

Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

Brief tutorial

September 2026

Overview of Tools

Rubric for Assessing Extensiveness of State Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits (Rubric)

A [survey tool](#) that defines an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit and assesses the extensiveness of existing coverage within each state.

Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker (Coverage Checker)

An interactive tool that displays state-by-state results of the Rubric.

The results represent a snapshot in time and are reflective of coverage offered by each state.

The [Coverage Checker](#) displays information from 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 Rubric.

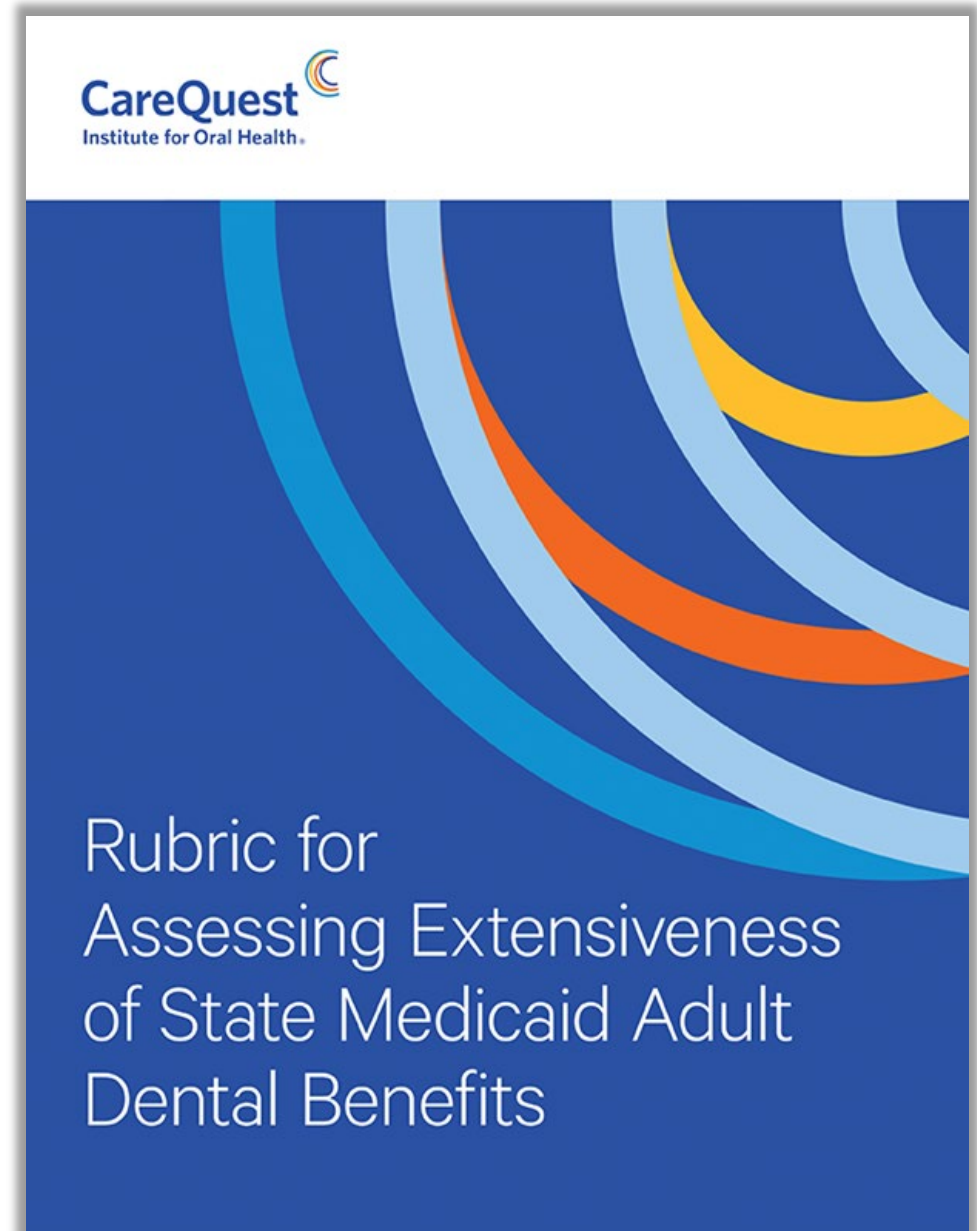
The Rubric

What it is:

- A survey completed by state Medicaid dental directors and/or program staff.

