



THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Treating Early Childhood Caries: Costs of Hospital OR Care

Jane Koppelman, Research Director
Pew Children's Dental Campaign
April 29, 2015

Our Mission:

The Pew Children's Dental Campaign strives for cost-effective policies that will mean millions more children get the basic dental care they need to grow, learn and lead healthy lives.





Child Hospitalizations for Preventable Dental Conditions: 2008

- **7,195 ED visits (3% of all ED visits) led to inpatient admission**
 - *3,560 pulpal and periapical*
 - *2,670 caries*
 - *1358 mouth cellulitis/abscesses*
 - *864 gingival*
 - *548 periodontal*
- **\$162 million for hospitalization charges following ED visit**
- **Payer for hospitalizations:**
 - *Medicaid: 50%*
 - *Private insurance: 30%*

Medicaid costs to treat ECC under general anesthesia: Iowa, 1994

- @ \$2,009 per case
- <2% of children account for 25% of all Medicaid \$\$ on dental care for children
- Most frequent procedure: stainless steel crowns



Medicaid Costs for ECC Treated in Hospital ORs: Louisiana, 1996-97



- 40,565 1-5 yr-olds received dental care (5%, or 2,142 treated in hospital OR)
- Cost of OR care for 2,142 children: \$3,230,000
- OR care = 45% of total Medicaid dental costs for 1-5 yr-olds

ECC Treated in Ambulatory Surgery Facilities in NY 2004 through 2008 (< age 6)



- Nearly 22,000 cases
- Cost per visit: \$4,800 - \$6,300
- Total annual treatment charges:
\$21 million - \$28 million
- Total treatment charges (2004 -2009) \$106 million – \$139 million



Dental Care Cost Comparison: OR vs. Office Visit

- OR cost per visit (NY, 2004-2009) \$4,800 - \$6,300
- Cost of a sealant \$48
- Cost range for filling (Dallas, Tx 2012) \$189 - \$294
- Cost range for extraction (Dallas, Tx 2012) \$152 - \$159



THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Want to know more?

Visit www.pewtrusts.org/dental to read
learn more about our work.