

KEY FACTS ABOUT **GEORGIA MEDICAID**



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Georgia's ranking in the U.S.: fee-for-service Medicaid reimbursement as a percentage of dentist charges for child dental services:

33

Georgia residents covered by Medicaid:

2,000,000

DENTAL MEDICAID'S ADDED VALUE

- 1 The American Dental Association's Health Policy Institute reports that low-income people are the more likely to report failing to receive care for dental services, versus other health care services, due to cost. ¹
- 2 Access to dental care improves employability and reduces health care costs. The new adult benefit is projected to produce up to \$18,000,000 in savings on medical care. ²
- 3 Studies have found that adults with access to preventative care have lower dental care costs, up to 43% with 5 continuous years of preventative care, due to reductions in emergency department visits and oral surgeries. ³⁻⁴
- 4 Increasing reimbursement can enhance access to care^{5,6} Georgia's last major increase raised rates to the 75th percentile of a commercially available fee survey in 2001. It brought an additional 500 providers into the program.

Table 1. Regional Comparison of Medicaid FFS Reimbursement

State	Medicaid FFS Reimbursement as Percentage of Average Dentist Charges		Medicaid FFS Reimbursement as Percentage of Average Private Dental Insurance Payment Rates	
	Child Dental Care Services	Adult Dental Care Services	Child Dental Care Services	Adult Dental Care Services
	Louisiana	59.1%	56.5%	89.9%
West Virginia	56.8%	49.0%	96.7%	82.0%
Mississippi	50.9%		82.2%	
South Carolina	47.2%	37.6%	70.1%	55.5%
Alabama	46.4%		75.0%	
Virginia	46.2%	45.4%	79.7%	76.7%
Kentucky	43.3%	41.4%	75.3%	71.7%
Texas	42.1%		72.4%	
Tennessee	41.8%	39.6%	67.2%	64.7%
Georgia	39.8%	39.2%	65.5%	61.4%
North Carolina	34.3%	36.3%	52.8%	54.8%
Florida	22.2%		40.8%	

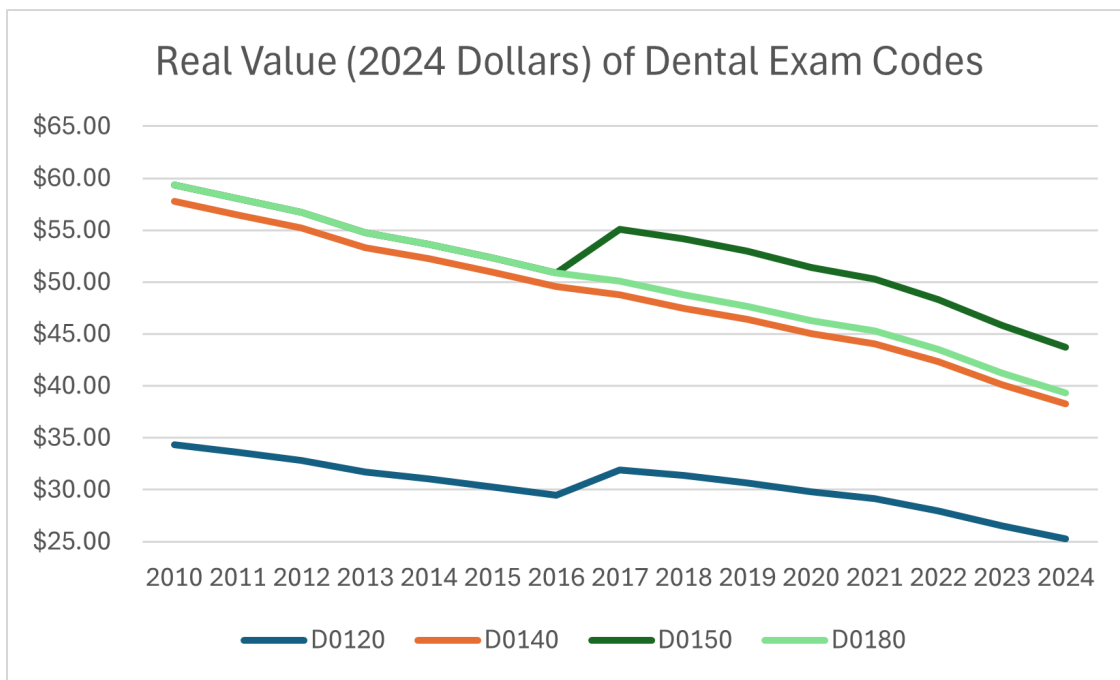
Source: American Dental Association Health Policy Institute, 2024¹⁰

GEORGIA'S REIMBURSEMENT RATE HISTORY

5 Georgia's reimbursement rates have not risen since 2022. Prior to 2021 and 2022, Georgia left rates largely stagnant for over a decade.

6 Most codes have been hollowed out by inflation, reducing purchasing power by more than a third. Most of 25 most utilized codes need a 36%-50% increase to return to their 2010 purchasing power.⁷

7 When adults on Medicaid receive enhanced dental coverage, studies have shown that provider supply and benefit generosity determine whether they find themselves competing for limited slots with others, potentially limiting the benefit of obtaining coverage.^{8,9}



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