



Increasing Dental Access in Missouri

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Presentation Overview

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Collaboration & Progress



The beginning of the collaboration between the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health (MCOH), MO HealthNet Division (MHD), and the Missouri Dental Association (MDA).

June 2022



MCOH established the Dental Medicaid Facilitator to concentrate on attracting new providers, assist with MHD enrollment, troubleshoot processes and barriers associated with working with MHD, and decrease provider abrasion.

November 2022



July 2024

MHD increased rates for extractions and dental anesthesia, added periodic exams to the limited benefit, and increased access to SDF.



July 2022

MHD implemented a significant rate increase aligning our dental rates with those of many commercial payers which created an opportunity for MO HealthNet to attract new dental providers.



April 2023

MCOH launched a Media Campaign that addressed myths, provided resources, and created opportunities for providers to communicate their needs to the MCOH and MHD.

Provider Data

- Net increase of 238 enrolled dental providers as of February 1, 2025.
- 549 new dental providers enrolled between SFY 2022 and SFY 2024.
- The number of performing providers increased by 183 between SFY 2022 and SFY 2024.

Dental Providers Enrolled with MO HealthNet	
SFY 2022	1,038
SFY 2023	1,063
SFY 2024	1,198
Current SFY 2025	1,276

New MO HealthNet Dental Providers	
SFY 2022	133
SFY 2023	211
SFY 2024	205
Increase of 549 new dental providers	

Providers that have never been enrolled with MO HealthNet

Performing Providers	
SFY 2022	743
SFY 2023	845
SFY 2024	926
Increase of 183 performing providers	

Provider Data

The number of enrolled providers doesn't tell the whole story.

State FY	Gained Dental Providers	Lost Dental Providers	New Dental Providers	Total Dental Providers
2025	16	42	106	1276
2024	38	89	205	1198
2023	22	226	211	1063
2022	12	64	133	1038

- Gained Dental Provider- Previously enrolled providers reenrolling
- Lost Dental Provider- Providers who are no longer enrolled
- New Dental Provider- Providers that have never been enrolled with MO HealthNet
- Total Dental Providers – Net Dental Providers

SFY 2025 Dental numbers are as of February 1, 2025

Participant Data

- The unique number of participants receiving dental care increased by 50,180 from SFY 2022 to SFY 2023.
- The increased number of participants was split evenly between adults and children
- The Public Health Emergency Unwinding occurred during SFY 2024 which reduced the overall number of MO HealthNet participants

Participants Enrolled with MO HealthNet	
SFY 2022	1,448,416
SFY 2023	1,621,131
SFY 2024	1,342,138

MO HealthNet Participants Served		
SFY 2022	344,119	23.7%
SFY 2023	394,299	24.3%
SFY 2024	425,136	31.6%
Increase of 81,017 MO HealthNet participants accessing Dental services		

Ambulatory Surgical Centers & Outpatient Hospital Access

Dental providers expressed concerns about limited access to Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC) and Outpatient Hospital facilities needed to perform procedures requiring sedation. ASCs and Outpatient facilities were citing low reimbursement.

MHD reviewed claims data and determined that most ASCs and Outpatient hospital facilities were not billing for these services correctly. MHD provided special webinar trainings on how to bill for dental services provided in an ASC and Outpatient Hospital setting. The webinars explained the unique payment methodology that connects facility fees to dental services and anesthesia performed in the facility.

Resources:

- [Billing for Dental Procedures Provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center](#)
- [Hospital Billing for Dental in Outpatient Setting](#)

Moving Forward



MHD will continue to look for opportunities to increase access to care and remove barriers for our providers, participants, and partners.

Dental will remain a key focus in our maternal and infant health initiatives.



Help Us Improve



Please complete an evaluation so we can keep improving our training and resources.

Thank you!

If you have additional questions, contact MHD.EDUCATION@dss.mo.gov or call (573)751-6683