



South Dakota Medicaid Access to Dental Care

January 20, 2026



Dental Services Overview

Delta Dental of South Dakota adjudicates South Dakota Medicaid dental and orthodontic claims.

South Dakota Medicaid covers the following dental services for both children and adults:

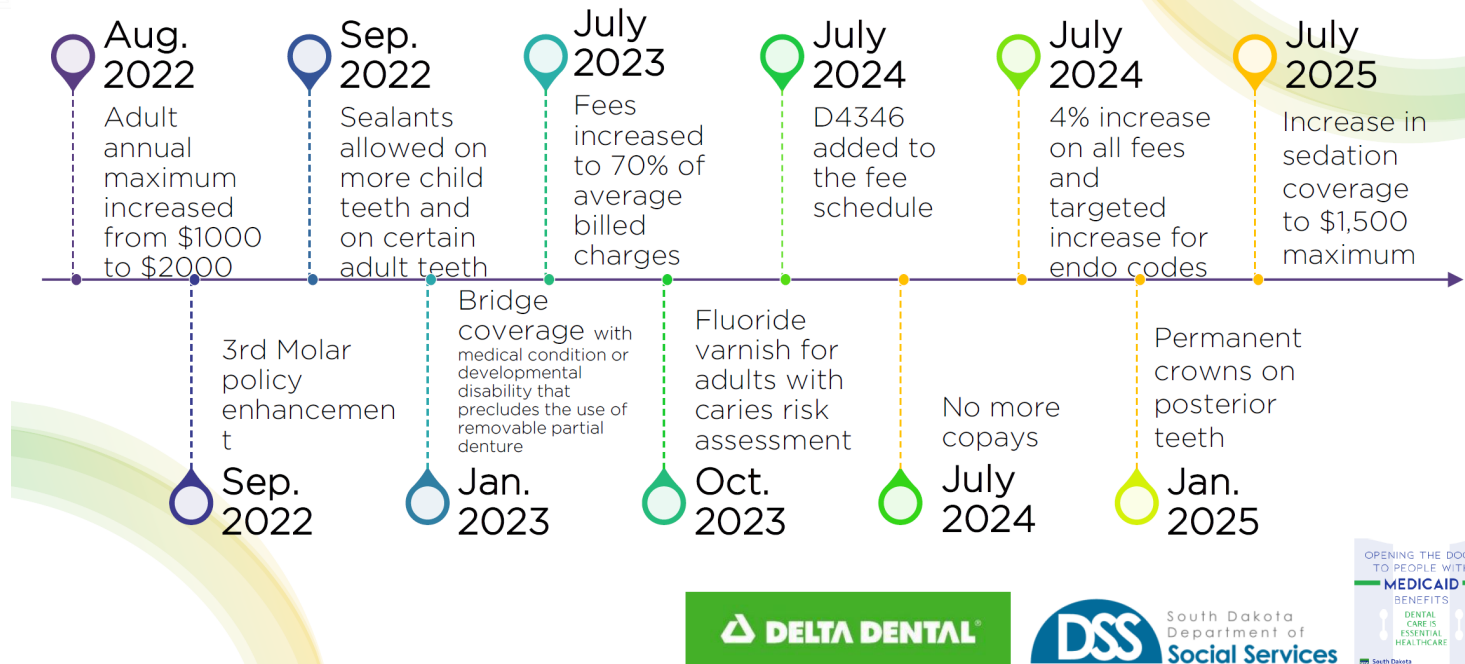
- Two exams/year
 - Two cleanings/year
 - X-rays
 - Sealants
 - Silver Diamine Fluoride
 - Fillings
 - Extractions
 - Root Canals
-
- Children's coverage includes orthodontia in cases of extreme medical need.
 - Adult dental coverage is limited to \$2,000 per plan year with some services exempt from the max.

Goal 1

Increase the percent of SD dentists enrolled in Medicaid by 5%.

Strategy: Build upon recent SD Dental Association campaign by discussing recent policy changes and positive aspects of participation with non-participating providers.

