

The Future of Oral Health Data

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Insights

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CareQuest Institute has developed robust data assets....



Claims Data **100,000,000+ Lives**

- Integrated Medical and Dental: 25M
- Dental Claims Data: 33M
- Hospital Administrative Record Data: 60M



EHR Data **1M+ Patient Records**

- EHR/PMS Data from:
- Large DSOs
 - Safety Net Clinics
 - Program Participants



Social Data **25,000 Consumers, 1,500 Dentists**

- State of Oral Health Equity in America Survey
- Provider Surveys
- Census and Other Data

Which we have leveraged to advance innovative research and analytics



Voters big on better dental coverage

Despite favor, there's little political traction

Kim Altkucher
USA TODAY

Courtesy funds couldn't escape the throbbing ache in the back of her mouth. The Pennsylvania mom needed root canals and crowns for two molars to get rid of the pain-triggering infection.

But a trip to an endodontist this spring triggered a different type of pain — one that has become familiar to many dental patients. Before the specialist would begin the drilling procedure, his office staff demanded that she pay thousands of dollars upfront.

Sands returned one week later to get crowns for her two molars. Even though she had dental insurance through her job and her husband's, she had to pay before she received care. So she charged more than \$6,000 on a credit card with a high interest rate.

The dental insurance plan eventually reimbursed her a fraction of what she'd paid to treat her oral health emergency. One dental insurer gave her \$1,000, the other \$300.

Sands might be considered among the lucky Americans when it comes to dental care. More than half of U.S. adults don't have consistent access to dental care, and untreated issues such as oral infections can harm overall health. Although many people face these barriers to routine care, dental coverage has gained little traction among political leaders.

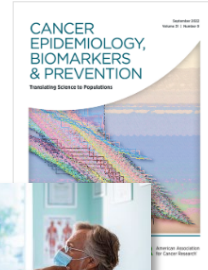
Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump, have traded barbs over abortion and lowering the price of insulin. One health-related topic neither candidate has emphasized is how to extend dental care to the tens of millions of Americans who lack insurance.

Covering oral care, it turns out, is a popular stance. An overwhelming number of voters want leaders to shore up the nation's patchwork dental care system.

About 9 in 10 voters support adding a dental benefit to Medicare, according to a poll of 1,000 registered voters commissioned this summer by the nonprofit CareQuest Institute for Oral Health, which is focused on access and

See DENTAL CARE, Page 3A

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RESEARCH ARTICLES | SEPTEMBER 02 2022

Oral Cancer Prevalence, Mortality, and Costs in Medicaid and Commercial Insurance Claims Data

Eric P. Tranby, Lisa J. Heaton, Scott L. Tomar, Abigail L. Kelly, Guleilma Leonard Fager, Mary Backley, Julie Frantsve-Hawley

Check for updates

Author & Article Information

Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev (2022) 31 (9): 1849–1857.

<https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-22-0114> Article history

Split-Screen Views PDF Share Tools Versions

Abstract

Investigation

Cover Story

A cross-sectional analysis of oral health care spending over the life span in commercial- and Medicaid-insured populations

Eric P. Tranby, PhD; Julie Frantsve-Hawley, PhD; Myechia Minter-Jordan, MD, MBA; James Thommes, DDS; Matt Jacob, BA; Michael Monopoli, DMD, MPH; Ilya Okunev, MA; Sean G. Boynes, DMD, MS

ABSTRACT

Background. Life course theory creates a better framework to understand how oral health care needs and challenges align with specific phases of the life span, care models, social programs, and changes in policy.

Methods. The authors obtained data from the 2018 IBM Watson Multi-State Medicaid MarketScan Database (31 million claims) and the 2018 IBM Watson Dental Commercial and Medicare Supplemental Claims Database (45 million claims). The authors conducted analysis comparing per enrollee spending on fee-for-service dental claims and medical spending on oral health care for patients from ages 0 through 89 years.

Results. Oral health care use rate and spending are lower during the first 4 years of life and in young adulthood than in other periods of life. Stark differences in the timing, impact, and severity of caries, periodontal disease, and oral cancer are seen between those enrolled in Medicaid and commercial dental plans. Early childhood caries and oral cancer occur more frequently and at younger ages in Medicaid populations.

Conclusions. This life span analysis of the US multipayer oral health care system shows the complexities of the current dental service environment and a lack of equitable access to oral health care.

Practical Implications. Health policies should be focused on optimizing care delivery to provide effective preventive care at specific stages of the life span.

