics**

Source: San Mateo CHI

Policy and Program Responses

- Dental care integrated into patient education and new member welcome calls
- Calls at 120 days if no use
- Calls if no check up within 6 months
- Navigational assistance
- Recruitment of more private dentists