What it does:

- Defines an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit.
- Assesses the extensiveness of existing coverage within each state's Medicaid program.



Definition of an Extensive Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit

An extensive dental benefit is one that provides coverage for a range of dental procedures considered adequate for the prevention of disease and promotion of oral health; the restoration of oral structures to health and function; and the treatment of emergency/urgent conditions for the largest group of Categorically Needy Medicaid adult beneficiaries ages 21-64 covered by a state's Medicaid program.

To meet this definition, states must:

- cover specific procedures and services, including allowed frequency, in seven specific service categories; and
- have an annual benefit maximum greater than or equal to \$1,000.

Service Categories:

Diagnostic services
Preventive services
Restorative services
Endodontic services
Periodontal services
Prosthodontic services
Extraction services

The Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

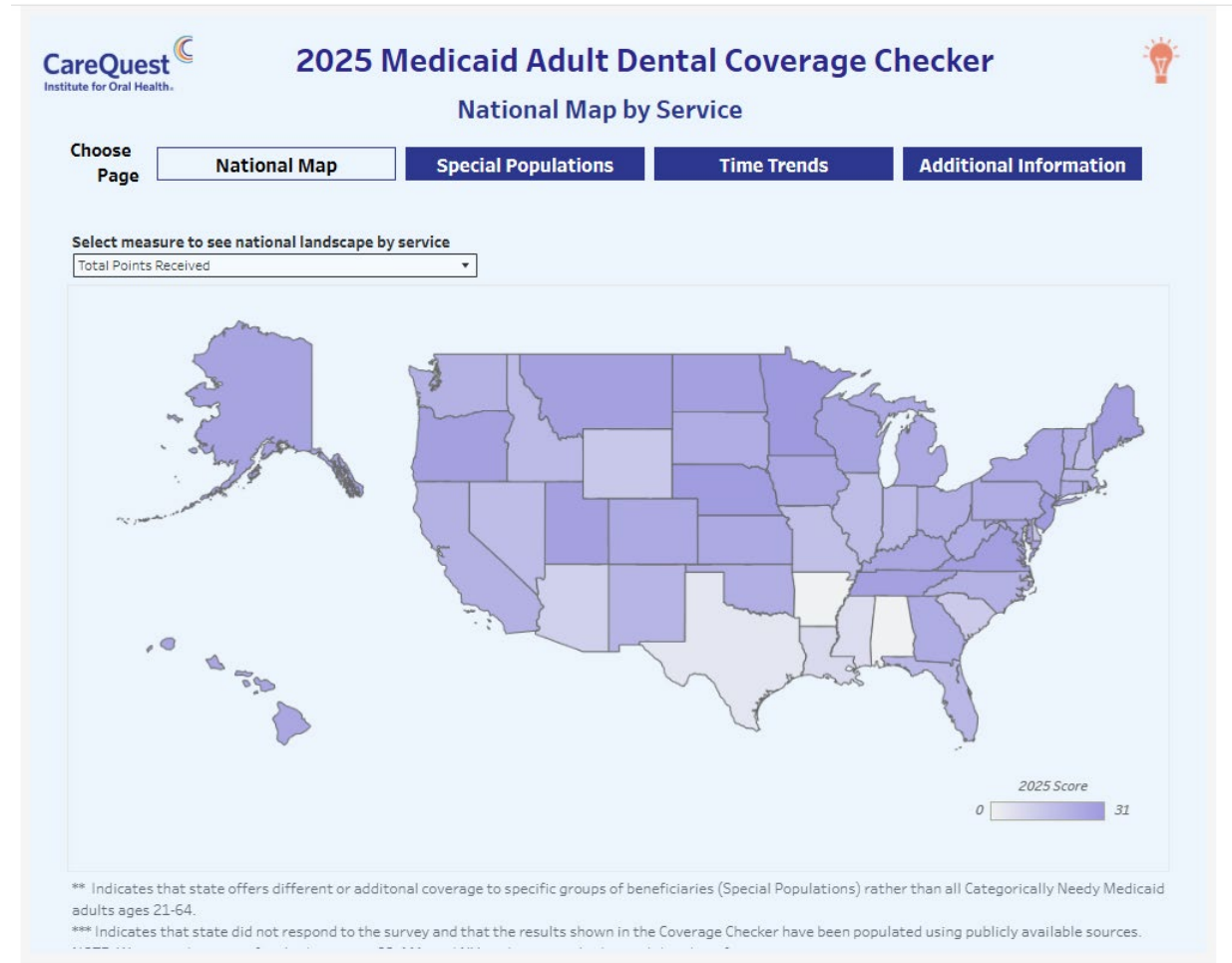
What it is:

