



Oral Health for All: Policy Landscape

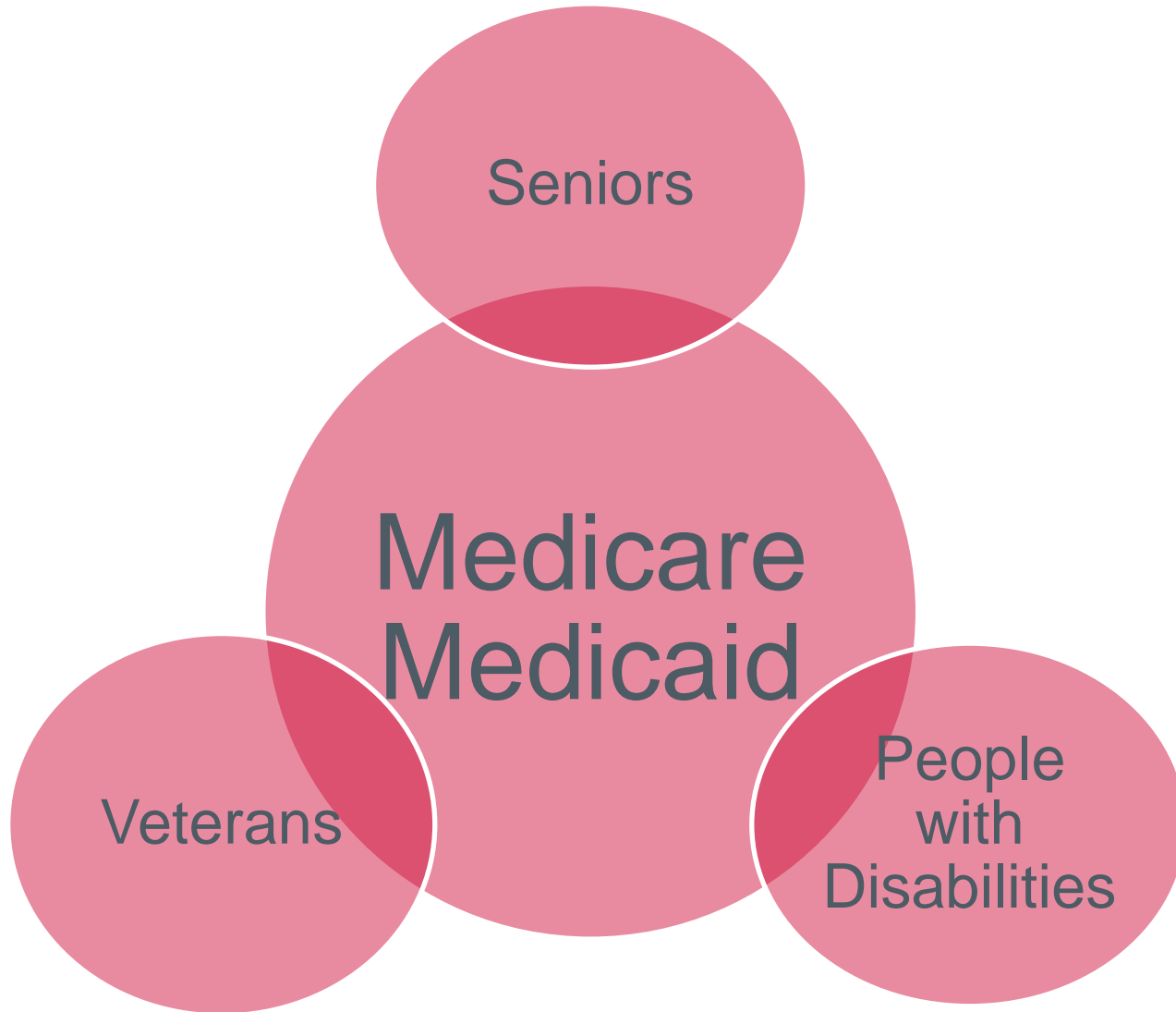
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We advocate for high-quality, comprehensive,
affordable health care and improved health for all
including oral health



Special Populations and Oral Health Coverage/Access



Key Considerations:

- Foundational challenge: all of these populations have limited access to oral health coverage
- Even those with coverage have challenges with access

Medicare Excludes Oral Health

- Current efforts to add dental coverage

Medicaid Access Challenges

- Who is covered and can they get the care they need? Who is losing employer coverage? Who is getting kicked off of Medicaid coverage when they need it?

