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Treating Early Childhood Caries: Costs of Hospital OR Care

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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



Sources: Michael J. Kannellis et al, "Medicaid Costs Associated with the hospitalization of young children for restorative dental treatment under general anesthesia," JPHD, Vol 60, No. 1, Winter 2000.

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

Sources: Susan O. Griffin, "Dental services, costs, and factors associated with hospitalized for Medicaid-eligible children, Louisiana 1996-1997," JPHD, Vol. 60, No. 1, Winter 2000.

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

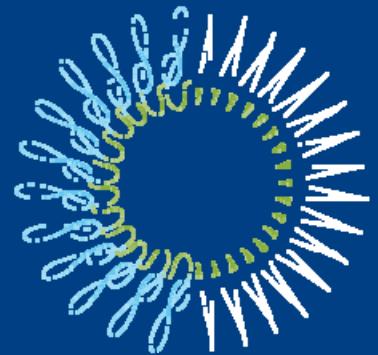


- Nearly 22,000 cases
- Cost per visit: \$4,800 - \$6,300
- Total annual treatment charges:
\$21 million - \$28 million
- Total treatment charges (2004 -2009) \$106 million – \$139 million



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



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