An interactive tool that displays state-by-state results of the Rubric.

*The results represent a snapshot in time and are reflective of coverage offered by each state at the time of completion.**

The results display benefits on a continuum from no benefits to extensive.

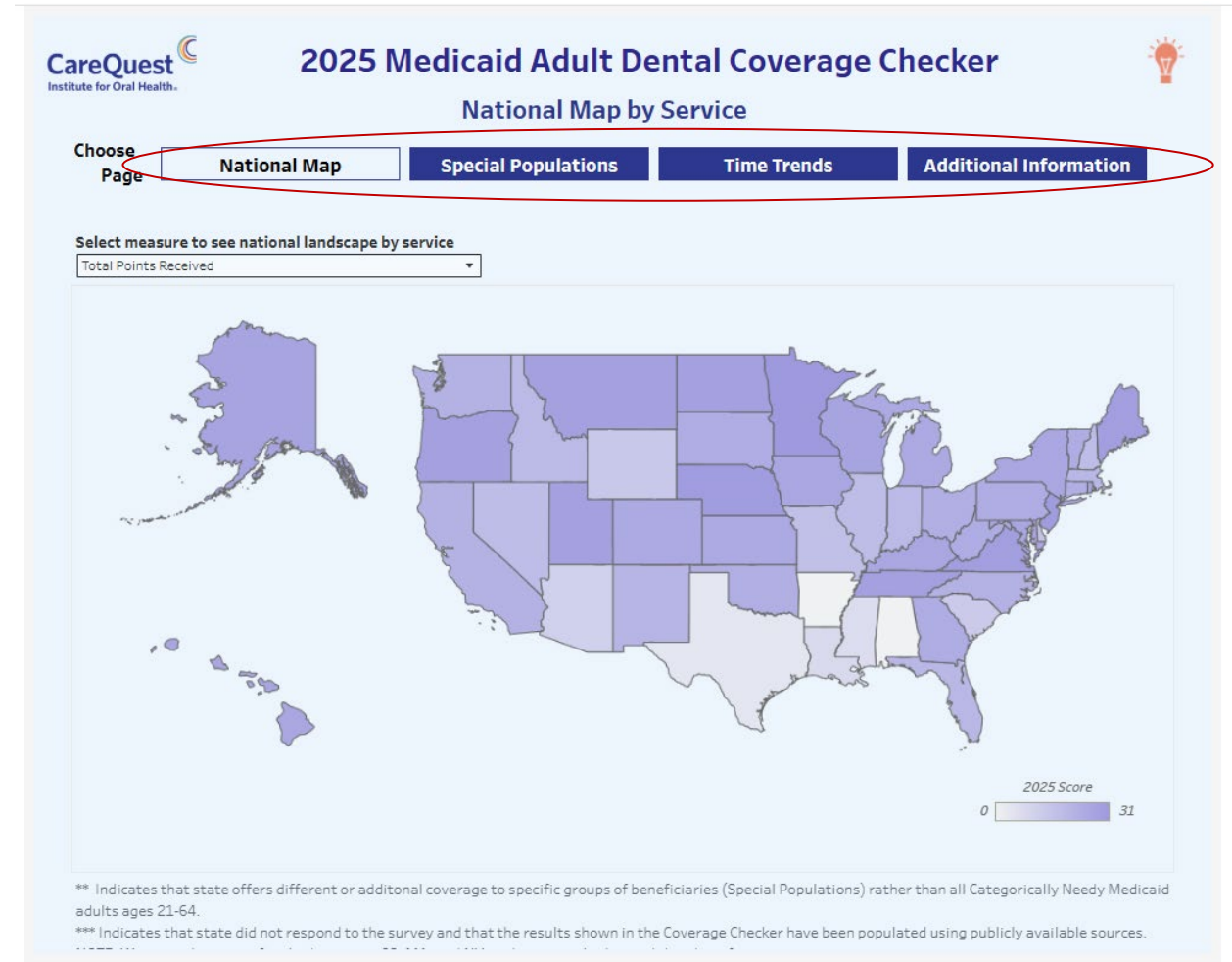
Visit the [2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker](#)



The Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

The Coverage Checker contains four sections:

- National Map with responses by survey measure
- Special Populations with information about different or additional benefits provided to certain groups of adult beneficiaries
- Time trends (2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025)
- Additional Information



2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker



National Map by Service

Choose
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National Map

Special Populations

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Additional Information

Select measure to see national landscape

Total Points Received



The Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker is an interactive tool that displays self-reported results from state Medicaid dental programs in a survey conducted in the spring of 2025. The data represent a snapshot in time and are reflective of the benefit package in place as of [December 31, 2024](#).

The survey assesses coverage of specific procedures and services, including allowed frequency, in eight service categories (annual benefit maximum, diagnostic, preventive, restorative, endodontic, periodontal, prosthodontic, and extraction services).

The service categories included in the survey encompass a range of oral health procedures that are critical to maintaining lifelong oral health in adults. However, users should not interpret coverage of these procedures as coverage of all procedures within a CDT service category.

[Click the Icon to View Full Survey](#)

Extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit defined:

An extensive dental benefit is one that provides coverage for a range of dental procedures considered adequate for the prevention of disease and promotion of oral health, the restoration of oral structure to health and function, and the treatment of emergency/urgent conditions for the largest group of Categorically Needy Medicaid adult beneficiaries, aged 21-64.

To meet the definition of an extensive Medicaid adult dental benefit, a state must:

- 1) Receive a total of 19 points or greater;
- 2) Not receive a "0" in any of the eight service categories; and
- 3) Have no annual benefit maximum or have an annual benefit greater or equal to \$1,000.



** Indicates that state offers different or additional coverage to specific groups of beneficiaries (Special Populations) rather than all Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21-64.

*** Indicates that state did not respond to the survey and that the results shown in the Coverage Checker have been populated using publicly available sources.

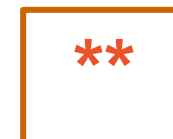
NATIONAL MAP

This is the initial screen you will see when you visit the Coverage Checker



Hover over the Lightbulb icon and the following informational 'Tool Tip' will pop up.

Click on the Lightbulb icon and the 2025 Rubric survey and user guide will open.



Indicates that state offers different coverage to specific groups of beneficiaries rather than all Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21-64.



Indicates that survey was completed by CareQuest Institute using publicly available information.

