**Nebraska Dental**
ASSOCIATION | **ADA**®

# Nebraska Dentists
# are Good Stewards of Dental Medicaid Spending

*Medicaid makes up about 2% of all Medicaid spending or about 88 million. On July 1st, Medicaid increased fees for dental services by 12.5% from LB 358. Senators voting were in unanimous support after they heard the challenges Nebraskans with Medicaid were facing trying to obtain dental care. NE Medicaid fees for dentistry rose from about 43% of average Nebraska dentists' fees to closer to 50%. However, this is still below costs to provide that care. Here is the data from July 1, 2024-Dec 31, 2024.[1]*

| Total number of *new dentists* that signed up to be Medicaid providers: | Number of *new adults* seen for a dental exam: | Number of *new children* seen for a dental exam: |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| **90** | **5,517** | **10,465** |

46 fewer patients visited a hospital emergency department for non-traumatic dental pain:

**Each visit is approximately $2200[2]    *    $101,200 in monthly savings,**
**$1,214,400 annually to Medicaid.**

**Future goals**: To increase dental fees an additional 12.5% (**LB 146**) which will boost additional dentist participation. Fiscal note is $2.8 million of general funds.

| **Goal** | **Goal** | **Goal** |
|:---|:---|:---|
| Reduce the number of Nebraskans with Medicaid with severe dental disease that must be admitted to the hospital.<br><br>**Ave cost for 1 patient is $42,000**<br><br>**$42,000 would pay for 280 dental check-ups if we can connect Nebraskans with a dental home for clinic based (not hospital-based care).** | Increase the number of children and adults seen for preventive dental care and office-based minor procedures as opposed to more costly major ones. | Reduce the number of Nebraskans that require dental treatment in a hospital O.R. setting through prevention and early detection of dental disease.<br><br>**Average cost for dental medical: (anesthesia + facility fee) = $4,000 + $4,000, Total = $8,000** |

*Paying for oral disease prevention works! Early detection and treatment works!*
*It saves the state and feds money by avoiding higher cost dental and medical care*
*and gets adults back to work and keeps children in school!*

1    Data provided by 3 Molina, UHC, and NE Total Care MCO's
2    Data from ADA's Health Policy Institute, CareQuest 2019 data, adjusted for inflation.