

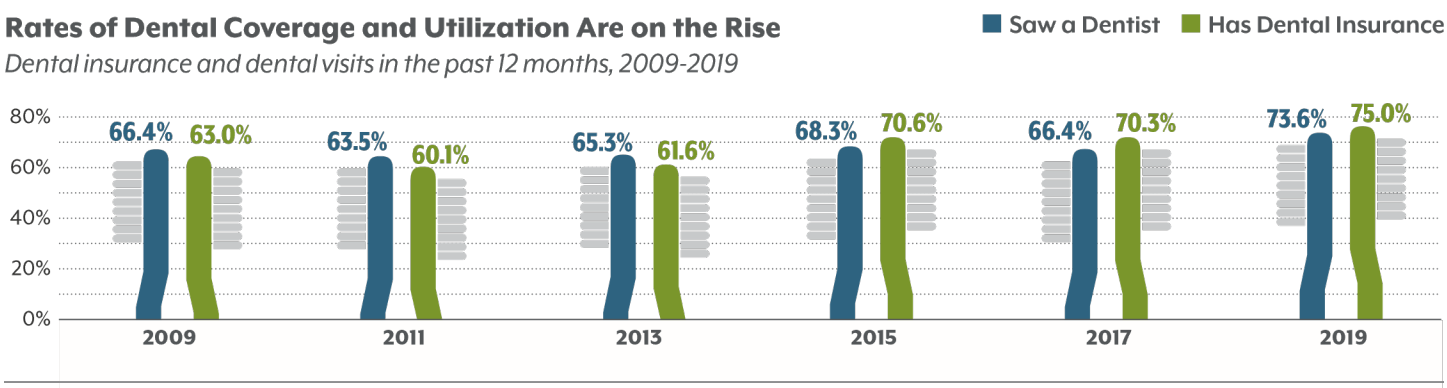
Oral Health

Evidence shows that good oral health is an essential component of overall health. But nearly one in five Coloradans (18.4 percent) report fair or poor oral health, up from 16.2 percent in 2017. Still, there's reason to smile: Dental insurance and utilization rates continue to rise, likely thanks to expansions in

Medicaid dental benefits for adults in 2014. Kids ages 6 to 12 years are more likely to have seen a dentist in the past year than older children and adults. They are also more likely to get care than kids younger than 6, which may indicate that parents aren't aware of the need for early dental care.

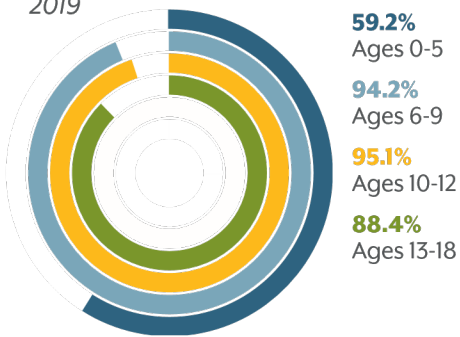
Rates of Dental Coverage and Utilization Are on the Rise

Dental insurance and dental visits in the past 12 months, 2009-2019



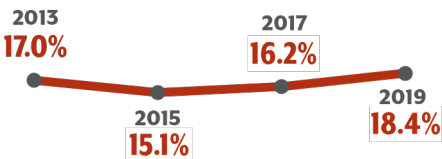
Most Children Visit the Dentist's Office, but Fewer of the Youngest Children Get Dental Care

Dental visit in the past 12 months by age, 2019



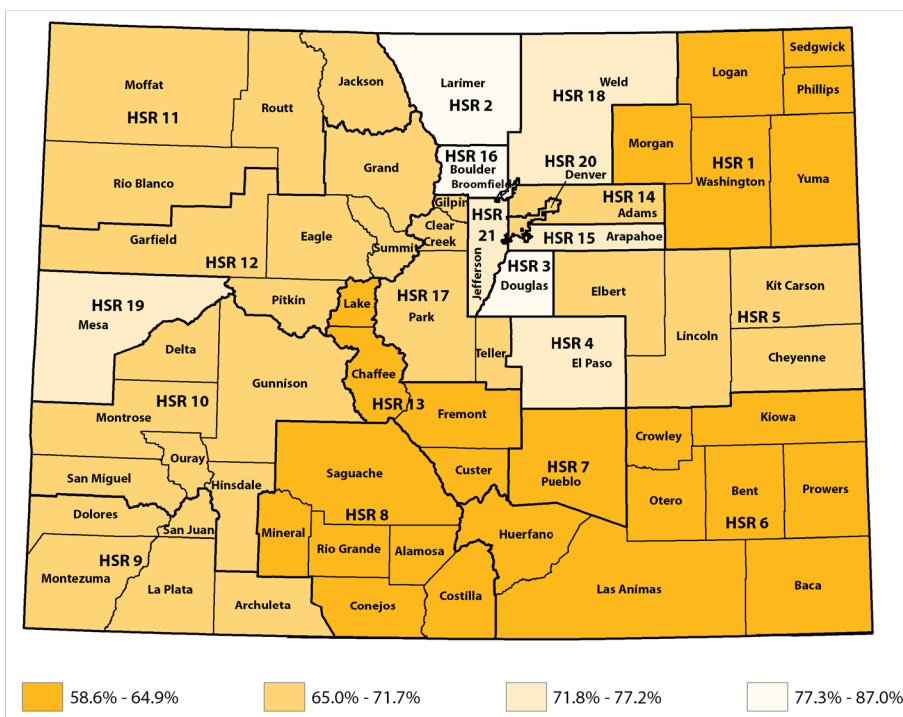
Uptick in Coloradans Reporting Fair or Poor Oral Health

Rate of fair or poor oral health status, 2013-2019



Coloradans in South, Northeast Colorado Least Likely to Visit Dentist

Percentage of Coloradans who visited the dentist in the past 12 months, 2019



INSIGHT

POLICY: House Bill 19-1038 expanded dental services for pregnant women who have coverage through CHP+. As of April 2019, these women can now receive dental care during this important time for their oral health.

DATA: Despite Medicaid dental coverage expansions, Coloradans with lower incomes are less likely to see a dentist.