2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker



National Map by Service

Choose
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National Map

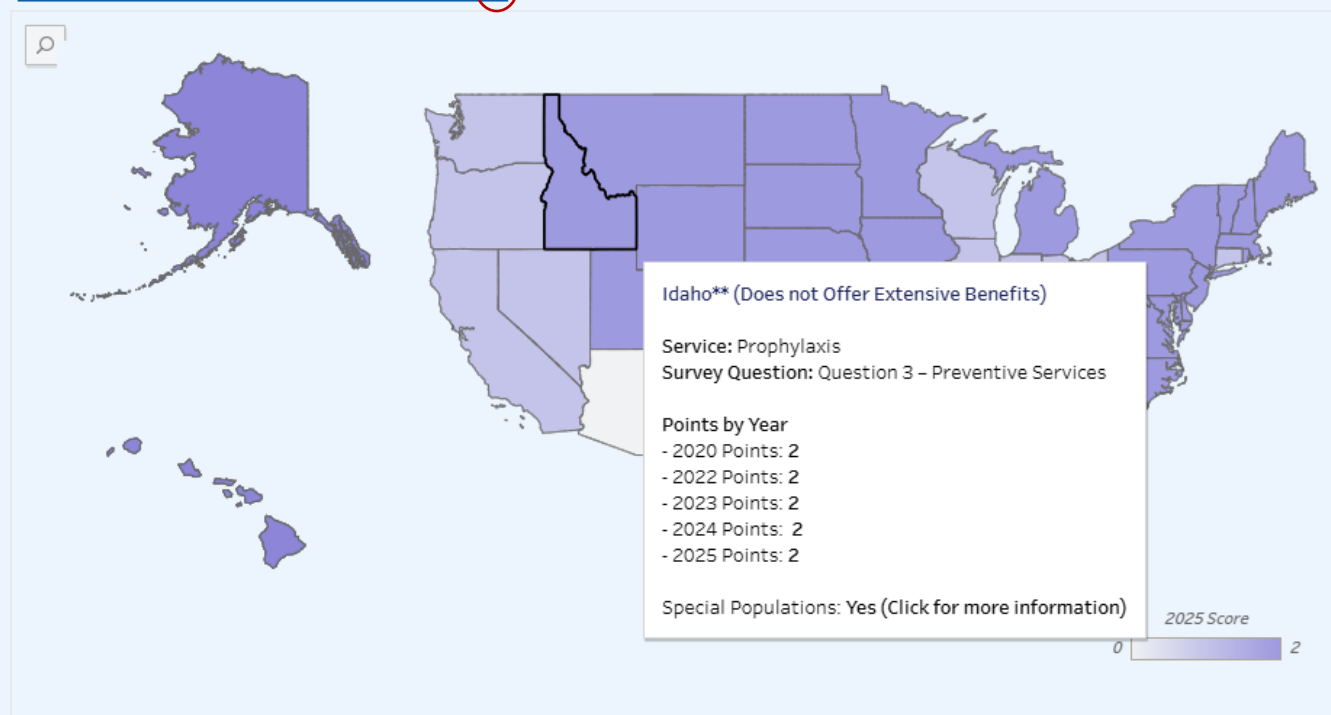
Special Populations

Time Trends

Additional Information

Select measure to see national landscape by service

Prophylaxis



** Indicates that state offers different or additional coverage to specific groups of beneficiaries (Special Populations) rather than all Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21-64.

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NATIONAL MAP

- Use the drop-down menu on the top left side of the screen to click on a specific survey measure.
- Then hover over a state to view survey responses to that measure by year.
- The map will change to reflect the specific measure selected.

This is an example of Idaho's response to the Prophylaxis measure.

When you hover over Idaho, you will see the survey responses to this measure for 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Please note: A state's Medicaid adult dental benefits program is considered 'Extensive' if it receives a total of 19 points or greater, provides coverage in each of the seven service categories, and has an annual benefit maximum greater than or equal to \$1,000.

