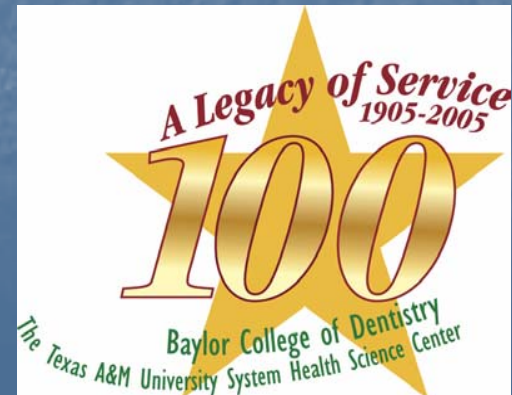


Texas Dentists' Attitudes Towards the Medicaid Program

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Introduction

- Medicaid program history
- Dental Medicaid
 - <1% Medicaid budget in Texas
 - Small component of Medicaid in other states
- Texas Medicaid program made national news in 2004
 - *Frew v. Hawkins*

Background

- No published baseline in Texas
 - Unpublished study in 1994
- Studies have been done in other states (CA, IA, OH, WA, LA, NC)
 - Summary of studies

Objectives

- Evaluate perceptions and attitudes towards the Texas Medicaid program.
 - Sources of provider dissatisfaction
- Compare to other dental Medicaid programs
- Baseline for evaluating the effect of program changes that may result from consent decree

Materials and Methods

- Self-administered mailed survey
 - Pilot study (\$800 budget – mostly postage)
- Selection criteria
 - Texas licensing database
 - Age, activity, form of practice
- Sample size 500 of 7,768
 - Census of all pediatric dentists (N=205)
 - Sample of active full-time general dentists

Questionnaire Design

- Medicaid activity level
 - Enrolled, active, and highly active providers
- Years of practice \approx 2004 - graduation year
- Sources of dissatisfaction
- General dentist vs. pediatric dentist

Results

- Overall response rate (RR) 69% (347/500)
- Pediatric dentist RR of 57% (169/205)
- General dentist RR of 29% (171/295)
- 62% of pediatric dentists and 53% of general dentists ($p < .0001$) treated at least one Medicaid patient in the past year

Results

	General Dentists	Pediatric Dentists
Enrolled Provider	54% (92/171)	90% (152/169)
Active Provider	29% (49/171)	57% (94/169)
>10% time (p<.05)	17% (29/171)	48% (81/169)

Results

- Years practiced ranged from 1 to 39 (mean=16.8 ± 9.65)
- Recently graduated more likely to be active providers than others (p<.05)
 - Similar in other states
- 67% file claims electronically

Sources of Dissatisfaction

- General dentists more dissatisfied than pediatric dentists in the following areas:
 - Slow payment*
 - Denial of payment*
 - Patient noncompliance*
 - Complicated paperwork*

* $p < .05$

Proportion of Active Provider Office Visits by Medicaid Children

% time spent		n	%
General Dentists		49	100%
	≤ 10%	20	41%
	>10 to 20%	11	23%
	>20 to 50%	9	18%
	>50%	9	18%
Pediatric Dentists		94	100%
	≤ 10%	13	14%
	>10 to 20%	10	10%
	>20 to 50%	43	46%
	>50%	29	31%

Discussion

- Points of dissatisfaction among all providers
 - 1. Broken appointments Patient-related
 - 2. Low reimbursement Programmatic
 - 3. Patient non-compliance Patient-related
 - 4. Denial of payment Programmatic
 - 5. Slow payment Programmatic
- Similar in other states

Rank-Ordered Dentists' Sources of Dissatisfaction with Dental Medicaid Programs: A Comparison of Six Statewide Studies

Sources of Dissatisfaction	California	Iowa	Ohio	Washington	Louisiana	Texas	
	1990	1996	1993	1998	1997	1994	2004
Low reimbursement	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Broken appts.	3	2	3	7	1	1	1
Pt. noncompliance		3			3		3
Paperwork	5	5	2	1	6	4	7
Slow payments	7	7	3		5	3	5
Denial of payments	2	4				5	4
Prior approval	6	9		5	8		10

Limitations of Study

- Relatively small sample size
- No follow-up of non-responses
 - Sampling bias could exist
- Did not identify underserved areas (HPSA)

Similarity Between Sample And Population

- Licensure database listed year of graduation from dental school
 - Estimated years of practice (2004-YOG)
 - Compared mean years of practice

Comparison of mean years of practice	Mean diff	t	p (t=0)
Resp. vs. Non-resp.	0.08	0.065	ns
Resp. vs. Population	1.71	1.405	ns
Sample vs. Population	1.82	1.521	ns

Conclusion

- Activity level and provider dissatisfaction similar to those of other states
- Perceptions and attitudes different between active and inactive/non-providers
 - Patient noncompliance, complicated paperwork
- Level of participation differed between pediatric dentists and general practitioners

Conclusions

- Newer providers more likely to participate
- Specific details outlined in *Frew vs. Hawkins* consent decree need further investigation.
- Repeat study with larger budget

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Questions