Key Words. Medicaid; commercial dental insurance; life course; caries; periodontal; oral cancer.

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Oral health is directly linked to overall health. When oral health deteriorates, it can have far-reaching consequences and health effects that go beyond the mouth.

Impact on Families in America

7x

When people from lower-income families are able to access dental care, they are paying over seven times more out-of-pocket for their dental care than higher-income families.

Learn More

40%

Four in 10 adults in rural areas have not seen a dentist for over a year, which is about 10% higher than in urban and suburban areas.

Learn More

3x

The prevalence of early childhood tooth decay in American Indian and Alaska Native communities is three times higher than it is for white children.

Learn More

243M

Adults in the US miss more than 243 million hours of work or school each year due to oral health problems, which costs an estimated \$45 billion annually.

Learn More



www.carequest.org/analytics

Most data used in oral health still falls short

Not Integrated

Not
Timely

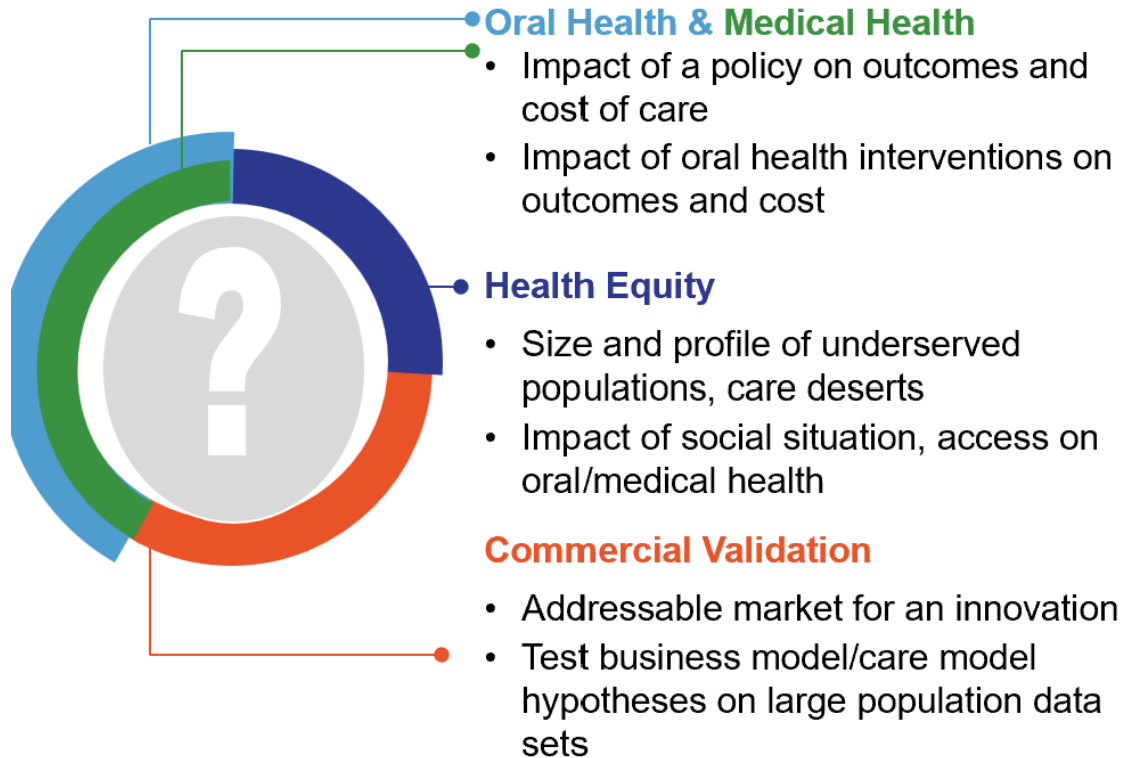
Not
Representative

Not Accessible

No Common
Data Model

Incomplete

Most oral health stakeholders have questions that can be answered with better data



- Integrate Oral, Medical, Environmental, and Social Data
- Representative of payer, provider, and patient landscape
- Contain payment and outcome metrics



- Use curated analytics and dashboards for quick answers
- Find, explore, access, merge relevant data sets
- Standard tool sets to conduct analysis in fast and secure environment

Requirements for the Future of Oral Health Data

Scalable Platform

Integrated

Accessible

Simple Ingestion

Common Data
Model

Common
Metrics/Standards

Core Convener

Data Stewardship
and Governance

Reduced
Administrative
Burden

Benefits of Improved Oral Health Data