2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

Special Populations

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Special Populations

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Additional Information

Select State

(All)

Select Special Population

Pregnant

Select Service

(All)

State	Special Population	Service Provided	
Alabama	Pregnant	Periodic and comprehensive evaluation	Yes
		Limited oral evaluation (problem focused)	Yes
		Prophylaxis	Yes (One per 6 months)
		Application of fluoride	Yes ..
		Fillings	Yes
		Crowns	Yes
		Anterior root canal therapy	Yes
		Posterior root canal therapy	Yes
		Scaling and root planing and periodontal mainten.	Yes..
		Complete dentures	Yes..
		Partial dentures	Yes..
		Reline and rebase of complete dentures	No
		Extractions	Yes
Georgia	Pregnant	Scaling and root planing and periodontal mainten.	.
Kentucky	Pregnant	Application of fluoride	Yes (Two per 12 months. Additional allowed bas.
Missouri	Pregnant	Application of fluoride	Yes (Two per calendar year)
		Crowns	Yes
		Anterior root canal therapy	Yes
		Posterior root canal therapy	Yes

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

This section provides information about different or additional benefits provided to certain groups of adult beneficiaries (e.g., adults who are pregnant, have intellectual or developmental disabilities, or reside in long-term care).

- Use the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen to click on a specific state.
- Use the drop-down menu in the middle of the screen to click on a specific special population group.
- Use the drop-down menu on the right side of the screen to click on a specific service.

This is an example of states that provide different or additional benefits to their pregnant beneficiaries than they do to their largest group of Categorically Needy Medicaid adults.

2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

Time Trends: 2020 - 2025

Choose
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Select State

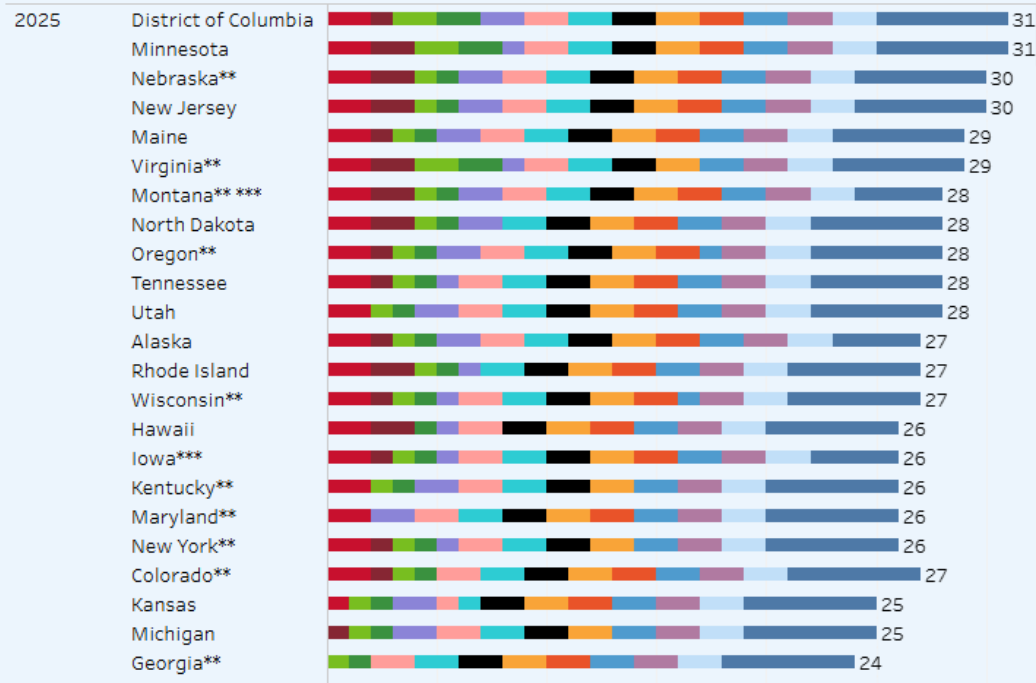
(All)

Select Service

(All)

Select Year

(All)



** Indicates that state offers different or additional coverage to specific groups of beneficiaries (Special Populations) rather than all Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21-64.

*** Indicates that state did not respond to the survey and that the results shown in the Coverage Checker have been populated using publicly available sources.