Extremely Limited Veterans Coverage

- VA coverage is extremely limited— need to change VA rules and/or offer new, affordable options

COVID 19 Relief

Broad Coverage Discussions

- COVID-related coverage losses
- Coverage improvement/universal coverage discussions
- Implications of the Health Care Repeal Lawsuit?

What vehicles could carry small wins, like program funding?

Veterans Oral Health Coverage

The VA and Oral Health Coverage

More than 18 million Americans are military veterans. More than 9 in 10 do not have any dental coverage.

Once a service member transitions to veterans status, their access to dental care changes.

Under the rules of the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), only veterans who meet highly restricted eligibility requirements receive dental services.

Medicare Oral Health Coverage

Oklahoma & Medicare Oral Health Coverage

- **About 660,000** seniors and people with disabilities rely on Medicare in Oklahoma
- **Nearly 1 in 5** older adults in Oklahoma have lost all of their natural teeth to oral disease
- **Over 40 percent** of older adults in Oklahoma have not seen a dentist in over a year*

*this data is pre-pandemic

Adding Medicare Oral Health Coverage

- Requires passing legislation
- Should be comprehensive, ideally integrated into Medicare Part B

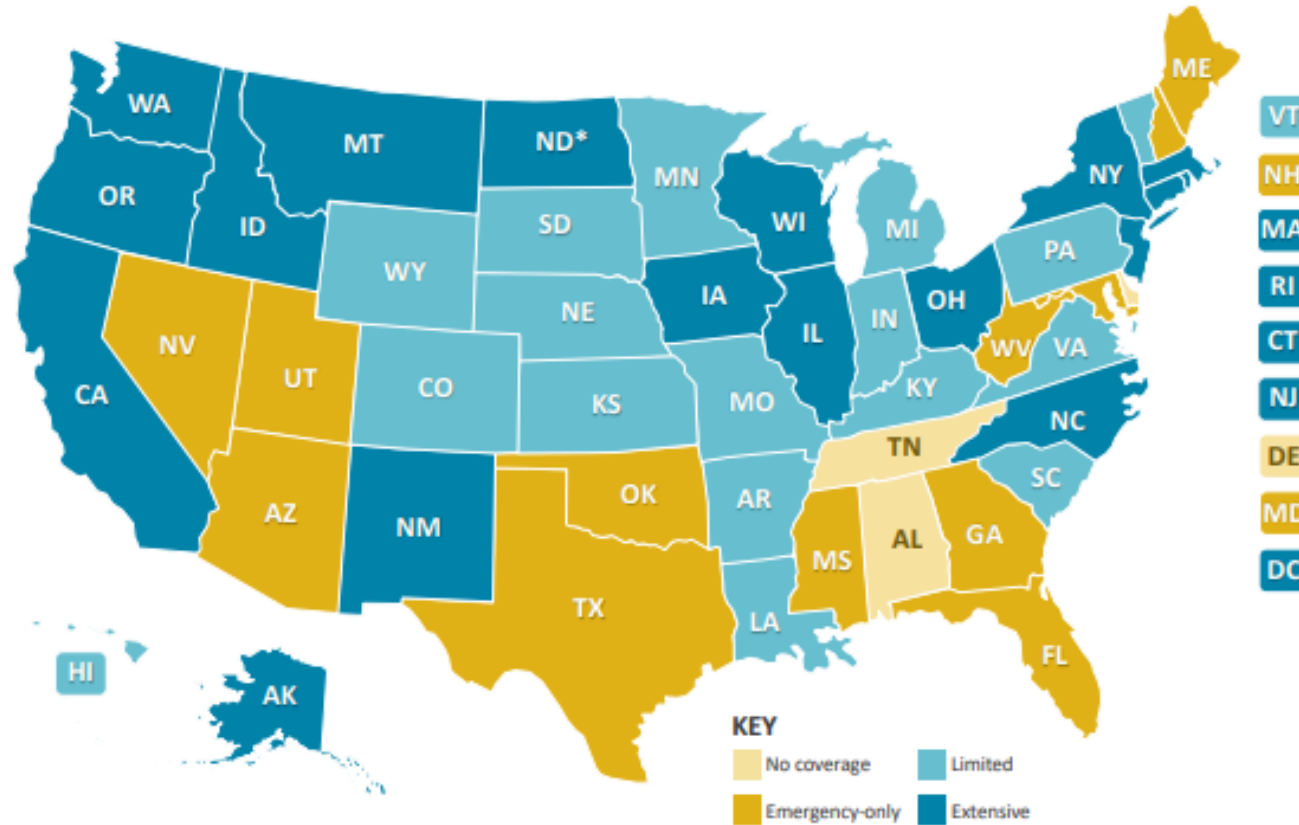
Pushing for “medically necessary” dental coverage