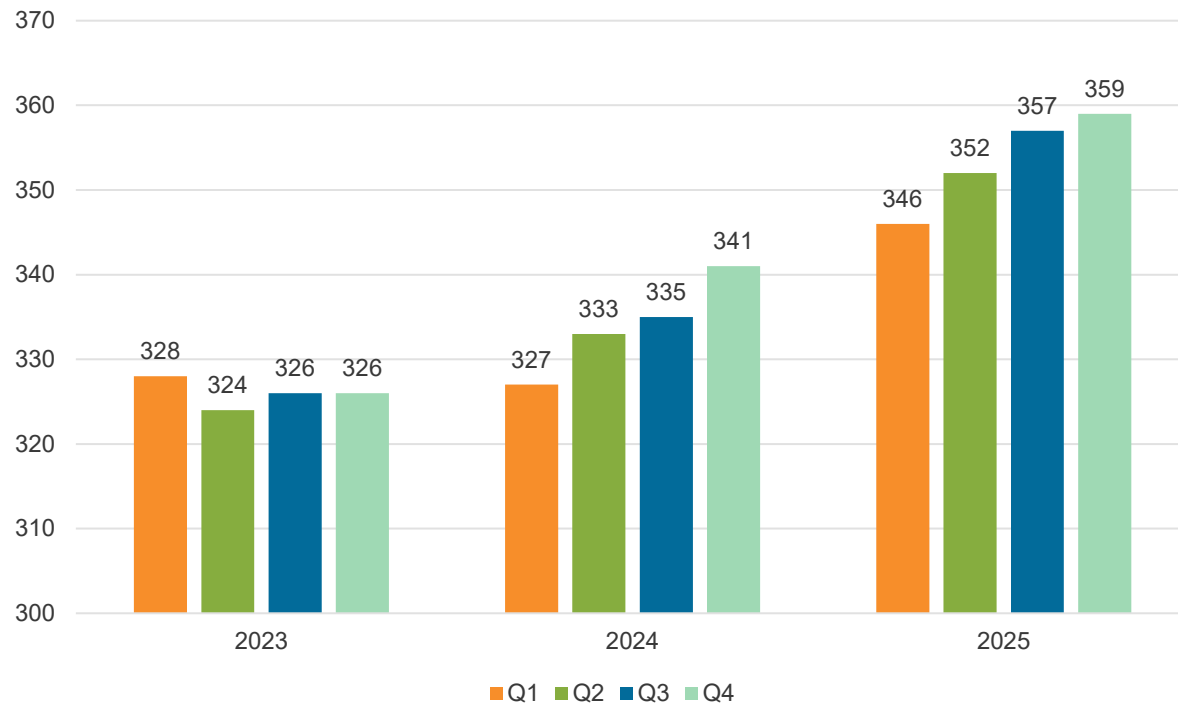
Recent SD Medicaid Policy Enhancements



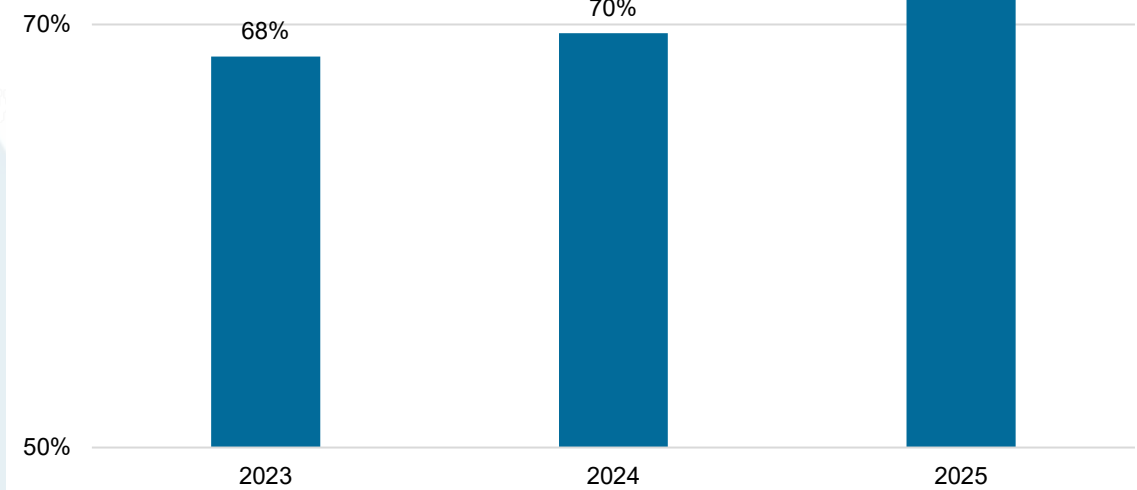
Goal 1

Increase the percent of SD dentists enrolled in Medicaid by 5%.

Number of Dentists Enrolled in Medicaid



Percent of Dentists Enrolled in Medicaid



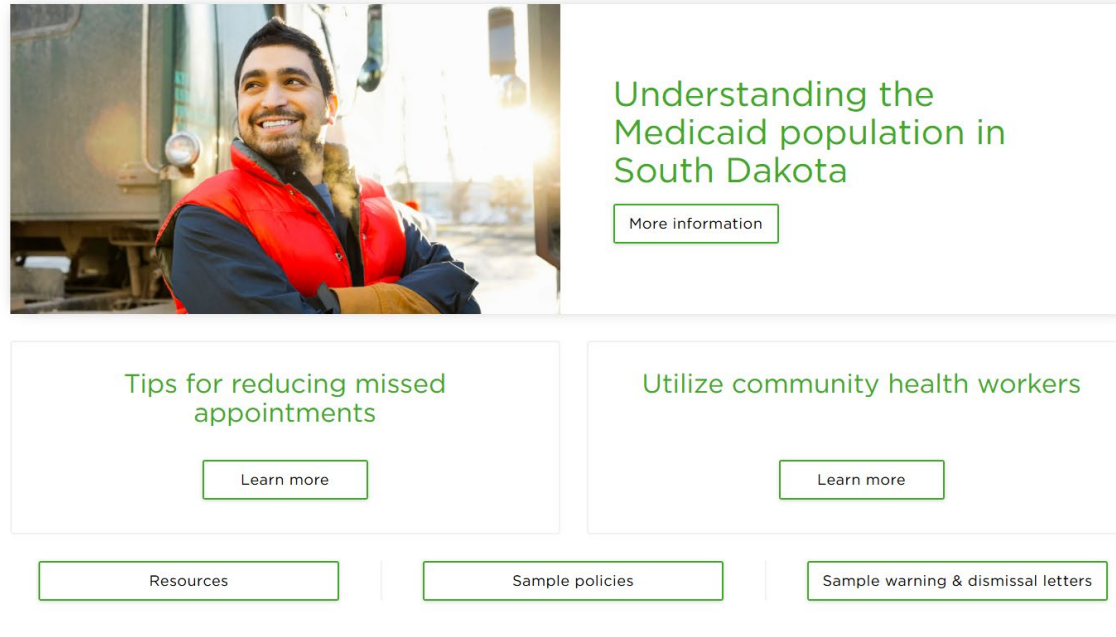
Goal 2

Increase the percent of enrolled providers seeing 100+ recipients by 10%.

Subgoal: Increase the percent of enrolled providers seeing 50+ recipients by 10%.

Strategy: Published a provider toolkit with strategies for managing missed appointments as missed appointments are often cited by dentists as a challenge.

Toolkit



Understanding the Medicaid population in South Dakota

[More information](#)

Tips for reducing missed appointments

[Learn more](#)