View on Tableau Public

Share

TIME TRENDS

- Allows you to view changes for all or specific states for 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- Allows you to view changes for all or specific measures for 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.
- Use the drop-down box in the 'Select state' feature to choose 'All' or a specific state.
- Use the drop-down box in the 'Select Service' feature to choose 'All' or a specific measure.
- Use the drop-down box in the 'Select Year' feature to view listings by year – 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

Time Trends: 2020 - 2025

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National Map

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Additional Information

Select State

Minnesota

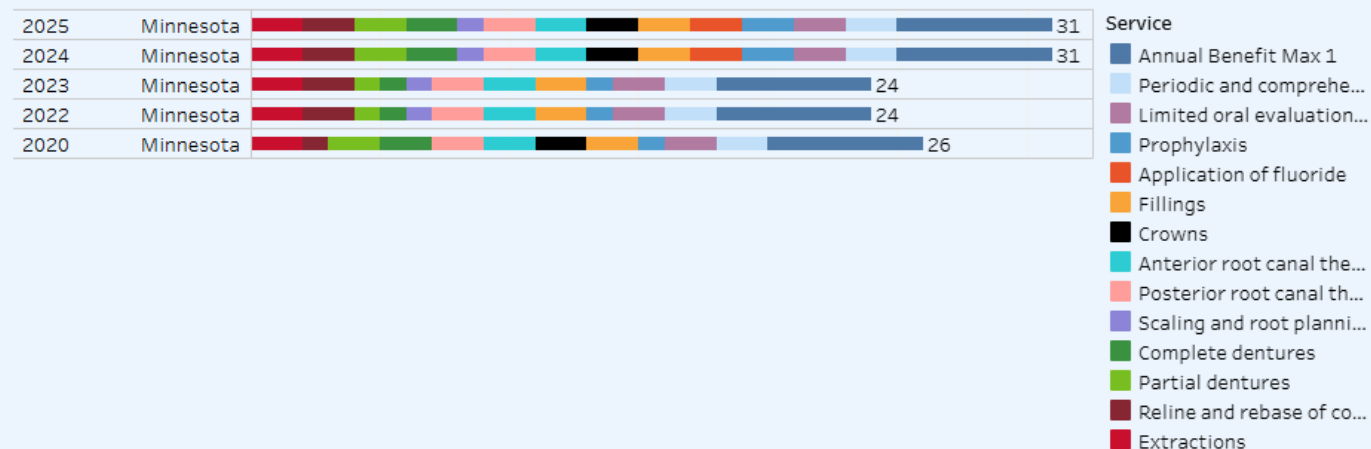


Select Service

(All)

Select Year

(All)



TIME TRENDS (cont'd)

This is an example of how overall coverage in Minnesota has changed over time.

In 2020, Minnesota received a total of 26 points based on their responses to the survey. At that time, they did not offer coverage in each of the 14 survey measures.

In 2024 and 2025, Minnesota received a total of 31 points based on their responses to the survey. As of December 31, 2025, they offer coverage in each of the 14 survey questions/measures.

To see how coverage of specific measures have changed over time in Minnesota (or other states), use the 'Select Measure' drop-down box.

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2025 Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker

Additional Information

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Additional Information

Select State for Additional Policy Information

(All)

Select Service

Preventive

Service	States	Additional Information
Preventive	Alaska	Prophylaxis (D1110): including necessary scaling, polishing, and instructions on oral hygiene up to two times per fiscal year. Fluoride treatment applied topically (D1206 and D1208): up to four times per fiscal year or any combination of topical fluoride applications, varnish or non-varnish, not
	Arkansas	Prophylaxis [D1110] is covered once per state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) for beneficiaries age 21 and over. D1110 applies towards the \$500 limit. [Per Section 217.100] ...
	California	D1110 is covered once in a 12 month period for patients age 21 or older. It is covered once in a 4 month period for patients residing in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or Intermediate Care Facility (ICF). D1206, D1208 are a benefit once in a 12 month period for patients age 21 or older; one
	Colorado	D1110: Two of (D1110, D4346, D4910) per 12 Month(s) Per patient. For members who fall into a high-risk category for caries, periodontal disease, diabetes or pregnant women with histories of periodontal disease are entitled to four (D1110, D4910) per 12 months. Only allowed for cases with a history of surgical or non-surg
	Connecticut	D1110: For clients 21 years of age or older: D1110 limited to one per client per calendar year. This includes cleaning, supra & sub gingival scaling & polishing. In the circumstance when an adult (21+) client has received frequency limited services within the current calendar year AND has a chronic medical or dental condition that
	Florida	D1110 is covered by both managed care plans and is not a Medicaid benefit. D1206/D1208 is covered by both managed care plans. DentaQuest limits to adults