- Already allowed under statute, need administrative ruling
- Would be VERY limited in scope
- Helps raise the profile of Medicare oral health issues

Medicaid Landscape

State Medicaid Dental Coverage for Adults

EXHIBIT 1. State Medicaid Coverage of Adult Dental Benefits, November 2018



https://www.chcs.org/media/Adult-Oral-Health-Fact-Sheet_112118.pdf

Medicaid Adult Dental-- 2020 Landscape

Major Gains Still Possible



WV, MD, OK, MO, IL,
VA

Some Efforts Stalled



NH, DE

Early Cuts May Foreshadow
Future



CO

States CAN Overcome
Proposals to Slash Services



CA, NV

Medicaid Adult Dental and Federal Policy

States do not have to offer Medicaid adult dental coverage

- Federal legislation could change this

State budgets are tight across the country

- Federal legislation could offer relief, protect dental coverage– but does not currently

Medicaid Disaster Authorities

- Tied to public health emergency

Federal action could further support/protect oral health access

- FMAP, state fiscal relief, funding for state oral health programs

2021 Legislative Sessions Could Bring Risks

New Federal Rule puts oral health coverage, other Medicaid benefits at risk

Watch for proposed cuts from legislature and governor

Medicaid expansion implementation-- possible challenges & waivers

Other Issues

Other Federal Issues to Watch

State Oral Health Program funding

Other program funding (dental loan repayment programs, NHSC, outreach/education programs)

Oral health coverage for former foster youth, pregnant women

Oversight (Medicaid insurers)

Other State Issues to Watch

Other budget items/funding (e.g. SBHC programs, sealant programs)

Workforce

Scope of Practice

Teledentistry

Resources

- Medicare Oral Health Advocacy guide:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1niWPtXRxCnefHdqzLRI5Tx7K8g4r9cEw/view>
 - Leave behinds for candidates:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D50QxqfxMMxBPc6GibVcbXPCyHsKCejm>;
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D50QxqfxMMxBPc6GibVcbXPCyHsKCejm>
 - Link to customize: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/aVEMPAIjjK>
- Poll on Public Support for Medicare Oral Health Coverage: <https://familiesusa.org/product/families-usayougov-national-poll>
- Factsheet on how Medicare Oral Health would impact OK: https://familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OH_50-State-Medicare-Fact-Sheets_Oct2019_LA.pdf
- Blog on Administrative Action for Medicare “Medically Necessary” Dental Coverage: <http://familiesusa.org/blog/2017/08/medicare-should-pay-oral-health-care-necessary-manage-serious-illnesses>
- Brief on Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage (from CHCS): www.chcs.org/media/Adult-Oral-Health-Fact-Sheet_112118.pdf
- Share Your Story: <https://www.familiesusa.org/share-your-story/>
- To learn more about OPEN or either Learning Collaborative- contact Melissa Burroughs (mburroughs@familiesusa.org) for details.