Utilize community health workers

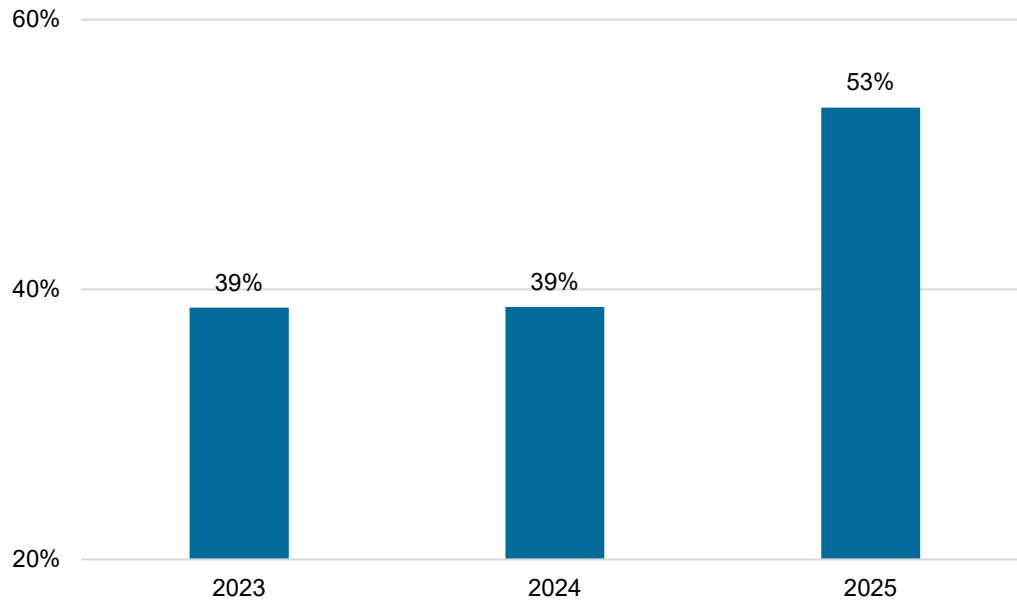
[Learn more](#)

[Resources](#) | [Sample policies](#) | [Sample warning & dismissal letters](#)

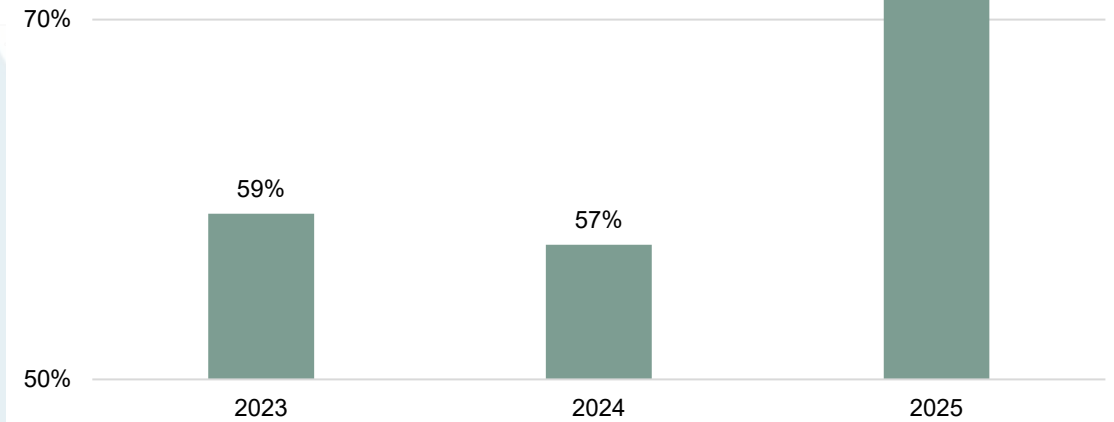
Goal 2

Increase the percent of enrolled providers seeing 100+ beneficiaries by 10%.

Percent of Medicaid Providers Who Are Meaningful Providers (100+ Beneficiaries)



Percent of Medicaid Providers Who Accept 50+ Beneficiaries



Goal 3

Goal 3: Increase the percent of recipients that receive any dental services by 10%.