NOTE: We are making out of cycle changes to CO, MA, and NV as they recently changed their benefits.

* Arkansas: In 2025, the largest group of Categorically Needy Adults in Arkansas is their Medicaid Expansion Group. Dental is not offered to this group of adults and therefore all responses for 2025 are recorded as '0'.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Space has been provided in each year of the survey for states to provide additional information about their program and/or benefits. This chart captures the information shared in the 2025 survey.

- Use the drop-down box in the 'Select State for Additional Policy Information' feature to view the information shared (if any).
- Use the drop-down box in the 'Select Service' feature to choose 'All' or a specific measure.

Additional Resources

Blog Post: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits May be Optional in Some States, but Oral Health Is Not (September 2025)

Resource: Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits Offered to Specific Beneficiary Groups – *A new resource coming soon!*

Webinar: Stronger Together: Advocates, Administrators, and Providers Working to Improve Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits *(recording and slides)*

Blog Post: [A New Look for Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits](#), a Q&A on the origins and goals of the Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Checker.



Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits

Offered to Specific Beneficiary Groups as of December 2024

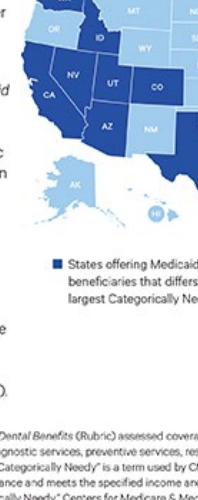
Medicaid adult dental benefits are classified as “optional” by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This means that states can limit the type and/or number of services they cover as well as the beneficiary groups that are eligible for that coverage. States can also choose to exclude adult dental services entirely from their Medicaid coverage.

Many states offer dental benefits to all adult Medicaid beneficiaries ages 21–64. Some of these states also provide additional benefits to specific beneficiary groups, such as more frequent periodontal treatments for adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. In other states, coverage is only provided to specific beneficiary groups such as pregnant and postpartum adults.

The *Rubric for Assessing Extensiveness of State Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits (Rubric)* assesses coverage within eight service categories (see Appendix A). The 2024 Rubric shows 21 states offering dental coverage to specific groups of adult beneficiaries; these states’ benefits vary in amount, duration, and/or scope (see Appendix B).¹

The specific beneficiary groups most commonly covered by these 21 states are pregnant and postpartum adults, adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, and adults utilizing long-term care services and benefits.

Additionally, some states offer enhanced dental coverage to adults who are blind (Missouri and Utah) and those experiencing homelessness and/or substance use disorder or mental health conditions (Utah and Vermont).



■ States offering Medicaid dental coverage to certain groups of beneficiaries that differs from coverage offered to the state's largest Categorically Needy Medicaid adults ages 21–64 (2024)

¹ The 2024 *Rubric for Assessing Extensiveness of State Medicaid Adult Dental Benefits (Rubric)* assessed coverage in place as of December 31, 2024. It assessed the following service categories: annual benefit maximum, diagnostic services, preventive services, restorative services, endodontic services, periodontal services, prosthodontic services, and extraction services. “Categorically Needy” is a term used by CMS in reference to a person who is a member of certain categories of groups eligible to receive public assistance and meets the specified income and resource requirements for Medicaid in their state. See “List of Medicaid Eligibility Groups: Mandatory Categorically Needy,” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, accessed June 1, 2025. <https://www.medicare.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/list-of-eligibility-groups.pdf>

For questions or more information, please contact:

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