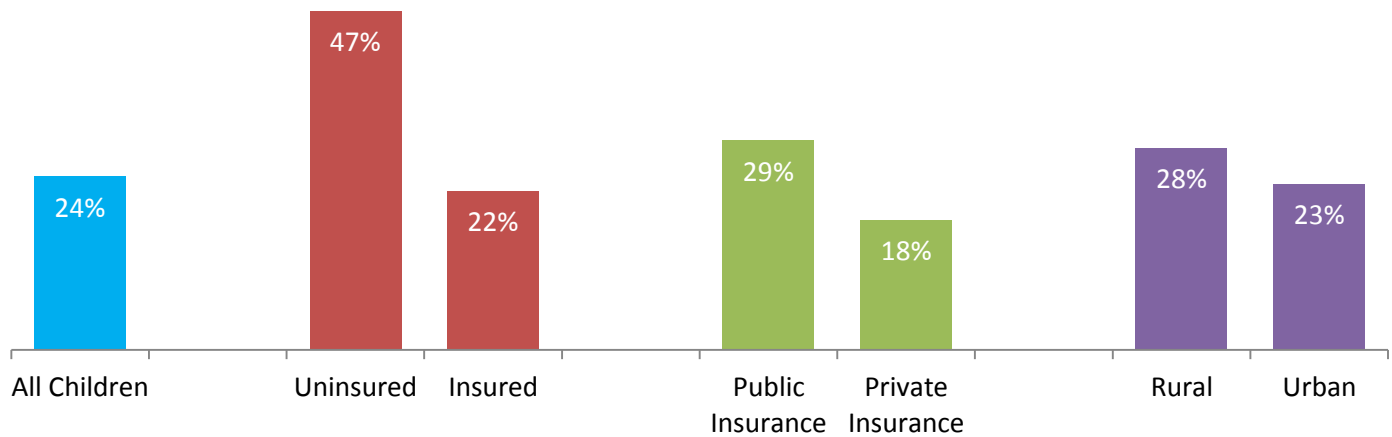


## Children in Georgia **without** dental care in the last 12 months



## Kids and Dentists Face Major Challenges

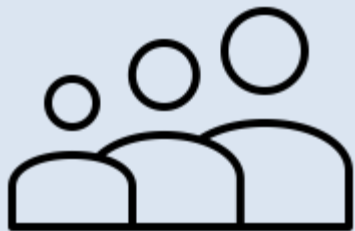
Availability of Care		Medicaid Reimbursement for Services		
Dentists	Hygienists	Service	GA DMO Avg. Medicaid Payment <sup>1</sup>	Average Private Insurance Payment <sup>2</sup>
1 per 2,126 Georgians	1 per 1,721 Georgians	Treatment of 1 Cavity	\$46.62	\$126.59
		Cleaning	\$25.66	\$61.92
		Evaluation	\$18.16	\$43.44
		Fluoride	\$17.59 <sup>3</sup>	\$35.10
		Sealants (per tooth)	\$22.35	\$48.17
Transportation		Language		
On average, Medicaid/CHIP eligible children have to travel <b>15 more miles</b> for dental care than their non-Medicaid peers		Medicaid patients are required by federal law to have access to translation services arranged for and paid for by the provider		
<b>59%</b>	Of Georgia's counties are at high risk for health transportation barriers	<b>38%</b>	Of dental schools in the US report that students were not adequately prepared to manage Limited English Proficient patients	

<sup>1</sup> DMO: Dental Maintenance Organization

<sup>2</sup> Average private insurance payments for the South Atlantic region

<sup>3</sup> Average fee-for-service payment for fluoride varnish used, as average DMO payment not available for this service.

## 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