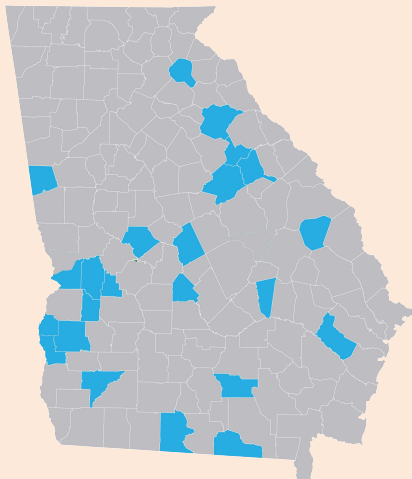


**330,000**

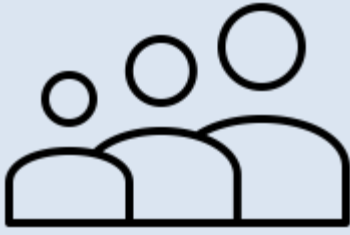
children in Georgia did not have dental care in the last 12 months.

## Kids and Dentists Face Major Challenges

Availability of Care		Transportation	
Dentists	Hygienists	On average, Medicaid/CHIP eligible kids have to travel	
1 per 2,143 Georgians	1 per 1,721 Georgians	<b>15 more miles</b>	
		for dental care than their non-Medicaid peers	
<b>123</b> Counties in Georgia have a dental care shortage		<b>59%</b> Of Georgia's counties are at high risk for health transportation barriers	
<b>72%</b> Medicaid or PeachCare		Medicaid Reimbursement for Services	
Georgia ranks 14 <sup>th</sup> out of the 16 southern states in the percent of dentists accepting Medicaid or PeachCare		Reimbursement as a % of fees charged	
<b>23</b> Counties in Georgia have no dentists		<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>Private</b>
		47.4%	80%
		Language	
		Medicaid patients are required by federal law to have access to translation services arranged for and paid for by the provider	
		<b>38%</b> Of dental schools in the US report that students were not adequately prepared to manage Limited English Proficient patients	



## Benefits of Improved Dental Health



### Improved health outcomes

Link between poor oral health and:

- Trouble eating and speaking
- Diabetes
- Pain
- Pre-term low birth weight



### Cost savings for kids, families and the state

- Reduction of future dental visits and related costs
- One study found that preventive dental care could save Georgia \$51.1 million annually in Medicaid costs



### Improved education and life outcomes

- Improved attendance
- Improved academic performance
- Improved self-esteem and employability
- Reduced pain and suffering

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## Policy Recommendations

### Increase dental workforce in shortage areas throughout Georgia by:

- Authorizing dental hygienists to practice in expanded settings such as schools and nursing homes

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### Incentivize and increase Medicaid acceptance rates among dentists by:

- Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for dental services like exams, cleanings, fluoride, sealants, and treatment of caries
- Reducing administrative barriers that hinder dentists from accepting Medicaid