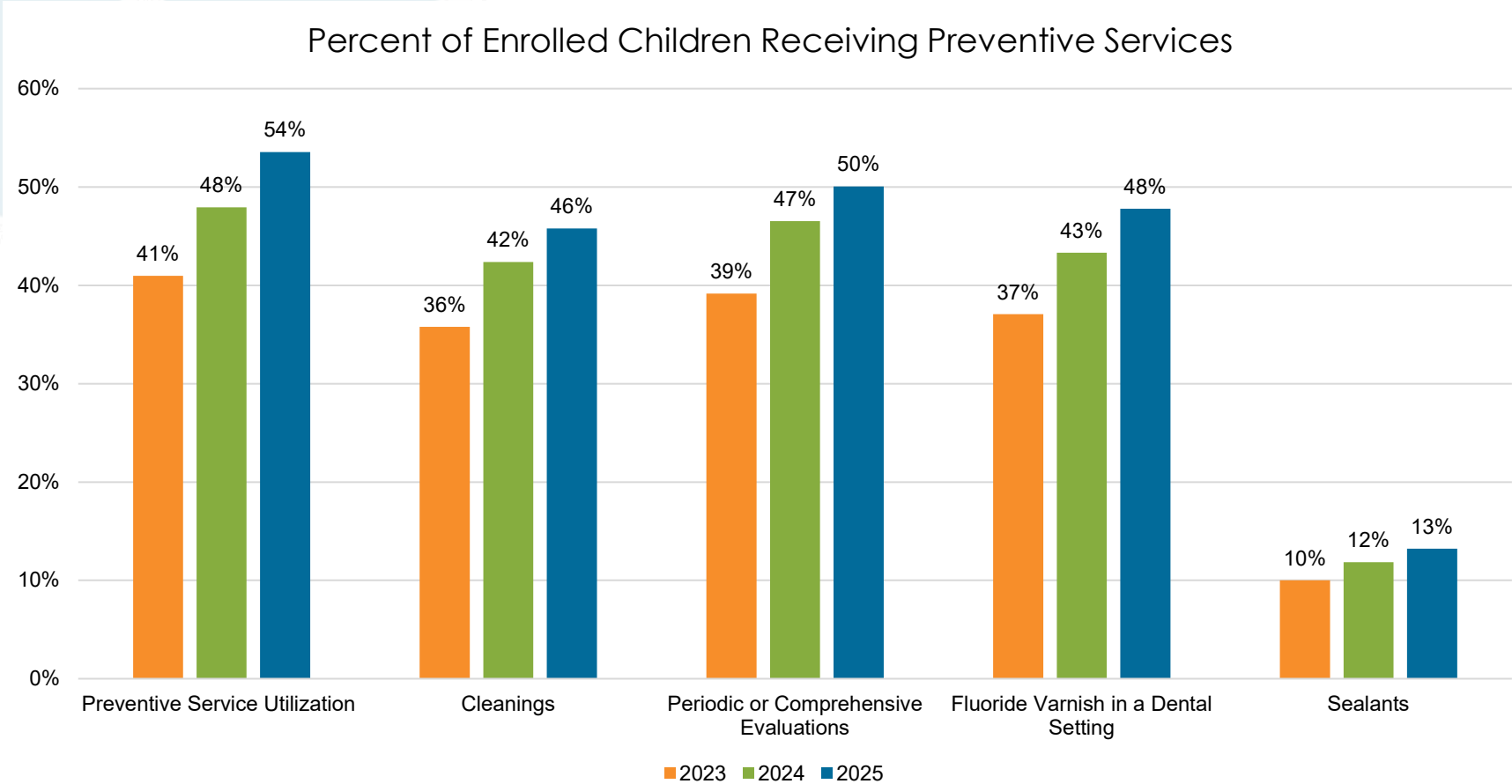
Subgoal: Increase the percent of eligible children and adults that receive any preventative dental services by 10%.

Separately Tracked:

- Cleanings
- Periodic or Comprehensive Evaluations
- Fluoride Varnish in a dental setting
- Sealants

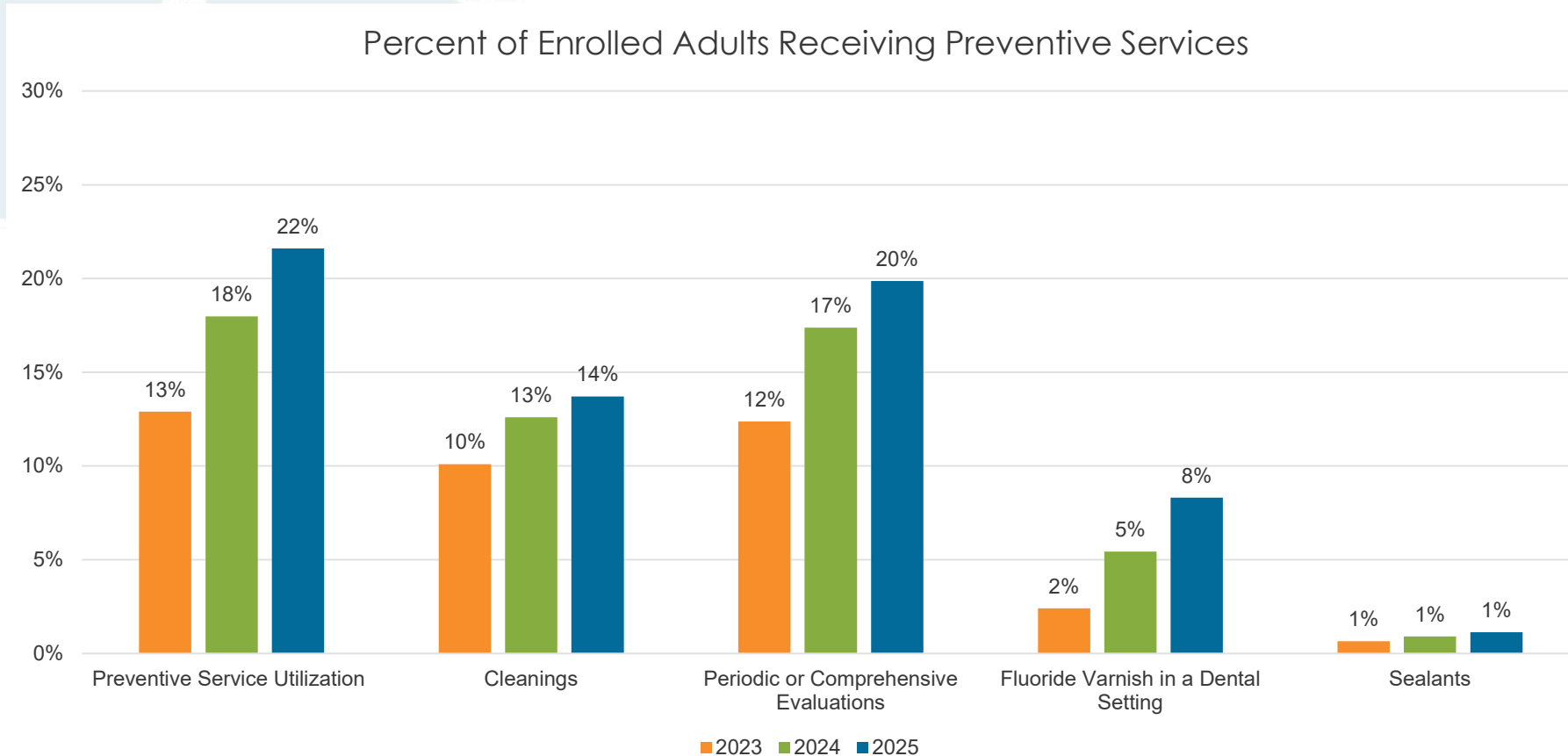
Goal 3

Increase the percent of enrolled children that receive any dental services by 10%.



Goal 3

Increase the percent of enrolled adults that receive any dental services by 10%.



Lessons Learned

- Several access related initiatives had been completed before this pilot project.
- A major dental fee increase in July 2023 left little room for initiatives related to reimbursement during this project. The department also does not control the funding level for services as funding is appropriated by the legislature.
 - A survey of non-participating providers showed that the top request is still higher reimbursement.
- Workforce remains a major challenge to achieving access-related goals.

Discussion

- Any questions regarding South Dakota Medicaid dental coverage?
- Have you noticed any of the reported positive trends in dental access?
- What are some outstanding challenges you see to accessing dental care in South Dakota?
 - How could we address these challenges?



Questions?

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